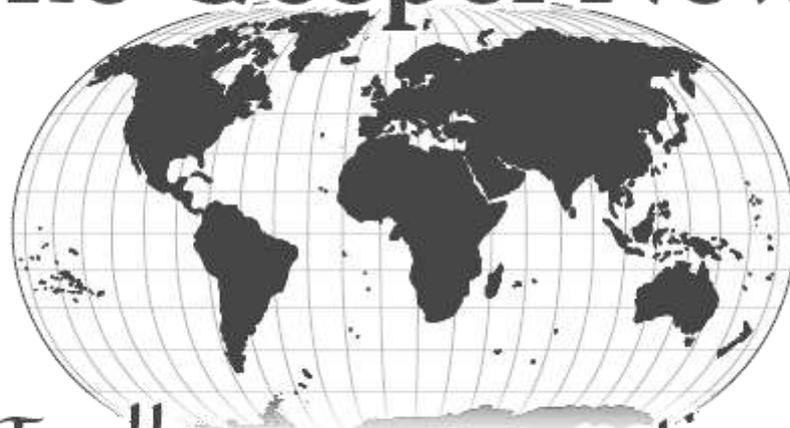


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



There are four regions in Western Kenya and each region has a Sisters' project. Mount Elgon started with a small amount of money which bought a couple of goats. This project grew until we were able to buy a cow. This really is benefiting the Sisters. When each cow has its second calf that is given to another Sister. Now 10 Sisters have a cow. This project really encourages us to work together and care for each other.

The Reality of Christ

The Lord Jesus inaugurated the “new and living way” for us *dia*, on account of, “his flesh” (Heb. 10:20). It was exactly because of “the flesh” of the Lord’s humanity that He opened up a new way of life for us. Because He was so credibly and genuinely human, and yet perfect, the way of His life becomes compellingly the way we are to take. Once we grasp this, we can better understand the anathema which John calls down upon those who deny that Jesus was “in the flesh” (2 Jn. 7-9). We non-trinitarians understand, quite correctly, that Jesus saved the world on account of being human - for all His Lordship and spiritual unity with the Father. If He had been of any other nature, salvation would not have been possible through Him. He in all ways is our pattern. It is our humanity that enables us to go into this world with a credible, convincing and saving message. We have to be enough of a man ourselves in order to save a man. We are not asking our hearers to be super-human. The way senior churchmen seem to lack a genuine, complete humanity has led so many to conclude that because they cannot rise up to such apparently austere and white-faced levels, therefore Christianity for them is not an authentically human possibility. Our message is tied to *us* as human people, just as the message of Jesus was Him, the real, human Jesus. The word was made flesh in Him as it must be in us. This is why nowhere in the Gospels is Jesus described with a long list of virtues - His actions and relations to others are what are presented, and it is from them that we ourselves feel and perceive His righteousness. The teachings of Marxism, e.g., can be separated from Marx as a man. You can accept Marxism without ever having read a biography of Karl Marx. But real Christianity is tied in to the person of the real Christ.

If the message of Jesus is defined by us merely as ideas and principles, then we will inevitably find that ideas and principles lack the turbulence of real life - they are abstract. The principles of Bible Truth will be found to be colourless and remote from reality - unless they are tied in to the real, concrete person of Jesus. God forbid that our faith has given us just a bunch of ideas. The principles of the Truth, every doctrine of the Truth, is lived out in Jesus - and it is this fact, this image of Him, which appeals to us as live, passionate, flesh and blood beings. A person cannot be reduced to a formula. It is a living figure and not just dry theories that actually *draws* people, and in that sense is “attractive”. And only a real, living person can be *encouraging* in life. Principles as mere abstractions cannot encourage much of themselves.

Jesus is our representative - a distinctive Bible doctrine. We are counted as being in Him. This means that His life is counted as being our life - and only because He was human and we now are human can this become true. The wonder of this is that so many people have acquired a new personal quality through their association with the risen Jesus - for all their human failures, humiliations, setbacks. No longer is it so important for them to ask ‘Who am I? What have I achieved in this dumb life?’ Rather it is all important that we are in fact in Christ and sharing in *His* life and being. Life has become so achievement and efficiency orientated that many of us feel failures. Only by achievement, it seems, can we justify ourselves in society. We have become caught up in a machine of life that robs us of our humanity. Our initiative, spontaneity, autonomy, our essential freedom - is lost. Yet if we are in Christ, secure in Him, part of His supreme personality, then our lives are totally different. We are no longer ashamed of our humanity. We are affirmed for who we are by God Himself, justified by Him - for we are in Christ. This is the real meaning, the wonderful implication, of being truly ‘brethren-in-Christ’.

By losing our life, we gain it. But the life we gain is the life of Jesus, and therefore life has meaning and purpose, not only in successes but also in failures. Our lives then make sense; for we have and live the *true* life, even if we are destroyed by opponents and deserted by friends; if

we supported the wrong side and came to grief; if our achievements slacken and are overtaken by others; if we are no use any more to anyone. The bankrupt businessman, the utterly lonely divorcee, the overthrown and forgotten politician, the unemployed middle aged man, the aged prostitute, or criminal dying in prison...all these, even though their persons and lives are no longer recognized by this world, are all the same joyfully, gleefully, recognized by Him with whom there is no respect of persons; for they are in His beloved Son.

Genuine Humanity

I remember the cold, Russian winter's day when it finally burst upon me that the Lord Jesus really was human. Because He was genuinely human, so genuinely so, I suddenly started thinking of all sorts of things which must have been true about Him, which I'd never dared think before. And in this, I believe I went up a level in knowing Him. He was the genuine product of the pregnancy process. He had all the pre-history of Mary in his genes. He had a genetic structure. He had a unique fingerprint, just as we all have. He must have been either left-hand or right-handed (or ambidextrous!). Belonged to a particular blood group. Fitted into one psychological type more than another. He could have forgotten things at times, didn't understand absolutely everything (e.g. the date of His return, or the mystery of spiritual growth, Mk. 4:26,27 could have made a mistake when working as a carpenter, cut His finger. But He was never frustrated with Himself; He was happy being human, comfortable with His humanity.

As I walked through that long Moscow subway from Rizhskaya Metro to Rizhsky Vokzal, the thoughts were coming thick and fast. Why did He look on the ground when the woman [presumably naked] caught in the act of adultery was brought before Him? Was it not perhaps from sheer embarrassment and male awkwardness? He shared the same unconscious drives and libido which we do, with a temper, anxiety and 'anxious fear of death' (Heb. 5:7) as strong as ours. He was a real man, not free from the inner conflict, effort, temptation and doubt which are part of our human condition. No way can I subscribe to a Trinitarian position that "there was [not] even an infinitely small element of struggle involved" when the Lord faced temptation ⁽¹⁾. He was tempted just as we are - and temptation surely involves feeling the pull of evil and having part of you that feels it to be more attractive than the good.

The fullness of the Lord's humanity is of course supremely shown in His death and His quite natural fear of that death. Perhaps on no other point do human beings show they are humans than when it comes to their reaction to and reflection upon their own death. I would go further and suggested that the thought of suicide could have even entered the Lord's mind. It's hard to understand His thought about throwing Himself off the top of the temple in any other way. His almost throw away comment that "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death" (Mt. 26:38 - *heos thanatou*) is actually a quotation from the suicidal thoughts of Jonah (Jonah 4:9) and those of the Psalmist in Ps. 42:5,6. Now of course the Lord overcame those thoughts but their very existence is a window into the depth and reality of His humanity.

I suspect I can see through that huge gap between writer and reader, to sense your discomfort and alarm, even anger, that I should talk about the Lord Jesus in such human terms. I can imagine the splutter and misunderstanding which will greet these suggestions. I am not seeking to diminish in any way from the Lord's greatness. I'm seeking to bring out His greatness; that there, in this genuinely human person, there was God manifest in flesh. The revulsion of some at what I'm saying is to me just another articulation of our basic dis-ease when faced with the fact the Lord Jesus really was our representative. I believe that in all of us, there's a desire to set some sort of break between our own humanity, and that of Jesus. But if He wasn't really like us,

then I see the whole 'Christ-thing' as having little benefit in our world that seeks so desperately for authenticity and human salvation.

The human, Son of God Jesus whom we preach is actually very attractive to people. There's something very compelling about a perfect hero, who nevertheless has a weak human side. If He were really like us, then this demands an awful lot of us. It rids us of so many excuses for our unspirituality. And this, I'm bold enough to say, is likely the psychological reason for the growth of the Jesus=God ideology, and the 'trinity' concept. But if this perfect man was indeed one of us, a man amongst men, with our very same flesh, blood and plasm... we start to feel uncomfortable. It's perhaps why so many of us find prolonged contemplation of His crucifixion - where He was at His most naked and most human - something we find distinctly uncomfortable, and impossible to deeply sustain for long. But only if we properly have in balance the awesome reality of Christ's humanity, can we understand how one man's death 2,000 years ago can radically alter our lives today. We make excuses for ourselves: our parents were imperfect, society around us is so sinful. But the Lord Jesus was perfect - and dear Mary did her best, but all the same failed to give Him a perfect upbringing; she wasn't a perfect mother; and He didn't live in a perfect environment - and yet, He was perfect, and bids us quit our excuses and follow Him. According to the Talmud, Mary was a hairdresser [*Shabbath* 104b], whose husband left her with the children because he thought she'd had an affair with a Roman soldier. True or not, she was all the same an ordinary woman, living a poor life in a tough time in a backward land. And the holy, harmless, undefiled Son of God and Son of Man... was, let's say, the son of a divorcee hairdresser from a dirt poor, peripheral village, got a job working construction when He was still a teenager. There's a wonder in all this. And an endless challenge. For none of us can now blame our lack of spiritual endeavour upon a tough background, family dysfunction, hard times, bad environment. We can rise above it, because in Him we are a new creation, the old has passed away, and in Him, all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17), precisely because He blazed the trail - blazed it out of all the limitations which normal human life appears to impress upon us - undeflected and undefeated by whatever distractions both His, and our, humanity placed in His path. And He's given us the power to follow Him.

He wasn't a God who came down to us and became human; rather is He the ordinary, very human man who rose up to become the Man with the face of God, ascended the huge distance to Heaven, and received the very nature of God. It's actually the very opposite to what human theology has supposed, fearful as they were of what the pattern of this Man meant for them. The pre-existent view of Jesus makes Him some kind of Divine comet which came to earth, very briefly, and then sped off again, to return at the second coming. Instead we see a Man from amongst men, arising to Divine status, and opening a way for us, His brethren, to share His victory; and coming back to establish His eternal Kingdom with us on this earth, His earth, where He came from and had His human roots.

Take a passage much beloved of Trinitarians, Phil. 2. We read that Jesus was found (*heuretheis*) in fashion (*schemati*) as a man, and He humiliated Himself (*tapeinoseos*), and thereby was exalted. But in the next chapter, Paul speaks of *himself* in that very language. He speaks of how he, too, would be "found" (*heuretho*) con-formed to the example of Jesus in His death, and would have his body of humiliation (*tapeinoseos*) changed into one like that of Jesus, "the body of his glory". We aren't asked to follow the pattern or *schema* of a supposed incarnation of a God as man. We're asked to follow in the path of the Lord Jesus, the Son of man, in His path to

glory. Repeatedly, we are promised that *His* glory is what we will ultimately share, at the end of our path of humiliation and sharing in His cross (Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; Jn. 17:22,24).

The Challenge of Christ's Humanity

There is an incredible challenge in the fact that the Lord Jesus had human nature and yet never sinned. He rose above sin in all its forms, and yet was absolutely human. It seems to me that many Christadelphians feel that their calling is to rise above both sin, and also their own human nature. And this results in their belief that spirituality is in fact a denial of their humanity. In extreme forms, we have the white faced nun who has been led to believe that being spiritual equals being white faced, passionless, and somehow superhuman. In a more common expression of the same problem, there are some elders who believe it to be fatal to show any emotional conviction about anything, no chinks in their armour, no admission of their own human limitations or understanding. For this reason I see a similarity between the 'lives of the saints' as recorded in Catholic and Orthodox writings (replete with white faces and large holy eyes, hands ever folded in prayer, never making a slip) - and the glossy biographies of Evangelical leaders which jump out at you from the shelves of Protestant bookstores. They too, apparently, never set a foot wrong, but progressed from unlikely glory to unlikely glory. All this arises from an over-emphasis upon the Divine rather than the human side of the Lord Jesus. The character of the Lord Jesus shows us what it's like to be both human and sinless. If we seek to rise above being human, we are aiming for something that doesn't exist. The Lord Jesus wasn't and isn't 'superhuman'; He was and is the image of God stamped upon humanity, and in this sense the New Testament still calls Him a "man" even now. We need not take false guilt about being human. We should be happy with who we are, made in the image of God.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from cameroon

We are sorry to report the falling asleep in Christ of Bro Nkeng Charles in Fontem, on the 4th November 2006. He has served his Master for more than 25 years. He is now at rest awaiting the call to the resurrection. Our sympathies are extended to his family.

BAMENDA

I hope with God's kindness and love, also with the prayers of brothers and sisters worldwide, that everything has been going on well. Brethren, we have not been sleeping for praying for you, as we know that you do the same because the road is narrow and we need to lead each other along with prayer and perseverance.

My special thanks goes to CAT for their work. Well done, for the work exhausts me! I am now usually able to know what is going on, right or wrong, with my brothers and sisters worldwide. Thanks be to God Almighty, as we joyfully wait for His will to be done on earth as in heaven.

Extend my greetings in the Lord to Sis Aleksandra in Latvia, and let her be joyful in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for he is the only way to find truth and light. Count your sufferings as if they were past and look forward to the coming Kingdom which will flow with milk and honey.

Brethren, I wish to say that as we are on this battlefield, we should not cease to pray for each other, as the devil of our own sinful flesh is also at work opposing the will of God.

Please keep sending me literature which will increase my Bible knowledge. Brethren, things are not easy on my side, but I keep on struggling for we must all struggle in order to win the battle.

Bro X

BARIADA

The problem happening to us was as we were travelling by bus from Mwanza to meet Bro Michael Owen. When we had nearly arrived at Bariadi, the bus in which we were travelling was attacked by thieves, and they took our money. Matthew 24:7; 2 Timothy 3:1-3.

Bro Joseph Ismaba

FONTEM

We do hope you are all actively and patiently awaiting Christ's return to establish God's Kingdom. We were blessed with twins, both boys, and we thank the Almighty God for such a surprise gift. Although life is a little difficult, we put everything into prayers. We need a copy of "Where Women Have No Doctor" Your brother and sister in the precious promises which God made to the fathers, even Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and then to David. – promises which, by His grace, are extended even to us.

Bro Linus and Sis Stella Forya



Bro Linus and Sis Stella Forya, showing God's blessing of the birth of twin baby boys

KUMBA

God promised Abraham a great nation and blessings. God said Abraham will be a blessing and that his name will be great. God said He will bless those that bless him and curse those who curse him and through him shall all families of the earth be blessed (Gen 12v2-3). God said to Abraham after Lot had gone, lift up your eyes and look northward, southward and eastwards and westward. And the Lord said the land you see I give it to you and your children for ever and ever (Gen 13v 14-15). God is not like us humans when we make promise and fail sometimes to keep them. With this in mind, when the Lord Jesus returns to earth, he will raise Abraham and his seed to inherit the promised land for ever and ever.

Bro Leke Thomas

MUYUKA

We are all well here. I am writing to request *Bible Basics* for our contacts and for five brothers who have asked me to request it on their behalf. We have French-speaking contacts and the French *Bible Basics* will be very useful.

Bro George Nwuanjeah.

WUM

I was again admitted to the Wum Catholic Hospital. God has cared for me and I am better now. I am always happy when I receive *Gospel News* and when I read the editorial it makes me feel as if I am already in the Kingdom! With hope and faith, God will always hear us (Mat 21:22; John 15:7).

The *Gospel News* really showed me what I should be doing, but illness and poverty prevented me from continuing. I am 45 years now. When I was 16 I was rearing goats, pigs and cows. I see that this is especially good in this north west part of Cameroon.

The editorial in *Gospel News* about 'Let the dead bury their dead' was a good one. Two brothers here do not go to burials, saying the Bible says that the dead should bury the dead.

I will be happy if you send me a copy of *Where There Is No Doctor*. Our Recording Brother has gone out to the South West of the country, and I have been elected to take his place. So please pray for me so that I can do the job.

Bro Kenneth N Mbah,

news from ghana

AKATSI

This is to acknowledge receipt of *Where There is No Doctor*. It came so quick that I cannot express myself to its effect. It's said that teachers are museums of information; this is a real book for all, where ever one finds himself, and especially during mission work. What happens when we get to the villages?

I think with our small knowledge in 'medical science', we may get used and people might think we are a Doctors.

I'm very grateful for the leaflet '*An Appeal to Pentecostals*' One wonders what befalls a man when he takes some things into consideration while neglecting the real and true bible teaching. Christadelphians need to be glad for the joy of knowing the truth in Jesus.

Bro Wonder Wornyo

news from kenya

BUNGOMA

The current turmoil in the Middle East should certainly motivate us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). I am very happy for the work of encouraging us to spread the good news of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your letter arrived when we had gone to spread the gospel in Eastern Uganda. We need more books and we would be grateful if you would provide us with copies of Sunday School teaching and other material.

What will happen at the end of the days? The prophet Daniel was a man "on deck?" who had a wonderful far-reaching vision. He thought, prayed and spoke on a global scale through the grace of God and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Daniel had a vision and saw the coming Kingdom of God. He saw the diverse "dark" ages in the bright light of the prophetic word of God when Daniel stood before the Babylonian world ruler, Nebuchadnezzar, to tell him about his dream and how

to interpret it. We read in Daniel 2:27 onward, “Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said ...” What will take place at the end of the days is not determined by the “great men” of this world – they cannot foresee it. Even Nostradamus, whose prophecies are increasingly discussed in the media, could not do this. What will take place at the end of the days is determined by God in heaven alone. His plan will be fulfilled. The political events on earth are being guided in such a way so that ultimately his Word will be fulfilled. Everything in the history and politics of the world is moving towards the one great goal: the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth which will fill the whole world. (Daniel 2:35 and 44-45).

Bro. Chisantus Wasi

I cannot adequately express my deep sense of gratitude for your brotherly reply. Furthermore, thank you in abundance for having sent me a *Bible Basics*, a *Gospel News* and a copy of *Present Day Events*. I would further like to request a book entitled “*The Death on the Cross*” plus other literature materials available.

Bro. Nimrod Masila

CHWELE

There can be hardly a single one of us who can deny having passed through a situation causing anger. However, high emotion in itself is not a sin: it is one of the feelings created by God.

Anger is brought about by many things: what other people do to us: what our eyes might see and those things our ears might hear. Imagine you are walking along the road in the street and all of a sudden somebody pushes and knocks you down; you get up hurt somewhere in your body, the person has already disappeared without any show of apology. How do you feel about the matter? If this occurs, we should relax, and control our thoughts so that we abstain from any wrong action. We are called fools if we are easily bad-tempered. For the Bible warns: “Don’t be quick-tempered, that is being a fool” (Ecclesiastes 7:9).

During Christ’s ministry, he could lead his disciples in wise teachings, telling them to forgive other people’s crimes and forget. Hear what he says: “If someone slaps you on one cheek, let him slap the other besides! If someone demands your coat, give him your shirt besides” (Luke 6:29).

A good way we can control our temper, forgiving and forgetting, is an example we show to other friends around us to emulate. What great joy and peace for us all to put these wonderful teachings into practice, for the times we are living in are not very different from the times of our forefather Noah. The Lord is soon returning on earth as King of Kings. Be ready!

Bro Manasseh Wamamili

We have received the book *How to Grow a Balanced Diet* and the books about *Speaking About Jesus*. How happy we were when we got them! they are really helping us to know more things. We have divided our quarter acre piece of land into portions to grow different types of crops to ensure our family get supplied with a balanced diet. Also we are preparing manure to improve soil fertility. How good the books are; if it is possible, please send us some English Bibles.

The Makhonge Ecclesia started in 1978 when I was in Sunday School. There came a time when the UK Brothers and Sisters wanted to build a hall for Makhonge Brothers and Sisters and through the Western Area representatives it was agreed to purchase a plot first. One brother suggested to give a plot in order to build a hall, that was in 1993. A shade was erected for us and after a short period of time the area representatives wanted to have a plot registered in order to build a permanent building. Surprisingly they came to learn that the owner of the land had sold

it to another person, and therefore it had a big question mark. The owner has now subdivided the land among his sons, our plot being allocated to one of his sons who has issued us with an eviction notice. We have held meetings with the Western Area representatives but all has been in vain.. We have had challenges at this plot, even our meetings have been held in our homes due to this problem.

Comment; This is a serious problem we understand the Kenya Committee is endeavoring to resolve and needs all our ardent prayers. The important thing to remember is that ultimately the Lord is in control and nothing can happen to us outside of His control, so long term all will work out to the benefit of the Truth. MH

Photo: MAKHONGE ECCLESIAL HALL on the plot they are being evicted from.



ISHIARA

I want to inform you of the loss of Bro. David Aphazard who left home on 13th February 2006. He went and we had hope of his coming back but from that day he has never come back. We are asking all brethren worldwide to remember us with prayer and even more for our brother as no one knows where he is. May we march together to our Lord Jesus' Kingdom.

Sis. Doris Aphazard

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we are awaiting. My name is Caroline K. Aphazard. I attend Ishiara Ecclesia which is an isolated ecclesia. It serves as a family because only my Dad, Mum, my sister Joy and I are baptised. Sunday School children are my six younger brothers but some Sundays other children from nearby attend. We are never discouraged because of that, for we always remember the words of our Lord Jesus when he said, "Where two or three come together, I will be there". I was baptised last year, together with my sister Joy, by Brother Lazarus King'oo. Sister Tanya and Marlene from UK interviewed us and the same day we were baptised 1st. April. I am very encouraged by reading *Gospel News* and have realized that many are in the same situation as us. So what can we do? Brethren and Sisters who are in the same faith can pray to God that He will send His Son, soon and take away all our difficulties. What I can do is to encourage brothers and sisters worldwide by a poem which I would like to appear in *Gospel News* for all Christadelphians in isolation or who have different troubles.

The Lonely Cry

When sorrows deep our trembling hearts ensnare,
When friends have fled, abandoning us to care,
All human conflict gone and we're alone,
Oh Heavenly Father hear our spirit's groan.
What heart can feel our soul's lone misery?
No arms outstretched to comfort tenderly,
Pour out Thy grace when cries the anguished soul,
May Gilead's balm heal us and make us whole.
Storm rages stronger, dark the night ahead.
Alone Thy presence soothes our troubled head,

Grant to thy lambs the solace Thou canst give
Cleanse painful hearts and O, dear Lord, forgive.
Thy Son thou gavest in Thy wondrous love,
Now may we rest, assured that from above
Compassion still in endless stream will flow,
When sad in heart may we Thy mercy know.
Friends may forsake us, eyes grow dim with tears,
Why do we fear? Thou casteth out all fears.
Man's love may waver, but changeless, Lord, thou art,
O Saviour hear, and heal the broken heart.

Let us all take it as a prayer to our Almighty Lord God and all hope to see His Son, Jesus coming with clouds (Acts 1:11).

Finally may I give thanks to the Christadelphian Advancement Trust for sending me four *Bible Basics* and nine *Introducing Bible Basics*. I am also thanking you for remembering me with my ecclesia and more thanks to another Sister who chose for me a full Bible, Old and New Testaments in the King James version. This book will help me, together with my isolated ecclesia. I also want to thank Bro. Lazarus King'oo and Sis. Eveyline who never forget about us even though we are far from their Yatta ecclesia. They always try their best to visit us at our home and share encouraging words, mostly remembering the blood and body of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have really encouraged us and even increased our spiritual growth. May God bless them and remember them in His everlasting Kingdom, which will be established soon. My last words to you this time, I have an eye problem and I request one pair of reading glasses grade + 1.5. I have enclosed my snap and I would like it to appear in *Gospel News*. May Almighty God bless you.

Sis. Carol K. Aphaxard



Photo: Sis. Carol Aphaxard with her sister Joy on the left at the Nairobi National Youth Camp

KABABU

As a brother who had been having a problem with reading clearly (without reading glasses), I have benefited a lot from the experiment made by our brother. I have received + 2.5 reading glasses from Bro. Alan Sutton, who presented them to me on his visit to Kenya. Now may I take this opportunity to thank all those who made their efforts to think about us and helped me with the glasses I received.

Bro. Samwel Masawa

N. KINAGOP

It is good that through *Gospel News* I find myself communicating to all of our brethren in the Lord and those who are seriously waiting upon the Lord and reflecting on the word of God. Rev. 17:1 says, "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, John, come, I will show you the judgement of the great harlot who is seated upon many waters, with

whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” Personal reflection – the harlot here is explained in verse 3 as a woman (unfaithful woman obviously). Woman symbolises a church bearing in mind that Jesus compares the church to a bride – Rev. 21:1-12 and 2 Cor. 11:2. From this symbolism one finds it clear to reflect on the first big and splendid institution called the “Church of Christ” (Catholic). Indeed it has done a lot of harm to the gospel of Christ. It bears only the name of Jesus Christ but in reality is not. For this reason, the church bears blasphemous names as per Rev. 17, having seven heads and ten horns. As per the first part of “bearing blasphemous names”, this refers to all names that you will find there, e.g. holy sacrament, holy men and women, sacred rooms, clothes and vessels, sacred books. In truth this has made many people drunk with its false doctrines. Its teachings have made all denominations drunk too e.g. on the very doctrine of trinity and authority of leadership. They contradict the whole truth by heresy, which is one fruit of those not led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:20).

The words of Jesus in Luke 21:34-36 give hope to those in the Lord that he is coming back to take his faithful ones. The verse says, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares, for as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. *Watch* ye therefore and *pray always*, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Rev. 17, the great harlot who is seated upon many waters is explained in verse 15 as a symbol of peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. Rev. 18:4 says, “Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues, for her sins are heaped high as heaven and God has remembered her iniquities...” This advises all those willing to be saved to separate and pray ceaselessly as in 1 Pet. 2:9-10, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” So brethren let us be in ceaseless prayers, reading our Bibles daily, reflecting and meditating for the proper understanding in order to be in fellowship with our God. Jesus is at the corner, ready to appear in the world for the second time, now as a King and a real King of the world.

Bro. Peter Njuguna

MIWANI

On behalf of Miwani Ecclesia I send greetings. Our P.O. Box 97 had been closed but praise the Lord it is now opened; we use the same box number and received all past letters from March to date. Let me express our thanks for the willingness of CAT, and through you our brothers and sisters in England, in helping us understand the gospel and the *Bible Basics* and for the commitment which you have shown in diligently helping our Ecclesia to grow. The Miwani Ecclesia is growing spiritually very well.

The Brother Stanley Blackstone, *Questions and Answers on the Daily Readings* is an inspiration to many of us and we would like to receive them regularly. May we thank's for the books *Growing a Balanced Diet* which is really very important in this part of the country. They are going to be quite useful in our day-to-day farming operation especially under dry land farming techniques. In one of our letters we responded about the cassava variety that is resistant to disease and tolerant to drought, though we had not carried out research from approved centres. However, we have been currently blessed to receive a list of these varieties which can do well in my area. The following is a list of them:- SS 4, MM 96/5280, Mijera, Unknow 1, Sele Sele, Unknow 2. If we

could be assisted to buy some and do bulking and later pass to Brothers and Sisters for food and nutritional security it would be good. As Christians we recognize the inherent value of God's creation. We believe that as we confront hunger and poverty in response to Jesus Christ's commission, God our Father opens the door to abundant life bringing the possibility of wholeness to all. We believe that the Christadelphians in partnership with others can help alleviate hunger and poverty in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is what can help in the communities where we live, work and witness. We believe that God through Jesus Christ our Lord can call us to that task through a sustainable agricultural and rural development initiative starting with assistance to buy cassava sets and other drought tolerant crops.

We are happy that God has guided us all through this year. Thanks be to the Almighty God our Father in heaven. We are happy to inform all Brothers and Sisters worldwide that we have eight students plus two old illiterate people and thirteen Sunday

School children aged 2 – 18 years. There is need for spiritual and socio-economic development and assistance, as human beings we live with problems that we know will one day be overcome by our Lord when he comes back to earth. Diseases are really troubling in this country especially malaria and not forgetting HIV/AIDS.

Bro. Peter and Sis. Jane Omuny

Photo: Vero daughter of Sis. Lydiah Fuchaka, and her friend



KITALE

I am thankful to God for His kindness and goodness to us in keeping us well and uniting us in our remembrance of our absent Master. I am very happy to have had your letter and *Gospel News* giving more encouragement regarding the soon coming of Christ to establish the Kingdom of God, for which we are eagerly waiting.

Sis. Lydiah Fuchaka

Photo: Sis Lydiah Fuchaka with a parcel of books recently received



MSAMBWENI

Kenya reports peace and stability despite a few tribal clashes in different areas of Kenya. Peace of mind and heart is prevailing among Brothers and Sisters as we wait for our Master who is soon coming. News breaks are reporting on the Middle East shedding of blood. Israel is in danger now and every Brother and Sister is much aware that is one of the signs of the Lord Jesus' coming. We are all having that hope as we strive hard to receive our crown of salvation. Paul in Philippians 3:12-14 gives us strength to strive hoping for a crown at the end of our journey in missionary work. I hereby urge all Brothers and Sisters worldwide to wake up and fight

the good fight waiting for our Saviour. The Bible calls for repentance and living according to God's will. Whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord should keep away from evil. God urges us to be holy as He himself is holy.

The work of the gospel is very much done with the effort of very dedicated brothers and sisters who are willing to spread the gospel of the hope of the Kingdom. I am happy to report on several who last year received Jesus in baptism from five ecclesias in Coast Province. Newly baptised Brothers and Sisters include – Stephen Mutunga, Mary Mutosya, Florance Mutuku, Esther Kennedy and Mary Kiamba. In June I, Bro. Gideon, Bro. Zakako from Mombasa.

Bro. Dennis from Kokotoni conducted a Bible campaign of two days at the border of Kenya and Tanzania which was very successful. There is a group of persons willing to receive the truth of the gospel. Lastly keep on sending *Gospel News* and other feeding material. We fully support the work of the gospel.

Bro. Gideon Mukekh

SINDO

I was happy to receive "*Legalism vs. Faith*" by Bro David Levin. I was also happy to receive the *Gospel News*. We actually must give thanks for the blessings of the gospel message about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 8:12. The key to understanding the gospel message comes through the knowledge of understanding the Kingdom of God and his Son, Jesus Christ. We must accept the message and get that hope of resurrection or perish in the dust with no hope. 1 Tim. 1:15, Jer. 15:16. God sent Jesus to save us from sins. I am deeply feeling great love for our Lord Jesus' death on the cross to provide us with immortality.

Demon Study Day

We had a Bible School organised by Bro. James Nyangate of Kiagware ecclesia and Bro. Samuel M. Masawa of Kababu ecclesia. The main Bible discussion was based on "Demons". The following ecclesias were present:- Kiagware, Kababu, Oruba. Okumbo and Nyandenga. John Owado comes from Nyandenga ecclesia. It was well organised and about 40 brothers and sisters attended. We were given the opportunity to hear the voice of God from the Holy Scripture with Bible teaching with references from both Old and New Testament. Here are a few things we learnt from the Bible.

God is the source of all power and he is responsible for both the good things and the bad things in our lives – Isa. 45:7, Mic. 1:12, Amos 3:6, Job 1:21, Job 2:10, Heb. 12:5-8, Isa. 44:8, Deut. 4:35.

Demons are idols – Scripture references – 1 Cor.10:20,28, 1 Cor. 8:4-6, Acts 17:16-18.

Old Testament demons were idols – Deut. 28:22-28, 59-61, Deut. 32:17. Ps 106:36-39.

New Testament demons – Matt. 8:16,17 – people thought that Jesus was mad and said this must be because he had a demon. "He hath a demon and is mad". John 10:20, John 7:19,20, John 8:52.

Healing the sick - possessed with demons - are said to return to their right mind – Mark 5:15, Luke 8:35. This implies that being possessed 'with demons' was another way of saying someone was mentally unwell, i.e. not in their right mind. Matt. 4:24, Matt. 12:22, Matt. 17:18.

In short, God blessed us in the Bible School.

Bro. John Owalo Onani

SUNA MIGORI

I would like to thank you for your interesting letter and the book, *Woman's Place*, which is very encouraging to those involved in the work. I am very much thankful for the teaching I received from that book, it had a lot of extra Biblical knowledge. All Christians should live to know that the Bible is the real word of God inspired through prophets to let us differentiate the good and bad things in this financial jungle. 2 Tim. 3:15-17. All things shall fade away but the Word shall remain.

Bro. Samuel O. Masara

TONGAREN

May I praise the Lord and our Almighty God for the work He is doing to see that Tongaren has a stand to proclaim his Word in Bukusu language. Tongaren ecclesia members were more than joyful when they heard that the project of a plot was confirmed in the UK; for this we must praise God. Also may I thank Sis. Mary Clement, also the Kenya linkmen, Trevor and Allan who have struggled to see that Tongaren is in existence with all its projects. May God bless them all.

The projects that will exist in Tongaren ecclesia hall are as follows:

Christadelphian memorial services to operate every Sunday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30.a.m.

Bukusu translation – This project will be operated during weekdays to see that every English version of Christadelphian books is translated into Bukusu language for the benefit of unlearned people. Tongaren members have vowed to do this job freely.

Tailoring School – Our brothers have accepted to have a Tongaren Tailoring School to be operated in the ecclesia plot so that people can be trained as garment makers to earn their living. The project will make the ecclesia more active. To this we shall see that orphans and handicapped trainees are to benefit free of charge.

Correspondence Courses – This project will be done for non-Christadelphians so that they may know the truth of the Bible through Post Office boxes. We shall give out courses in Swahili and Bukusu languages. At this time we are translating the last lessons of Bible correspondence course into Bukusu language.

Sunday School – This is the project we shall never forget. We shall have a room for Sunday School and Sunday activities.

We hope that in the near future we shall buy a plot and run these projects. Two days ago I received a parcel of Bukusu leaflets and Glad Tidings magazines for distribution from Christadelphian Advancement Trust; thank you for these versions...

Bro. Sikolia Kapa



Photo: Bro Isaac Kapa

news from madagascar

Because of persecution I am leaving for Diego Suarez. The problems have meant it is hard for our group in Tana but they are continuing faithful. Please please pray for us.

Bro. Rija

We do ask your prayers for Brother Rija, there is a gang really trying to kill him, the bad thing is that some of these are from our former church, they think we changed our religion for money, but that is not true.

Sis. Claudette

news from malawi

CHITALA

I am residing temporarily at Chitala because I have changed my job. Chitala Research Station carries out research activities in cross-breeding crops of various species as well as our local animals with the exotic ones. My job here is to carry out maintenance work of the Research residences in the field of carpentry and joinery. The Station is surrounded by the strong influence of Roman Catholic teaching, Pentecostals, Cen. Africa Presbyterians, Seventh Day Adventists and, alongside, Islam, but very few of them.

Bro. Austin Frank Nyirenda

DOMASI

I and the family are in very good health. I am still working at the Malawi Institute of Education. Can you please send me a Bible in English.

Bro. K.S. Kawonga

JALI

Concerning the keeping of rabbits, I would like to tell you that I have just finished making hutches. Now I am moulding bricks for the construction of a goat house. Do you know anything about the Satanic church, or Satanism; here it is now the talk of the village. Some people say that accidents are happening because of Satanism and that those who follow that church meet at secret places. Is it the same in England? Recently, someone in the city of Blantyre introduced himself as Jesus Christ and he has a wife and two children, but you know what happened? That same week some people went to Chilomoni where he lived. They took stones with them for him to change them into bread and he failed; they then stoned him and now he is in the hospital.

Bro. Lucky F. Mbalale

KASUNGU

Thank you very much for your notes on how to grow oil palm. I have discovered this is a very good long term crop. I know I will never be employed. Just fancy, from 1994 up to 2006 without employment. We are now making ridges, preparing for next year's growing season. Some people have finished and are just waiting for the rains. We read in the *Christadelphian Magazine* that monies were sent to Malawi and Ethiopia for famine relief but we haven't got anything from them yet. The last two months the Salvation Army church were giving people food regardless of their denominations and we were able to have a share in that (the Salvation Army gave us food twice). I received their food, but I was very much ashamed because I do oppose their teaching but we have been desperately hungry.

Bro. Harmony Ntchalachala

MACHINGA

To begin with, the Nakalata Christadelphians are very happy to learn what other sister-churches are doing; this will help to strengthen our faith in the Lord. Also, through this correspondence you will know more about us. For instance, we are about to celebrate our silver jubilee. Yes, the Nakalata Christadelphian Church has been in existence for 25 years now. We view Jesus' words in John 17: 10 as our cornerstone, indeed, if we are united with Jesus Christ then the whole world will know that we are for God, the Almighty. As of now the congregation is growing and on August 20 this year we welcomed new members who were baptized by Bro. Masangwi.

Bro. R.W. Kalowa

MBAWA

Our ecclesia is now four years old. Our counsellor, Bro. Banda, gave us *Gospel News* to read and we learnt many lessons, that is why we are writing for more copies. We enclose our photo for you and those around the world to see us.

Bro. Cleverson C. Nguluwe



Photo: Mbawa ecclesia L to R: Adams Ndolo, Prince Mbewe, Cleverson Nguluwe, Glades Zimba, Kelvas Chunge and Dryson Mithi.

MIGOWI

I would like to thank Duncan for the *Bible Basics* he has provided me with. I am very much benefited by having this book. Moreover, at Makina Christadelphian ecclesia the number of converts is growing quickly. I ask God to empower me by giving me the ability to carry out this weighty task. I remind you that I am still looking for a job.

Bro. Symon Wanyekheya

MONKEY BAY

The parcel you sent has reached here safely and in good condition. My request again is, if possible, that you send me more *Bible Basics* in Chichewa; my reason for asking is so that Brothers and Sisters can read and understand what the Bible teaches from them.

Bro. Langton Pasulani

MZUZU

I enjoy reading *Gospel News* very much. As a new Christadelphian member, I shall be pleased if you can send me more and more different types of books, if it is possible.

Bro. Dutch Mphayah

NKHATABAY

The name "Mary" in the Bible is found in all 4 gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), Acts of the Apostles and in the Letter to the Romans. All Marys are found in 46 verses of the New Testament. There are six Marys:

Mary, the betrothed of Joseph and mother of Jesus, Matthew 1:18-25; 12:46; Mark 6:3

Luke 8:19; John 2:1-5; 19:26; Acts 1:14.

Mary, wife of Cleophas, Matthew 27:56,61; 28:1-9; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10.

Mary, the mother of John Mark, Acts 12:12 Colossians 4:10.

Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, Luke 10:41,42; John 11:12.

Mary Magdalene, Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-10; Luke 24:10; John 20:1-18.

Mary, a Roman convert, Romans 16:6.

Three Marys were at the cross, John 19:25.

Bro Joel Singini

NSANJE



Photo: Left, Bro. M.P. Mngundeni and Bro. C. Size

SENGABAY

I have been attending evening classes studying for a certificate in Financial Accounting. The goats are going OK. My house is close to the market and it is a busy place and densely populated and the goats at times roam and spoil other people's things. I have not yet found a solution, though I know for sure that I will have to find some place far from home, but I fear I may not find someone to tend them, being isolated from the community. Three of the goats have given birth to a kid each. Goats at some ecclesias are doing well and I have hope that somehow our goal will be met in the long run. Our prayer house at Chapita is almost finished; we are at the roofing stage.

Brother George Nkhoma

THYOLO

You have been long in my thoughts but I never managed to get those thoughts on paper. I am not a Christadelphian member, but I enjoy reading *Gospel News* and *Bible Basics* through Mr. Smart Wmbe and Mr. Muleso, church elders at Chimiko Christadelphian church. They are doing a very good job in trying to win souls to Christ and preaching the sudden coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our main clinic is close to the church at Chimiko and we are always blessed when Mr. Muleso visits us at the clinic, indeed God has got wonderful plans for him, that is why He has given him a long life. I am Senior nurse/midwife at the clinic. Be advised that the majority of Malawians between 15 and 49 years are HIV positive and their immunity system is very low. We are struggling against HIV/AIDS; please just keep on praying for us, putting me on your prayer list.

Mrs Joyce Milendu

ZOMBA

Hoping that you are fine and enjoying life in Jesus Christ. I also am enjoying spreading the gospel. I like reading the word of God, but I lack books and magazines, so I am asking you to send some to me, don't fail. I also teach a group of people the words of God. I admired the magazines and books I have seen which you have sent to another brother. Brother, continue feeding the world with the word of God as it is our spiritual food, no one can grow without it. May the Lord who provides everything for us, give you more wisdom and knowledge.

Bro. Suzgo Simwaka



Photo: ZAMBEZI ECCLESIA

news from mauritius

Thank you for *Gospel News* received regularly for quite a long time now. We thank the team for the great work of propagating the seed in all four corners of the world. Yahweh will look after them for generations. We must fill our lamps with oil and keep our garments white and clean. The time will come when we shall see the Lord's face in glory as his disciples saw him 2,000 years ago. My health is stabilising after a by-pass operation; this was performed by foreign doctors who voluntarily did a good job. We are grateful the Almighty God and the Lord Jesus Christ who have given me a second chance to live.

Bro. Ancharaz

news from nigeria

ENUGU

Thank you for your letter regarding '*Gospel News*'. Please continue to use my address for those Brethren who live far distant and who use my mail box. As long as I live and remain in the Truth I will ensure that their mail gets to them because I am one of those who does not believe in wastage of materials and funds. Again, some of these Brethren left their families here whilst they search for jobs, as there are no more jobs here in Enugu so they get jobs outside town. It will please you to hear that after nearly two months two sisters of the same parents were baptised, they are: Mwaka and Chiege Nuaji. Enugu ecclesia send their greetings.

Bro. Goddy Nwosu

OBORO

Surprising though it may seem, many people who have been church-goers all their lives have little idea of the Bible story and the sequence of events written therein. The reason for this is that they depend upon their religious leaders who masquerade themselves as truth. The Apostle John uses a unique term to describe those who, knowing the truth of the gospel, set out deliberately to misrepresent its message. He calls them "Antichrist". "Many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh" 2 John 1:7.

John went on to warn his hearers about the danger of this deceptive teaching from men and women in the last days who perverted the way of truth. Peter explains about the pernicious ways of the false prophet, 2 Peter 2:1. In the last days, widespread deception about antichrist and the false prophet comes from being inconsistent with the scriptures. John reveals that many deceivers are needed to make an antichrist, and now there are many antichrists, 1 John 2:18. The spirit of antichrist is in the world, 1 John 4:3 with many people going out into the world preaching a false gospel, contradicting the work of the apostles who had been sent out into the world by their Master, to preach his message of saving truth, John 17:18; 1 John 4:1. The

wonderful thing about the Bible is that it is old and yet is always fresh.

Bro Friday Enyiogu

CALABAR

I have received the books you send to me (1) 2 'Bible Basics' (2) 1 'Jehovah's Witnesses, their Doctrines Briefly Tested by Scripture' and (3) 1 'The Death of the Cross'. I told you before these books were to be donated to the University Library. The four 'Bible Basics' were donated, as you can see in the picture, to the Chief Librarian, Dr. (Mrs) Ekwere O. Akpan (also Miss Adah and myself), during the presentation on June 13th, while the other two books I kept for myself as I am not leaving them. I received a letter of thanks and saying they were looking forward to receiving more such donations.

Bro. Igani U. Eteng



Photo: Left, Dr. Ekwere Otu Akpan, Miss Adah and Bro. Igani Eteng.

news from south africa

SOWETO

We are placing advertisements here and I so pray that the people who reply to them will be serious with their Bible studies so that we can open an ecclesia here in Soweto. This is my dream. I pray for you all, wherever you are.

Bro. Elijah

news from south africa

SOWETO

We are placing advertisements here and I so pray that the people who reply to them will be serious with their Bible studies so that we can open an ecclesia here in Soweto. This is my dream. I pray for you all, wherever you are.

Bro. Elijah

news from tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM

It is a great pleasure to get this opportunity to inform you that I have been receiving different religious pamphlets and books. Even though it is a matter of struggling in life, I have written to you to thank you a lot for your continuous mailing to me, even though I have not written to you before.

Bro Ernest S Shindano

IFAKARA

We often come across people who say the differences in interpreting the Bible is not spiritually

significant. They do not understand that it is by His Word that He works in us ‘that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ’ [Heb 13:21].

Points of validity of different interpretations, based on human wisdom, however sincere, will not get man to the saving truths. It is a decisive principle.

Bro. Kimimino Mnzava.

IPINDA

I am grateful and happy to have received an invitation so that I can belong to the Christadelphian body, and am pleased to receive all the articles that you send out to us! My intention in writing this piece is to tell you how fond I am of all the books sent out for our spiritual growth. Please, I pray that you look for more books that will help me to grow in the Spirit.

Bro Nelson Jo Mwaisumo

KIGOMA

I thank our Heavenly Father in enabling me to smoothly continue with His work. I very much hope that we will be together in the ever-happy kingdom. I also thank Him for enabling you in your daily activities to provide us with some fruit-bearing books, pamphlets and tracts.

I continue preaching the word to the Moslem world around me by awakening them to the True Faith. I hope that in the near future I will have a good number of them ready to be baptised.

Bro Jerome Bukambo

KVELA

You suggested that “Introducing Bible Basics” be produced in a series of leaflets in Kiswahili. I found this a very good idea and therefore I’ve started translating it. The only trouble will be the expense of typing it up and putting it on disc. Computer owners here use them commercially, so it is not possible to find one who will charge little for doing it.

Bro Justin Mwakasege

MUSOMA

It is wonderful that a brother from Mwanza came to visit us and we were able to give him two English *Bible Basics* and two *Msingi ya Biblia*. He has three contacts at present two understand English and one Kiswahili, that’s why I gave him the books. I am going to give our contacts one *Bible Basics* each and I will let them sign for me that they are going to put them to good use with my supervision.

Sis Monica Achieng



Photo: Monica’s daughter Beverlyn and her son Cherlingstone

I thank you once more for the information you have passed to me. I know that things will work out the way that God wills it, that is for the ultimate benefit of *true* believers. The time has come for the fulfilment of many of the prophecies (2 Timothy 3:1-5). But we are to persevere (Matthew 24:13).

Bro Joseph Nyipillah

USAGARA

Thank you for *Where Women Have No Doctor*. I think all of us at our ecclesia will use it to get knowledge to educate our sisters and others. The condition of our area with drought is very difficult. The government is distributing emergency food.

Bro Joctor Rufano

news from uganda

BUGIRI

We are organising a seminar to teach the young brothers and sisters how to behave towards society or how a Christian should behave. I will inform you more later. In this seminar we will include the following: Baptism and Bible study and breaking bread and drinking wine. My aim is to extend the gospel all over the country of Uganda. We need to teach people the facts concerning God's Kingdom in the future, and the past and about Jesus Christ.

We the ecclesia of Nekuku, Bugiri are writing to request the following booklet 1) *Where There Is No Doctor*, 2) *Where Women Have No Doctor*, 3) *A Woman's Place*, to enable us to keep life easy in our villages. Malaria and other diseases have become a major problem in our area.

Bro. Samuel Mukisa

BUSIA

I appreciate the *Gospel News* magazine for it stood with us, and encouraged me even when I was still in isolation. Whenever I could read it and see the photos of the Brothers and Sisters published in it I felt comfortable and only smiles and tears flowing from my eyes expressed my joy. I knew that our community was being bound by the truth. Continue to publish it and sending me copies. I have run short of time through schoolwork; that is why I rarely send articles. By sending us study materials, brother, you have stood with us Ugandans and from the bottom of my heart, I say thank you. Yet the job ahead of us is greater than ever. The cry for the gospel and the love of God is more intense than it has ever been. Our responsibility to our wonderful Jesus is also immense. Our time seems very short given the signs of the end happening. Look at the Middle East crisis. And what we would do, we must do now! That is why I have always thought of adding some new teaching/preaching programmes. We have initiated the Uganda Christadelphian youth preaching team. It is already at work but not as frequent as I had intended. I desired that we had three every year but we only had one last year and are most likely to have one this year.

Bro. Frederick Wabwire

The Bible does not leave us without a solution. Jesus Christ invites every individual to accept his terms for eternal salvation. He told his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptised shall be saved but he that believes not shall be condemned (Mark 16:16). Belief in the one true gospel and baptism into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ are the two essentials for personal salvation.

Notice carefully, brothers and sisters, the Bible's definition of the gospel which Paul explains in these terms: "The scriptures foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached beforehand the gospel unto Abraham saying, 'In thee shall all nations be blessed'" (Galatians 3:8). Therefore the gospel of salvation involves all nations of the earth in a state of harmony with God and the granting to mankind of great blessings. That is why it is recorded that Philip, one of the Lord's disciples, went about preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of

God and the name of Jesus Christ, resulting in many of his listeners being baptised, both men and women (Acts 8:12).

God offers eternal life and an inheritance in His kingdom to those who believe and obey the gospel. So ask yourself, do you do it? An understanding of Bible truth, baptism into the sin-covering name of His son Jesus Christ and a consistent life of dedication and obedience to the principles laid down in the scriptures are essential for salvation in the day of Christ's coming.

I urge you brothers and sisters who read this article to take up the challenge to decide for yourselves which route you take. Investigate the evidence. Bible prophecy is not dull or archaic. It is a living, vibrant, urgent message that can excite and direct those prepared to experience its power.

Bro Wilberforce Waudera

KAMPALA

The address on the letter is my new address and the one I am going to be using from today onwards. Although I have been receiving all the magazines you send on the old address, it takes a long time for me to receive them. The one who is responsible for collecting the mail takes a long time to go to the post office. Would you please send me the book, *Where There Is No Doctor*, if possible. *Sis. Annette Namagga*

KASESE

The highlights you sent us about the Da Vinci Code are important as the Da Vinci material has received much publicity and is misleading people about Bible truth. I read the book for a long time till I came to disprove the contents of it. I read Christadelphian magazines and convey the messages to other people who do not know anything about Christadelphians. The magazines I read are:- *Glad Tidings, The Christadelphian, Faith Alive, The Way Ahead, The Missionary, Gospel News, ALS Exhortations and Present Day Events*. It is through these that I get my contacts. It is so important that I should understand all that I read before explaining the messages to the people. My heartfelt request therefore is to send me a dictionary, which can help me to master all the information. My message to Brothers and Sisters worldwide is this: "Do not throw away your confidence, it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God you will receive what he has promised, for in just a very little while he who is coming will come and will not delay. But the righteous will live by faith and if he shrinks back I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed but of those who believe and are saved" (Heb. 10:35-39). Let us pray that our Lord Jesus returns soon in glory so that we are perfected and meet in God's glorious Kingdom.

Bro. Isaac Bulea Cox

KIGANDALO

Here at Kigandalo we are all fine. I appreciate your work and more so Bre. John Matthias, John Palmer, Sally and Paul who have tried their level best to come to Uganda. We are happy that we are going to have baptisms at the end of the week with the students who had been studying with us.

I would like to send my warm and loving greetings to Bro. John Ouma and Bro. Frederic Wabwire of Busia for visiting our ecclesia and I hope they will continue with the same spirit.

Bro. Samuel Onyango

MAYUGE

The daily reading of the Bible is a very great task we must fulfil as Christadelphian believers and

followers of Jesus Christ. This is because the more time we spend gossiping makes us live in a fleshly way instead of living in a godly way. The Bible is so important because it tells us about God. The Bible shows us how we can be like God. In John 6:63 the Lord Jesus says the following about the words that he spoke: "The spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." Here we read that the words Jesus spoke can give us life. We must listen to the Lord Jesus' words and to the other words in the Bible and let them guide us in our lives. This way we will live Godly lives – we will have life! In this coming year please let us remember to read God's word, the Bible, as much as we can every day. Remember that it gives us life if we have faith in what it tells us and if we follow it.

I am facing many problems, more especially when it comes to reference books and other preaching materials like leaflets, and therefore request you to send me some necessary leaflets about Christadelphian beliefs, baptism, the devil and satan and others. Some essential books – *Thine is the Kingdom* and *The Bible our Guide*.

Bro. Robert Ocheng

Thank you for sending me papers from which I read and learn new words which I did not know. It makes me happy to read more information about things. I was particularly interested in the papers explaining the falseness of the Da Vinci Code, by Bro. Botten.

Bro. Peter Ouma

MBALE

We are always receiving *Gospel News*, *Glad Tidings* and other literature from you. We have appreciated them and hope you continue with that spirit. We are humbly requesting a copy of, *Where There Is No Doctor*, more *Bible Basics* and other educative books and leaflets. My prayer is that you extend your hand of help both spiritually and physically to whatever God so wills, for the reward reserved for you is immeasurable. I also pray for you that the love and peace of our God be with us until the Kingdom is revealed when we will see each other face to face.

Bro. Robert Shibita

NEKUKU

Nice to hear from you again and to receive the book entitled *Wrested Scriptures*. I am trying my level best to read and find out the truth in the Bible. It is an interesting book to have by my side and for other Brothers in the ecclesia. As I told you my Brother that we hope soon to have a simple seminar at Nekuku Ecclesia.

Bro. Samuel Musika

ULYANKULU

We would like to congratulate you on your letter which we received a few days ago. We would like to thank you for your explanation of the way you received the Christadelphian faith a long time ago. Also we say thanks for hearing our problem with hunger, so we are waiting for communication between you and the Linkman for Uganda. We have much hunger and we are suffering much.

Bro Makenga Reverian and Bro Balansoloma Liberi

news from zambia

CHAMBISHI

I write to let you know that it has been almost a year since I received any literature from the

Christadelphians. I am pretty sure that you will take note of my plight. I don't even have a Christadelphian calendar for this year. Even so my faith in Christ is still forcing me to share the good news with those who are eager for the word. As I preached about my Christadelphian faith, one day, thank God I came to meet a person who was hungry for the gospel. After some discussion he told me to go ahead and preach to him and at last he told me he wanted to start learning about the Bible with me. I went home not knowing what next. I was thinking about where to find the money for the postage and I prayed. Two days afterwards, I was searching through all the literature that I have. That is when I came to notice the only response payee envelope I had. I don't have employment and in our country it is very difficult to acquire even a small amount of money. I am always in the field cultivating to keep my family and myself alive. Moreover, I have a small group of Sunday School children and I usually teach them using the Bible. I am sure someone can assist me with teaching material.

Bro. Willies Simbowe

Comment: Now we have your new address I trust you are now receiving our mailings regularly.

KABOMPO

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established. We may be walking in various ways, all that we need is advice from people. No one knows everything. Anyone who does not like advice from others ends in failure and disappointment. We need to listen to our friends for better advice. Brothers and Sisters in all ecclesias, we need to love one another to maintain the unity which we have through the Lord Jesus, our great example.

Our Linkman, Bro. David Nicholls, Sis Linda, Bro. Arnold Kunda and Bro. Harris Mulongesha arrived in Kabompo just as it was arranged by the messages received from them. We were praying for this as an ecclesia. We were pleased to receive them for the first time in Kabompo, except Bro. Mulongesha who had been here before. There was wonderful Bible study and one baptism took place – a new born baby in Kabompo ecclesia from Katendwa. May God bless the seed sown in good soil that it will yield good fruits. We are praying also that Charuma people will be visited to cultivate the hard land and plant the seed there for the sake of our Lord Jesus. North Western is a big region with seven districts. To plant the seed we need to be having big fraternals in future, starting in 2007 and onwards, for the seven districts. May the Lord bless us and we pray for the Kingdom to come on this earth, at present so full of hatred.

I want to study mechanics. If there is any brother who is able to send me a book about mechanics I will be very glad. I want to work hard for a career.

Bro. Amos Chikanda

I am very busy here as you know. We only have two months till the start of our rain season. Roll bricks have been made and I am now bringing them to the site for the shelter of my family. I have been cutting grass and poles for my house roof.

Bro. Charles and Sis Cecillia Muhupu

KAPIRIMPOSHI

When I received your letters I was more than delighted because of the issues you outlined. Honestly I have been out of the fellowship for some time now and the Linkman was not wrong at all by telling you to delete my name from your mailing list. I had a lot of problems to settle but God helped me and I am now settled and hope to mend my past mistakes and become in union

with my Brothers and Sisters. I thank you a lot for encouraging me to get back into fellowship.
Bro. Mike Mweene

KASAMA

We are very busy with the Correspondence Course and are in contact with some of the students doing the 40 lesson course in Kasama. We would very much like a copy of *Where Women Have No Doctor* which could help many, as would the book *Wrested Scriptures*. We have also found *Bible Basics for Moslems* very informative and helpful. So far I have not received the tapes you sent me – sea mail at times takes very many months to arrive. It is true that the HIV problem here in Zambia seems enormous and it is also true that only Jesus Christ will solve this and other problems when he comes back to establish the glorious Kingdom here on earth.

Bro. Joshua Mushili



Photo: Bro Joshua Mushili

I received the *Da Vinci Code Notes* you sent on 25th August 2006 at my brother's home, watching TV I had a quick glance through it and concluded immediately that it had nothing to do with my faith and hope in the Lord. To my surprise, coincidentally there came up a programme on the TV called "Turning Point International" by the CBN. and surprisingly they still had *Da Vinci* to discuss. I know my God arranged this coincidence for me and really whatever is on this pamphlet came exactly and I learnt a lot from this programme in relation to what you sent me. I personally don't see anything convincing enough as to challenge my faith in Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God. Only a desperate Christian with a shaky foundation of doctrines would be troubled by such meaningless attacks (1 John 2:22,23, 1 John 4:4-6, Isaiah 8:20).

Concerning the *Gospel News* magazine, I personally deeply appreciate it and your concern for our spiritual well being. May the Lord God bless you and your work of His message to His people. May He grant us wisdom as He did to Solomon that we may learn, understand his Word and apply it in our everyday life for the sake of Jesus Christ (Phil 2:10,11). I was baptized in Tanzania, witnessed by Bro. Geoff Dawe.

Bro. Boniface Simpanzye

LIVINGSTONE

Many thanks for *Where there is no Doctor*; it will upgrade my knowledge in my life and the community as well, identifying illnesses. Also very happy to have the book "*How to Grow a Balanced Diet*" and a dictionary. Please do not give up in getting me more knowledge. The news which I heard on the South Africa radio was that Jesus was married and he had children and Mary Magdalene was his wife. It is nice to hear news from both Israeli and Palestinian governments and what is happening in both Israel and Palestine. I think it is good to continue fighting the good fight of faith in order to be part of the promised Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ for which we are all waiting. I hope to hear more from you.

Bro. Caphes Sikanyika

Comment: It is not true that Jesus was married. We have explained how this so called "Da Vinci Code" is false and most of you will have received the yellow notes on the subject by Bro. John

Botten which gives ample evidence to refute this false claim. Further copies can be obtained if required from us. MH

LUNDAZI

The Words of Comfort, "For all those things hath mine hand made and all those things have been, saith the Lord. But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word." (Isa 66:2). But are there not numerous passages in both the Old and New Testaments which testify to the real help and comfort which God will grant to his faithful? There are indeed too many by far to quote but here are a few: "Nothing in the world shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life ..." (Rom 8:38-39). "Blessed be God, the Father of mercies and the Lord of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation"

(2 Cor. 1:3). "My God shall supply all your need" (Phil 4:19). "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"

(Heb.4:16). "The God of all grace, who called you unto his eternal glory in Christ, after that ye have suffered a little while, shall himself perfect, stablish, strengthen you" (1 Pet.5:10). What are we to do with such passages? Why, heartily believe them of course. Bro John Chulu

NAKONDE

May God's blessings be with you always, for the work that you are doing is great and may you continue for you will be richly rewarded. I thank you also for the book and leaflets you sent to me. I am also happy for your great help concerning the books that I asked for. Bro. and Sis. Webb have done a great job, they have sent me those books. Really I appreciate your concern. Now that we are living in the last days let us fix our hearts and minds on godly things so that when Christ is revealed he will find us doing what is right. Please pray for us so that we be not of those who shrink back and are destroyed.

Sis. Esther Muntete

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

Tour of North Western Province of Zambia, July 8-9

Bro. and Sis David Nicholls visited the above province for the first time, accompanied by Brothers,. Arnold Bwalya Kunda from Lusaka and Harrison Mulongesha from Ndola. On July 11th I was told by Bro. Richard, who had a cellphone that I should meet the Brothers in Mufumbwe so I travelled there on July 12th to meet them. We had lessons with the students there and also questions, we left the same day for Kabompo where we spent a night in Kabompo. On July 13th we travelled to Zambezi as the programme indicated. In Zambezi lessons were given and questions from the students. On July 15th we came back to Kabompo where lessons were given and questions from students were answered correctly. In Kabompo there was the baptism of Bro. Goodson Kufuna, who is now joined to the family of God in Kabompo although he is in isolation, being 15km from the district. On July 19th we came again to Mufumbwe to meet the students and finish the tour, although my Brothers were continuing to other parts of the country. I learnt that people in the province are still behind with the following topics: Satan, Trinity and Holy Spirit work. If more material could be provided on these subjects, God willing, we will supply it to them. I pray that a Brother or ecclesia will help in contributing these materials which will be much appreciated. We only have two ecclesias in the province which are Solwezi and Kabompo and the remaining five districts have only students.

Bro. Charles Muhupu



Photo: Bro Harris Mulongesha

PEMBA

Loving greetings in the name of our Master, who will soon come. I hope that this letter will find you in good health, the Brothers and Sisters at Muzoka are doing very well. I had a bicycle accident after recovering from malaria which landed me in hospital because our local clinic could not attend to it. I had a dislocation of my left shoulder (collar) bone, so I had to sell one of my goats to meet my hospital expenses, x-ray as well as travel expenses and I was fortunate I was worked upon then back home. I have to do a bit of physio to keep both my muscles and my whole hand working. So pleased to receive your letter, that advice, also the news about the Middle East the booklets have been very useful during Bible study. I do appreciate these additional materials. Looking at what is happening all around us makes us know that it requires us to be united together, as we wait for his coming (Psalm 133:1). Also it requires us to be prepared.

There is no point, after knowing the truth of what is to come, to pretend to ignore this truth, it should keep us watchful, ready for his coming soon! We should take courage and leave fear (Luke 12:32) Our true basis for salvation lies in trust in Jesus as the one to redeem us (Phil.3:9). We should be able to see these events (Luke 12:54-56). I remember on TV/ BBC coverage over Middle East tensions, Israel's army widening ground offensive; it is very sad to watch these things happening, but the time is near (Jer.30:3). When all these things end "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation..." (Is 2:4) "God will wipe away every tear" (Rev. 21:4).

I have just distributed agricultural notes to some Brothers and Sisters in Lusaka, Matero ecclesia, Chinsali after my distribution to Kafue, Kasaka ecclesias. Bro. Dennis Kombe, as a matter of concern, has written to me for detailed information on how to grow citrus fruits like oranges, apples, pawpaws and the type of fertilizer to use. Do you have any information on apples and pawpaws? I had a leaflet on oranges in my local language but I still have to look for it and translate it and then send it to him together with these others. As soon as I have it I shall let him have this material.

Bro. Wilfred Chibomba

Comment I have sent you and Bro. Dennis some information on growing fruit trees in Africa. Whilst it takes a few years before one gets fruit, once they start bearing one gets a crop for many years. They are a good long term investment and should the Lord remain away, will provide an income when one is too old to work the land. MH.

Greetings in the blessed Name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. I write to let you know that my work of translation is being delayed as my own dictionary does not assist me in finding the correct meaning of some words in English. I shall be very pleased if you have an old dictionary if you could send it to me. I also wish to let you know that, from the information I got from "*Where there is no Doctor*" concerning Talc and other health care materials and equipment, I wrote to Hesperian (USA) Foundation to ask whether they could send me more detailed information on

how to get or order these. These books are very helpful especially to us who live in rural areas.

Bro. Joseph Mulawo

NDOLA

I would like to continue receiving *Gospel News* because it is educative, informative and I learn a lot from the Brothers and sisters from other countries and ecclesias. Read Luke 9:23-26, where it tells us to take up our cross and follow Jesus. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of man be ashamed, when he comes in his glory and the glory of my Father and of the holy angels."

Bro. James Mwanza

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

When we pray we say, "Our Father", so as God is our Father, surely let us respond to His laws by following them, doing the right things only and teaching others. Thank you for all your support which you are handling so that preaching can proceed. I am in isolation so please send me book like "*Where Women Have No Doctor*".

Bro. Gaud Mamba

BULAWAYO

Greetings to all Brethren and Sisters who are near and abroad. It is very pleasing to read different ideas and messages of encouragement to spiritual growth. The articles in *Gospel News* bring us together in spirit although we are many miles apart. It appears sometimes Brethren and Sisters are marrying unbelievers or one of a different church. In doing this it shows that we do not do what we read and are told to do in the Bible. Let us have a look in 2 Cor. 6:14-15, which says "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness, and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

How can you be "one flesh" as written in Eph. 5:31 when you have two different doctrines between yourselves that are true and false. For this reason the Lord God prohibited the Israelites' marriage with the heathen people around them (Deut. 7:3-4), because He knew that as soon as there was mixed marriage His people were going to learn Baal worship. A mixed marriage can be a prolific source of misery (Gen. 27:46). It has come to my notice that such marriages may have no perfect happiness, especially on days of church going as there is a tug-of-war to see which of the two have the true belief and doctrine. How can you be of one mind and live in peace while having two different opinions in life in your service to God whom you worship day and night? Let us bear in mind that there is one body (one true church), one true doctrine, one hope of our calling (Eph. 4:4-6).

Bro. Ambrose Tanyepana

LIVE FOR SOMETHING

Live for something, be not idle

Look around for something to do,

Sit not down to useless dreaming,

Labour is the sweetest joy.
Folded hands are ever weary,
Selfish hearts are never content,
Life for you has many duties,
Then be active while you may.
If we daily do our duty
With a singleness of aim,
We shall see God's wondrous
deeds and beauty
And shall magnify His name.
We may not be highly gifted
But may fill a little space,
But the meek will be uplifted
In the kingdom of His grace.
Scatter blessings in the pathway,
Gentle words and cheering smiles;
For better than gold and silver
With their grief-dispelling wiles.
So watch how you spend your time.
Sis Jean Mayo

I am enjoying the prophecy of Jeremiah because he was not like the other prophets. When he was preaching he was the doer of the preaching. If all of us were like Jeremiah the word would be preached to the four sides of the world. I hope you are working hard to write the next issue of *Gospel News*.

Bro. Dzingai Sumburere

CHEGUTU

I am very thankful for your letter and the contents and books. Well at times God does great things in our lives. He is great. The parable of the faith of the Canaanite woman, Matt. 15:22, reminds me of my faith in you and God. When Abraham was called he was told to leave everything and go to the land that God would show him. Jesus, when sending out his twelve disciples gave them instructions, Matt. 10:6-14. So now, because we have agreed to be together as Christadelphians we are one united family. But some among us are not serving the Lord spiritually and I wonder whether we are going to get the "rest" at the end. God knows everything. The death of Bro. Nelson is very sad and the great job he has been doing in Zambia was good. He preached to many of the brethren there and did his missionary work well. I knew his son, David Bwalya, and his young brother Alfred when I stayed with them during my days in Chipata,

Zambia. May God be with his family.

Bro. Farai Phiri

Thank you for publishing my article that appeared in *Gospel News*. My young brother, Webster, was baptized together with two other students, Stanley and Paidamoyo. Our ecclesia keeps growing as we look forward to the coming of the Son of Man.

Bro. Richard Phiri

I would like to thank you very much for the splendid work you are doing on spreading the word through *Gospel News* and all the literature that you send to all those keen students wishing to learn of the ways of the truth. I have a confession to make and I hope you will publish it in *Gospel News*, together with my photograph. I used to go to a Methodist church, as from my childhood my whole family were Methodists. Well it was when I met Richard Phiri that he introduced me to the Christadelphians and I saw things differently. There was the Bible Planner to enable one to read portions each day which we never did at the Methodist church. What really helped most was the correspondence course of the 40 lessons; a lot of my questions were answered and I now understand. The leaflets and Bible studies have also helped me greatly. Meanwhile I keep strong and look forward to the coming of our Lord.

Sis. Hlezipi Phiri



Photo: Sis. Hlezipi Phiri

CHINHOYI

Allow me to express my views on the crossword puzzles and some questions. They are very helpful to us as they help us to stretch our brains and search for Bible answers, but for the puzzles I think it would be better if the answers were printed in the next *Gospel News* rather than put in the back of the same issue. For question and answer I think it is also good if there is a page set aside for that. I have just finished those which were presented by Irene and Lorton and were answered by Sis Joan Shuker. They have helped me very much and they are a sort of inspiration to dig further into the pages of the Bible. I am also stressed about the way John the Baptist behaved in the last days of his life. Question: When John was put in prison he sent his disciples to Jesus to ask whether he was the one to come or should they expect someone else (Luke 7:18). There and then Jesus started to cure those with diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits and giving sight to the blind. Jesus told the disciples to go and report to John what they had seen and heard. Before that, John had baptized Jesus and had said he was powerful and that he was unworthy to untie his sandals. Does that mean John's belief had decreased because he was in trouble? Does that mean there were other people who looked like Jesus and performed miracles as Jesus did although they were antiichrists? Where did John's disciples go after John was beheaded?

I would like to thank you all who contribute to *Gospel News* and would like to assure my many Brethren and Sisters that I am with you in my prayers. I was most touched about what is happening to our Brothers and Sisters in Iran, Morocco and most Islam countries. I am also sorry and sad to hear of the death of Brother Nelson Bwalya; he has been a good writer and

inspiration to us young brothers. To his family and ecclesia I repeat 2 Chron. 19:11 "...act with courage, and may God be with those who do well."

Bro. Moses Ajiweka Zumba

Comment: The miracles Jesus did not only confirmed John's belief in Jesus being the Messiah, but would also have demonstrated to John's disciples, that Jesus was the Messiah whom they should follow.

CHIPINGE

I was diagnosed TB and I am on TB treatment. I want to thank God for the assistance I got from the CBM Welfare Fund as it enables me to go for a blood test to see if I have a malaria parasite in my blood, because at first I thought it was malaria.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

It is encouraging to see how God's Word is spreading to so many remote places. I have been to Mozambique twice with Moses and I met quite a number of Bible students and I am tutoring most of them. It has been a privilege for me to talk face to face with them. The two visits have been a great joy to us all. We all made our way home with a firm resolve to continue the work by correspondence and possibly further visits, God willing. Recently Moses and Admire went back and the visit was blessed by the baptism of Sister Evermore Muchanga, the wife of our Bro. Arone Muchanga. She has been on the 40 lessons correspondence course.

Sis. Evelyn Dhlakama

We thank you for Portuguese *Bible Basics* as well as books *Speaking About Jesus*.

Bro. Arone Muchanga – Translated from Portuguese

CHIVI

According to the second epistle of John it says, "To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only but also all who know the truth, because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us for ever." Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the son of the Father in truth, and love", Brother with the happiness which is in my heart now. I am not here to tell you anything but I just want to thank our heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus for the kindness and love you have shown to the people of Chivi. The students are enjoying their studies and I have been given a classroom here at Chivi District Hospital and I also want to say thank you very much to Bro. Dhlakama of Rimbi who gave us some leaflets about the book *Speaking About Jesus*; we would like some more please.

Bro. Isaac Vheremu Ngara

KARIBA

Faith has two main aspects, it is true knowledge about God and Christ with an unshakeable conviction that what God has revealed about Himself and about us is true. Faith also involves trusting in God and being assured deep down that by His grace we are made right with Him because of Christ; that what Christ has accomplished applies to us. Faith is centred in Christ and in what he has done as each one of us is called to make a personal confession of faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord. The Blind Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus Christ that he would see and he received his sight. As Brethren and Sisters in Christ we must stand firm in faith knowing that God is always testing our faith to strengthen it. This testing may involve pain and suffering and God wants us to reach out to Him and trust that He is working for our good.

Bro. Witness Majecha

I am praising our Lord Jesus that I want to learn more of his words. God bless you for the wonderful books I am now reading. I am confident that God's test only comes when and wherever He wants it done. Job 9:8, :18-19, Isa. 48:13. Regrettably our human nature is our enemy. In August God blessed us in Zimbabwe in having a Christadelphian Conference in Harare, when we met Bro. Steve and Sis Ruth Moore. Bro. Alan Turner and his wife Sonia. It was the most wonderful time I and my children have ever had.

Jesus, being of our nature, showed us the character of God. God is after his image being in us. God is looking upon this earth to see the hearts of those that realize they have to try to imitate the life of Jesus.. How and where can you run away from Him? God loves us, let us hear Him.. May the Lord give us more strength to stand against the winds that may come, for God wants strong people with faith looking forward to the coming Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

Bro. David Mhondiwa

KAROI

Once more I am writing to forward my word of thanks to you and may the Lord add more to you for another hand that you have given to me. Many more days and blessings from the Almighty for you people who care for the poor and needy at the Lord's table. I am preparing to go to the Conference in Harare, God willing.

Bro. Marison Tafirenyika

MAGUNJE

Joyous salutations in Christ. With heavy breath I gladly received your letter. Thank you so much for your great love. You took the burden off my shoulders which was too heavy for me. My prayer is that you extend your hand of help both spiritually and physically to wherever God so wills for the reward reserved for you is immeasurable. No amount of words would be enough to express my innermost gratitude for the services you have personally rendered to me. No more words of explanation can explain my joy and peace at this time. I am always singing hymns 268 and 335. Your fellow sufferer, fellow soldier, fellow pilgrim and fellow suppliant of the mercy of God unto eternal life.

Bro. Stanford Kunzha

I received the books you sent through sea mail and then a letter and the book "*Where Women have no Doctor*". I think Sister Ruth and others will find it useful. I will take time to read all these books and those on gardening, goats, and rabbits. I am now well equipped with all information so I will have to keep them nicely. From the garden this last season I had managed to yield sweet potatoes, cassava and sugar cane which have different nutrients for the family. This time I have tomatoes of different varieties some of which I am about to market but we have a problem with our Zimbabwean dollar which is not stable. The news from the Middle East, as the Bible predicts, shows us that our Lord is now near to make everything change for the better.

Bro. Weston and Sis. Ruth Kamota

First and foremost I would like to thank you for send me *Bible Basics, Introducing Bible Basics, The Death of the Cross, Jehovah's Witnesses Doctrines Briefly Tested by Scripture and Bible Basics for Moslems*.

Remember the words of the Master of the vineyard: "He who endures to the end will be saved".

Bro Norman and Sis Grace Kamutikaoma

MASVINGO

On 18 August 2006 we had Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Moore in Masvingo town ecclesia and we

had Daily Bible Readings and we shared the word for spiritual growth. I have found it difficult to raise college fees alone, since both of my parents died in an accident.

Bro. Simon Mudavose

MT. DARWIN

God gave us the 66 books of the Bible. He meant us to study all of them – not only read or study a few that are our favourites. We cannot build a house without a proper foundation. So when we get the proper foundation laid we need to put up some side buildings to hold the roof and have a strong house to live in. Therefore the 66 books of the Bible will build us up in faith. The writer of 2 Timothy 2:15 urges us to, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of faith.” Again 2 Tim.3:16 says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” So the only recourse we have these days is the Word of God. The reason that many fall by the wayside is that the seed fell among the stones. It did not get deeply rooted. The Word of God is the seed and unless we study all the Word of God, getting down into the good, rich soil, we will not become very healthy spiritually and it won’t be long until we get trampled down and dried out by the earthly sun. To stand in these days we need to be rooted in the Word of God. As Peter says, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy, where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts. Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” (2 Peter 1:19-20) So do not pull out just one verse or two and think you have it. That is the tragedy of Bible study; we must take it all? So, Brothers and Sisters, let us all build entirely upon the Word of God using our Bible Companions, (Also reproduced in the Bible Readers Calendar) as by following this plan we will be able to read every chapter of the Bible each year. I am thanking Bre. Steve Moore, Alan Tanner and Sis Ruth and Sonia for coming to Zimbabwe, Resthaven CBM. Conference and studying the Bible with us using the theme, “Israel, past, present and future.” Please arrange more conferences for us in the future. I believe the study of God’s Word is our only hope for the future.

Bro. Sylvester Chakaipa

MUTEMA

Thank you very much for literature on growing crops in drought conditions; they are useful booklets. We are suffering high inflation in our country, indeed we are experiencing hyper-inflation. Many thanks for your advice and suggestions concerning the problems I mentioned. Thank you, too, for exhortation on present day events which is very interesting. I have not received the latest Gospel Publicity leaflets. Concerning copies of *Gospel News*, I suggest that you send one or two copies per small ecclesia. In our ecclesia we are 13 members, two copies are enough, we exchange them as we do one copy of the *Testimony, the Christadelphian Magazine*. This may reduce the cost of printing and by mailing to one ecclesia. If my suggestion is helpful send them through the ecclesial secretary. The *Gospel News* joins us all together worldwide. We pray for your wonderful work and its continuity till Christ returns.

Bro. Patrick Mandvinga

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from belarus

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of ANDREJ and INNA. May they hold fast in the faith until the Lord comes.

BARANOVICHI

I have been talking to two more people here and given them *Bible Basics*, they seem to want to be baptized. So I am encouraged that people are listening and are interested. Life here is so hard, people do turn to God now.

Sis Larisa.

I am really looking forward to coming to Poltava to the Bible School and hope to bring at least one interested person with me. I so like *Zvezda* magazine and the article of sister Cindy.

Bro Leonid

news from iran

I continue to make the breaking of bread in my home. I have one person at work to whom I read the Bible, as he fears to have his own copy. I feel I am growing in faith.

Bro. E

news from iraq

We here are still safe but only thanks to God. I really see the wrong in all forms of violence for whatever end. Please pray for us.

Bro. Sirwan

news from israel

We would appreciate more of your literature and leaflets to be sent for Sis Natasha to use, thank you.

Bro. Michael

We received literature, *Beyond Bible Basics* and other books, once we read them we give to others here. Zlata tries hard to persuade her friends of the gospel and the need for baptism but so far we have no response!

Bro. Vladimir

news from kazakhstan

KOKSHETAU

My sympathy is very much with sister Nina whose house burnt down, I pray for her each time I pray for my own daughter Olya, who has already been in the hospital a month with chronic bronchitis. It is now so cold here I can't imagine how she will one day be better again. But we will live, by God's power and His love. I was so thrilled to get an invitation to the Bible School in Ukraine and I will by all means try to come.

Sis. Valya

I am getting older but I hope I am still strong in my faith. I feel very alone here after my daughter

left for Germany. I speak with my granddaughter on the telephone, but she has forgotten her Russian and it is very sad for me as I don't know German. Brother David Pearce was here from England, and we eagerly await when Brother Duncan will come.

Sis. Svetlana

I have been thinking much of how important baptism is, and how even Jews today will not be saved unless they are baptized into Jesus. It makes our need to preach more important. I appreciate Zvezda magazine. At last we have a voice!

Bro. Stas

I received Zvezda magazine with such joy! I was inspired to write some poems, poems of joy and hope. I really hope to come to the Bible School in January, it will be such a joy to be together with brothers and sisters who love the truth and the true God.

Sis. Regina

We were delighted to get invited to the Ukraine School. We so wish to come, for us the best thing is to be able to read the Bible according to the Companion reading plan, when usually we read alone, it is so good to be able to read together with brothers and sisters, to discuss, to hear the verses explained.

Sis. Marija & Bro. Sergej

Once a month we gather with others in our group for breaking of bread. We think of you and pray for you wherever you are working. Our daughter Ira has given birth to a child but it is so sick so much of our time goes on assisting with this, which is hard as we are now both on a pension and we can hardly feed ourselves with it. We received a big parcel of books and are happily reading them and understanding more and more.

Bro. Anatoly, Sisters Irina & Izolda

I would love to come to the Bible School but I feel so old now, I fear to travel far, but please know that I totally support you in prayer.

Sis. Julija

My wife is still preparing for baptism. We love you all and hope to meet.

Bro. Yuri

news from latvia

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of ROMAN, RIVA, LIGA, RAIMONDS and ALEXEI. May they hold fast in the faith until the Lord comes.

AIZKRAUKLE

Thank you so much for such an interesting magazine! My prayers are with all those who have none to help them. I am blessed to have adult children, indeed recently they came and repaired my flat for me. But I know that the Government doesn't help people and so to whom can they turn if they have no family, so my prayers are with them very much. I am grateful for a package of help I received from brothers and sisters.

Sis. Irena

DAUGAVPILS

Here things are so hard for me, and I appreciate receiving the clothes etc. I live day to day, relying on God each morning as David said he did too in the Psalms.

Bro. Ruslan

Only recently have I come to feel that Jesus is truly my Saviour, I mean, that I have come to understand that He is an actual person who relates with me. I was raised an orphan, maybe for this reason it was hard for me to understand that really I have a true family member who has such love for me.

Bro. Andrej

KRASLAVA

I get so confused when on the street going for the shopping, that I really can't face to travel to Riga for the Bible weekend. But I want you all to know that I think so much of you and am reading with you here on my own.

Sis. Valeriana

MADONA

I am now working away from home, with no days off, it is really hard for me. Then I return home for a few weeks. I find it very stressful to have to live like this but there is no work here where I am in the village. Now I am catching up with my reading, and am sending the next answers to *Beyond Bible Basics* .

Sis. Sarmite

PILTENE

I have some people here in need of *Bible Basics* and I so hope they will read it well. I don't wish to talk about my problems. They are many. But agape love is what will be the answer for all of us in the end.

Sis. Olga



Delivering winter firewood to Sis. Olga as part of the Carelinks Winter Heating Project.

REZEKN

I marvel at the grace of God towards me. I still have in my body some parts of a bullet from 1945, and still I am live now, and have the hope to be for ever in God's Kingdom. Despite all ill health, and the problem of paying for medical care now, I can say I am happy because I know the future is assured for me.

Bro. Fyodyor



Bro. Fyodyor

RIGA

I am now grateful to have a new bed, a very nice one, not too low as the last one was, so I can sit on it and get up more easily. I pray for you all each day, several times a day, in my bedridden situation this is all I can do and I do it with joy and thankfulness I can do something.

Sis. Aleksandra

SALDUS

I am really so happy to be baptized! I treasure the memory of your visit to my home.

Bro. Alexei

news from lebanon

Lebanon and the people of Lebanon have witnessed hard circumstances recently due to the Israeli offensive. At the beginning of the crisis, my family would always move, rather escape one place to another, a neighborhood to another, an area to another. I decided not to stop working and indeed I drove around all the time with an American journalist called Paul Taggart.

As for my family, I gave them the liberty to decide where and when to leave. First, they escaped from Haret Horeik to Hazmieh in east Beirut then to the village in Bekaa and at last to a town called Jub Jannine, a relatively safe shelter. Most people in Lebanon became either Refugees or evacuees. Certainly, the process of evacuating Westerners from Lebanon increased the fear and confusion of the local people.

The panic was enlarged by the Israeli attempt to destroy the infrastructure, especially the roads making the passage from one place to another virtually impossible. In addition, they obliterated whole residential places in order to try to track Hizbullah fighters, who are invisible like devils or ghosts sneaking from a place to another.

Emotionally speaking, I felt so sad to watch Lebanese people in front of their destroyed houses trying to save whatever things survived the bombings. While walking in the streets, the bad smell of dead bodies will follow you to every corner. Many corpses were reached only days later by the red Cross due to the heavy shelling. I was unable to contact anybody— telephone network coverage was weak and electricity unavailable most of the times. I had my food in the car— biscuits, crackers and some bread. Petrol prices went up and was available in the black market: 16 liters for 50 USD. As a result, transportation fees increased far more than the average price. There are a lot of other problems that we faced but cannot be counted all. Now, after the cessation of all hostilities, the reconstruction process is initiated especially in Haret Horeik and South of Lebanon. Thank God, none of my family members was physically affected but the memories of this war will always haunt us psychologically. I thank you and all my friends who worried and cared for my safety during the war. Your moral support and sympathy is a big help

for us. We always thank God for watching over us. This is my picture taken during the difficult times when we had to leave our homes and become refugees. Your ultimate help will be your prayers for me, my country and for the end of war. Many innocent victims are paying the price and many children are still injured daily by the war leftovers in the South of Lebanon.

Bro. Ahmed



Photos taken by Brother Ahmed of the destruction near where his family lived.

news from lithuania

We who journeyed to Jurmala really enjoyed the Bible weekend, we spoke of it throughout our return journey. Thank you for it.

Bro. Albinas

I read the report about the baptism in Serbia with much joy and interest, as knowing brother William I know this will be such a great encouragement for him.

Bro. Valdas

news from moldova

We are delighted to report the baptism of ALEK, son of Sister Luba and brother of Brother Evgenij.



Photo: Two rightfully proud mothers with their baptized sons in the Chisinau Ecclesia

news from norway

I find Gospel News so exciting to read! Thank you for it!

Sis. Helena [ex-Latvia]

news from poland

POZNAN

We're sorry to say we can't come to Ukraine for the Bible School but we are kept alive spiritually by Zvezda and we loved the words of Cindy there.

Bro. Henryk and Sis. Zhenya

news from russia

We are delighted to report the baptisms of OLEG and NINA. May God be glorified in the lives of all who turn to Him in truth.

ARMAVIR

Things here are hard for me. My chronic asthma gets no better, and nobody will take me to work because I cough so much and am often too weak to work. My brother Vitaly who is also as you know my true brother in Christ is my only help, and he is an invalid himself. The pensions we are paid are so tiny, one simply can't live on them, so it is really hard for us to survive. Our dream is to come to the Ukraine Bible School but I don't know if we can. I live in faith in Yahweh Elohim for whom all things are possible, and I am comforted that neither He nor you forget us here.

Sis. Galina

BALAKOVO

I would appreciate more copies of *Bible Basics* to give to people I am preaching to. I am encouraged to revive my preaching efforts after reading in the magazine of how other brothers and sisters keep on trying. I wrote an article too for *Zvezda*, I hope it will encourage our Russian brothers and sisters to keep on trying for our Lord.

Bro. Mikhail

CHELYABINSK

Thank you for *Zvezda* magazine and for your support of us. We have brother Leonid staying with us at the moment. We will try to come to the Bible School but maybe I will not have holidays.

Sis. Lena

We are planning to go to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan etc soon to visit brothers and sisters and try to preach there more. We'd love to come to the Winter School and we are with you all.

Bro. Alexei & Sis Vika

JOSHKAR OLA

I am trying to improve my English with the *Speaking About Jesus* book! I am going to make a special effort to come to Poltava, I miss you all so much.

Sis. Elena

KAZAN

It was such a wonderful, wonderful time we had when brother Duncan came, we baptized Oleg, and had such a good fellowship here in our ecclesia. Despite all things which can depress us, I believe that the Truth will prevail always. To try to brighten up my life I am trying to plant some flowers in my apartment, to remind me of God and the resurrection and new life which we believe will be ours.

Sis. Ludmila K.

It was very good to be together again and to see that we have one mind and one desire to serve the Lord. I am sending the names and addresses of my relatives in various parts of Russia, so that you can send them *Bible Basics* and *Zvezda* magazine, I will keep writing to them and I hope maybe to make a journey to see them and help them grow in faith and even to be baptized. I have now baptized my wife's relative NINA and we are meeting as a small ecclesia for breaking

bread. I feel I have passed on the truth which God gave to me.

Bro. Alexei

I am now placing advertisements in the newspapers here with the Carelinks address, I hope sincere people will respond. It was very encouraging to meet recently and I was inspired to write an article for *Zvezda*.

Sis. Svetlana

Receiving the photos of our recent meeting meant much to me and I really appreciate it. I still remember the very warm fellowship and breaking of bread.

Sis. Lidija

MUSLYUMOVO

Here I am fine, but praying for the tragedy of the sister in Latvia whose farm burnt down. I think of you all and try to imagine how you are all.

Bro. Mikhail

NIZHNY TAGIL

Here I feel so incredibly spiritually lonely. I will make every effort to get to Ukraine for the Bible School but it is hard getting time off from the factory. Please pray for me.

Bro. Leonid

RZHEV

I continue preaching to my relatives in Western Ukraine by correspondence and would be happy to have contact with any brothers there. I so enjoy *Zvezda* magazine.

Bro. Sasha

St. PETERSBURG

I was delighted with the latest edition of our *Zvezda* magazine, and I was inspired to do some research on Adam and Eve's sin in Eden, and I will send an article about this for the next number. I pray strongly for God's blessing on all the wonderful work done to spread the Gospel.

Bro. Valerij

SARATOV

I was really thrilled to receive much Bible literature from brother Marcus. Here things are not so good for me as the harvest of potatoes was so poor. Also my relatives in Kazakhstan write that it is the same for them too. I with great eagerness each day read the Bible portions, this is what keeps me going. I am hoping to come to the Bible School and I hope my granddaughter will come with me as I rather fear travelling so far alone.

Sis. Raisa



Photo: Sis. Raisa at Bible School

SHAKHTY

It is good that so many Russian speaking brothers and sisters are now writing

for *Zvezda* magazine. It is a pleasure to assist in producing this for them.

Bro. Andrej

We here are OK and I hope we grow in faith and understanding. We would love you to come here and teach us more and help our preaching!

Bro. Sergej

SHCHYOKINO

I'm delaying replying as I was away visiting my sister in Ukraine. I am alone here in this town, my late wife's relatives don't want to know me, they are alcoholic, and I have absolutely nobody apart from my sister. With my heart condition I dread the winter. We get such strong winds, the ice is so bad, it is a huge burden to even go out and do the shopping. I fear too how I will be buried, as there would be nobody to inform any of you in time were I to die suddenly. I have seen how they bury such people as me, I watched it several times- they take the body from the hospital in a polythene bag and just throw it somewhere. I want to be buried with a testimony that I wait for Jesus and will rise again when He comes back. So my only chance is to move to Ukraine to live with my sister who as you know is also waiting for the coming of our Saviour. But if I live in Ukraine, I will not get any housing from the Government, and only two thirds of my pension. It will be hard or impossible to live where Sofia lives as you know. There is no inside toilet or washing facility, water is only from the well. So I don't know what to do. I just want to live with my sister so we can care for each other. Our only hope is that Jesus will come soon.

Bro. Boris



Photo: Brother Boris and his sister, Sister Sofia

TALITSA

We here in our small ecclesia are constantly praying for you. We are preparing for visiting the Poltava Bible School and Sasha is already writing some lectures to present. We're so sad that here in our town nobody wants to respond to the challenge of the true Gospel.

Sis. Vera

TAMBOV

I and brother Aleksandr send you greetings from Tambov. I so love the *Zvezda* magazine, at last we Russian speaking Christadelphians have our own voice. I was moved to write a poem, *A Star Over The World* and I hope it can be published. I love you all and thirst for fellowship with all true brothers and sisters.

Bro. Vadim

TVER

I recently had my 50th birthday and was able to look back at how God has worked with me. I thank you for all you've showed me and done for me. I enjoy reading *Beyond Bible Basics*. I see God in all things around me, even in the huge buildings which the rich people are building here,

and in the lives of us poor people too, I see God's hand and the beauty of all He has created.

Bro. Igor

VOLGOGRAD

We received with joy the magazine *Zvezda* and were encouraged to be more active in our faith by the examples we read of concerning other brothers and sisters. We would like copies of the *Speaking About Jesus* course which was used by the ecclesia in Riga, so that we maybe can start a Bible group in English language here and attract some younger people to the faith.

Bro. Sergej

YAROSLAVL

I received and am distributing the literature sent. My health is now broken, I don't go out much, but I so want to play my small part in the wonderful work of spreading the truth about God to others.

Sis. Anna

news from serbia

BELGRADE

I am much encouraged by news of more baptisms in China and Asia, this is a great sign of progress for me. Here in Serbia there is much renewed interest in religion, the main newspaper *Blic* is publishing articles of a religious nature, e.g. about Judas Iscariot.

So I keep trying to talk with people. It was a great joy to be with Duncan again here. I am trying to place Christadelphian books in the

libraries here. I placed some by brothers Alan Hayward and Harry Whittaker as well as *Bible Basics* and they were accepted, so I

pray this will be a further witness to the truth. I like to think that at least people have the opportunity to know the real truth. I like

the *Zvezda* magazine, I agree absolutely with what was written by Sister Cindy.

Bro. Vladislav

news from turkey

I am quite ill now so I really can't work. I really need to return to Russia but there too I have nothing and no work for sure. So please pray for me I just don't know what to do.

Sis. Anna

news from turkmenistan

Things are not so good for me, my mother is ill and in constant pain and I must care for her, plus I find working in the school damages my nerves. I am still making camels and selling to those who want to buy them. Please keep on your prayers for me. I want out of this situation as it is getting so hard here to be a Christian, but it is almost impossible in human strength to see a way. I hope in the coming of the Kingdom of God on the earth!

Sis. Guncha

news from ukraine

BILA TSERKVA

I am so sad to report the death of my beloved grandmother Galina. I can't recognize the fact of her death up to the present but nevertheless I comfort myself that she was baptized by you and has the hope of eternal life when our Lord Jesus Christ returns to this wicked earth.

Bro. Alexei

POLTAVA

I am really hopeful that the woman I work for in the Summer in France may become interested enough to be baptized. She is such a nice person and I have begun to explain things to her.

Sis. Veronika

Sadly so many people because of economic crisis think they can join a religion and get money. This is not only simply sad, but it's a barrier as we try to spread the Gospel here.

Sis. Ludmila

ROVENKI

I am so looking forward to the Poltava Bible School, that event is a real taste for me of the paradise to come on earth and amongst us as believers. I received from Marcus more books to read, now I have read all of Brother Alan Hayward's books and they so confirm my faith. I also thank you for Russian *Zvezda* magazine, I very much enjoyed and agree with the article of Cindy.

Sis. Tamara

News from the Americas

news from guyana

The quarter under review saw the void that had been created by the departure of Bro Dan and Sis Becky Parsons and Bro David Andrews.

Brother Gideon remained during the transition to see to the implementation of the programme drawn up for Kilcoy and New Amsterdam Ecclesias and returned in July to the U.S.A.

Bro Ted and Sis Dolores and Bro James Delits visited about the same time in the month of June and ministered to all our membership within their short stay.

In the month of July Bro Joe Badly and Sis "V" visited. Bro Joe Badly stayed the entire six weeks ministering in both Demarara and Berbice. Bro Joe saw to the implementation of our first T.V. preaching broadcast in Demerara and Berbice. It is expected that more VCR cassettes will be made available to the brethren in the two counties to continue the T.V. broadcast.

The quarter was mainly preoccupied with detailed preparations by the CNYC to enable all our youths to travel to Jamaica on the 3rd of August for the Triennial Camp and one week Bible campaign. Our contingent has since returned, by the grace of God.

Sister Susan Profitt of Georgetown ecclesia fell asleep on the 3rd of August after protracted illness. She had celebrated her 94th birthday early in the year. She was buried on the 9th of August.

On Sunday the 10th of Sept, Sis Emma Smith, originally from New Amsterdam, (who was re-admitted into fellowship in 2005 at the same time with her husband, Bro James was sadly struck down with sickness and subsequently fell asleep after a long battle with the sickness.

If the Lord wills the 2007 Guyana Bible School will be hosted by the Kilcoy ecclesia from 6th to 9th of April.

Eccles Ecclesia will be hosting a Bible Exhibition from the 28th September to the 4th November, 2006.

Bro Frederick Hammond.

news from trinidad

Nice to hear from you, as always. Thanks for the book, 'Legalism and Faith'; it's a beautiful book, very enlightening, showing me some greater spiritual heights I have to try to reach. I have been keeping Okay. I had the pleasure during the past month of visits from four brethren from Canada and a Christadelphian couple from Tobago. I hope that the case on our behalf will begin soon, God willing, so that, hopefully, in the near future I will be off death row.

Bro. George Constantine

News from Asia

news from india



Photo: A well positioned advert in India

news from indonesia

I am so thankful to God that none of us here were harmed by the earthquakes. God kept His promise to my family and myself as in Psalm 91:10,11 and I praise Him for it.

Bro. Anton



Photo: Brother Anton [left] about to baptize family members

We have to realize that "looking back" is very dangerous and won't give us a salvation. The return of Jesus Christ is really very near. There is a question from me "are you ready for His return?", if ready we are the brethren and sisters who will be in His lovely Kingdom. So let's encourage our friends to learn the Bible so that they could get the promise as God promised to Abraham.

Bro. Sigit

Poverty v Riches

Poverty and riches are two co-existing things. We have those with a lot of wealth and those who own little. These things are as they are because it is God's love and purpose for all humanity. God is pleased to see that rich and poor live coherently in love, with good relationships.

Whereas:

1. A wealthy person has many 'friends': the poor has none left (Pro19:4)
2. The poor man pleads but the rich man answers with insults (Pro18:23)
3. A rich man's wealth is his only strength; the poor man's poverty is his curse (Proverbs 10:15).
4. A poor man's own brothers turn away from him in embarrassment; how much more his friends! He calls after them but they are gone (Proverbs).

But we have encouraging messages and warnings to all men from the Bible. Here we read:

1. Honour the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income and He will fill your barns with wheat and barley, and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines (Proverbs 3:9,10).
2. Better a little reverence for God than great prosperity and trouble with it (Proverbs 15:16).
3. He did it so that you would never feel that it was your own power and might that made you wealthy. Always remember that it is your God who gives you power to become wealthy and He does it to fulfil His promises to your ancestors (Deuteronomy 8:17,18).
4. A little gained honestly is better than great wealth gotten by dishonest means (Proverbs 16:8).
5. Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him to act. Don't be envious of evil men who prosper (Psalms 37:7).
6. We should be well satisfied without money if we have enough food and clothing (1 Timothy 6:8). The warning continues: (verses 17,18) Tell them who are rich not to be proud and not to

trust in their money which will soon be gone, but their pride should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good.

Finally, the best answer for all men is to value and seek first the Kingdom of God and everything shall be added to them. They will be rewarded with eternal life when Jesus returns to the earth as King and Redeemer.

Advice for one living in a communal area who intends keeping meat birds:

The purchase and management to the point of slaughter.

This interesting practical paper has been produced by Brother Dzingai Sumburera, c/o BCBM Stand 2613, Neketa 8, Box 5125, Nkummane, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, who will be pleased to let anyone interested have a copy. Please include postage where possible.

Scenes From Malawi



Brothers and Sisters at Zambezi Ecclesia, Tengani.



Baptism at Chididi Ecclesia, Nsange

The Meaning of Life

“Tell me, please, in just a few words the meaning of life,” one enquired. “How is it that we are here? What’s really going on today? How will everything turn out?” For such, brothers and sisters, we are pleased to share the following from the Bible:

God is great, good, loving, without beginning and without ending, the great Creator of all things. He sent forth His only begotten Son. The Son always recognized his Father as greater than himself, and has always been subject to Him. The Creator brought forth all other living things. Adam was created “a living soul” in God’s image and was without sin until tested. He had only the potential of everlasting life, which was dependent upon his obedience to God.

The man failed the simple test of obedience and was condemned to death: “In the day that thou eatest thereof (of the forbidden fruit), dying thou shalt die”.

Death means the extinction of life: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” and had it not been for the redemption which God had planned man in death would have become as if he had not been.

Subsequently, God gave instruction and promises to Abraham regarding the blessing of all the families of the earth through Abraham’s seed. God dealt in a special way with Abraham’s posterity, which became a nation called Israel to which He made additional promises by a covenant with Moses as its mediator.

These ancients to whom God revealed Himself had a faith which pleased God they believed that God is, and that God is a rewarder of them that serve Him.

In due time God sent forth His Son, made flesh by birth to Mary.

He was called Jesus. He was without sin, although tempted in all points like us, but never failed, he lived among men, worshipped only God, preached the Kingdom of God, was crucified on a cross and was raised on the third day.

All who (1) receive knowledge, (2) accept God’s truths, (3) hold in their hearts the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, (4) endeavour as “the light of the world” to faithfully walk in the steps of Jesus, and (5) have been baptised by immersion into Christ, are members of the church of Christ, members of his body. At Jesus’ return the responsible living and resurrected dead will be judged and rewarded according to their deeds and those found worthy will be given eternal life in the Kingdom of God.



Photo: Bro. Lar (on right) with friends

Bro Leonard M Lar (Ndhiwa, Kenya)

Whose Word Will Stand?

“Watch out that no-one deceives you. Many will come in my name claiming ‘I am he’ and will deceive many. False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect – if that were possible. So be on your guard” (Mark 13:5,6,22). “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder” (James 2:19). And no wonder: “For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. The end will be what their actions deserve” (2 Corinthians 11:14,15).

“Each tree is recognised by its own fruit... The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart... For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:44-45).

“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out his treasure what is new and what is old” (Matthew 13:52), “a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15),

following Paul's example as he follows the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1) "and all spoke well of him (Christ) and wondered at the gracious words which "proceeded out of his mouth (Luke 4:22), which were always full of grace and seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers'" (Matthew 7:21-23).

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For the time comes when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myth" (2 Timothy 4:2-4).

"You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know if the message has not been spoken by the Lord'. If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 13:1-4; 18:21,22),

Bro Joshua Pakali (Beitbridge, Zimbabwe)

Books By The Tonne!

Sister Sylvia Lower (Folkestone) has for some years stored and despatched the 30 works of the truth translated into Russian by CAT (with the financial help of our readers). We do not want them in stock but in the hands of all our Russian-speaking brethren and sisters (and Russians tend to be great readers).

The Russian authorities allow literature to be freely sent, but some organisations are abusing this by sending in printed material subversive to the State. Even in Britain there were importation problems with Sis. Mary Eyre's book, 'A Spreading Flame' – it sounded to the authorities like a terrorist training manual and came under special scrutiny, and hence delays.

So, to get our books out to Eastern Europe a task force of five spent two solid days packing up 200 7kg parcels of assorted books and sending them out. The books were provided by CAT and postage paid by the CBM. Already a number of 'thank you' letters have been received.

Photos: Bro. Denis Pearse and Bro. David Bushell selecting the books for packing, then sealing the boxes and Sis. Sylvia Lower and Sis. Vanessa Bowler (behind the sack) labelling and putting them into sacks ready for two P.O. vans to collect and take on their journey towards their final destinations . MH



Brethren's Camp at Peran Ecclesia

Near Lunga Lunga Kenya/Tanzania Border...

where we had a feast of spiritual delights. Among the subjects considered were: God, The Lord Jesus Christ and his Life, the creation of the earth and man and how sin entered, the holy spirit and spirit of God, the Trinity, angels and their work etc. There we learned many practical points to help us to develop godly characters which are to be manifest in our lives. The photo shows brethren holding their weapons in their hands, Hymn books and Bibles from which one learns how to serve and praise the Lord.



Bro Edward Kunikina

What is Life?

We read in the 1st Epistle of John 5:12: "He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son does not have life" (1 John 5:12). People have defined "life" in many ways. What of your brothers and sisters? "When Christ who is your life appears then you also will appear with him in glory" (Col 3:1-4).

Some people say that life is what you make it. Brothers and Sisters, (including me), should not think in that way. "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them: the Lord who remains faithful for ever" (Psalm 146:5, 6). Whoever has this attitude to life follows the true God, not 'life is what *you* make it'. (See also Eccl 9:5,6; Isaiah 26:19; John 5:28,29). To define the scriptural word "life", the Lord Jesus Christ must be included, and this present life is temporary: 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; Philippians 3:20,21; 1 Timothy 4:6-8. "Defend my cause and redeem me. Preserve my life according to your promise" (Psalm 119:154; see also vs156, 159). "I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands"(v176) and I pray the Lord's good hands be with you all the time.

Bro Harris N Mulongesha

Introducing Bee Keeping

A Guide to Intending Bee Farmers for the Production of Natural Honey

Contents

1. Bees
2. Boxes with frames

3. Bait – Capturing the bees
4. Material for harvesting

This article is designed to help anybody to gain a step-by-step understanding of what the bee keeping project teaches and to enable anybody to become a bee keeper. It will help anybody to have a clear view of how using bees produces natural honey.

BEES It is obvious that bees are the handiwork of God. There are four types:

1. Red bees
2. Black bees
3. White bees
4. Tiny bees that stay out of holes but under the rain all the year round.

They are all busy bees that feed themselves. Wherever they fly, they never miss the hive when coming back.

BOXES Each box has ten frames inside for them to make honeycombs. The combs line up in the frames; then it is called a hive.

BAIT Before bees form the hive, the keeper must capture the bees using attraction perfume, called bait, to let them in. The bait is many attraction ingredients with taste and odour.

HARVESTING Materials for harvesting are:

1. Overall wear to protect the body from stings
2. Veil with cap to cover the face
3. Rain boot
4. Hand gloves
5. Half tool (a metal instrument for opening the box)
6. Smoker (a smoke box) with bellows to fumigate the hive and keep the warring bees off the harvester
7. 1 metre of white cloth to cover the box after smoking to prevent bees from escaping during this danger period
8. Brush and ½" plywood to separate bad combs from good ones for honey.

I make it plain to anybody who has an interest in becoming a bee keeper to fortify themselves with the above listed harvesting materials to avoid getting stung. Though bee stings are very uncomfortable, the result of a good harvest of pure honey is the prize. Bee culture is a lucrative hobby but only people with determination succeed. The Department of Agriculture has a section that gives vital information and demonstrations for intending bee farmers. In a good library, more facts can be obtained from literature under the heading "APICULTURE".

Bro Friday E Enyiogu (Ikwueke Oboro, Nigeria)

Living with HIV/AIDS

Introduction

AIDS can affect anyone whether Christadelphian or non-Christadelphian, either directly or indirectly, so we all need to be educated about this topic.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic was first recognised globally in the early 1980s.

- HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- AIDS stands for Acquired (become infected) Immune (the body's resistance to infection) Deficiency (weakened by the virus) Syndrome (the illness has a group of symptoms). AIDS is therefore the underlying loss of resistance to other infections and many different infections can then infect the patient.

Cause and transmission

AIDS is caused by a virus, a tiny germ which cannot live by itself: it can only live inside another living organism. The HIV virus is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluids: blood, semen and vaginal fluids.

A person who has HIV cannot transmit it to another person by way of:

- Hugging
- Holding hands
- Tears
- Coughing
- Insects
- Caring for them
- Sharing utensils
- Mosquito bites
- Touching
- Toilets
- Animals
- Swimming pools

Features of the disease

A person who has AIDS may have some of the following signs and symptoms:

- Weight loss
- Persistent or intermittent fever
- Prolonged tiredness
- Generalized swelling of lymph nodes
- Respiratory tract infections
- Tuberculosis
- Persistent dry cough
- Diarrhoea
- Pneumonia
- Night sweats
- Skin rashes or sores
- Central nervous system disorders

Treatment

Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs are used to prevent HIV from multiplying in the body. It allows the body to re-build itself and thus helps the body to fight against the infection that persons living with HIV/AIDS can develop.

Education is given to the public to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As followers of Christ we have a responsibility to change/influence this world of ours. Therefore let us work together to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by our example and preaching.

People living with HIV/AIDS need support; they need to be cared for. Some people want to blame those living with AIDS for having the disease, but one needs to know that anyone can get the disease. Many people contract it from an unfaithful spouse or by sharing needles with an infected person. People with HIV/AIDS could be our friends, brothers and/or sisters.

What is our position as Christadelphians? Should we strive against those who are wayward? The scripture says that the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men (2 Timothy 2:24). Repentance with baptism causes forgiveness for such sins (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Many people do not change from evil deeds and repent, for they prefer to enjoy themselves today, then die tomorrow: a similar life-style to those people in Isaiah's days (Isaiah 22:12,13). Scripture says that those who reject God will be punished (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Conclusion

Followers of Christ should hear what scripture says:

- Sex out of marriage is wrong (Hebrews 13:4)
- Homosexuality is wrong (1 Corinthians 6:9)
- Experimenting with drugs is wrong

These are the things that put a person at a greater risk of contracting HIV which leads to AIDS. We should therefore exercise our minds to live in accordance with God's word since godliness is profitable in this life and that to come – the Kingdom of God (1 Timothy 4:8).

Sis Elizabeth Europe (Guyana)

Lessons from John 6

After reading this chapter for four years, I have come up with some lessons linked with David's Psalm (78).

To begin: "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world" (John 6:33). Same with the manna, it came down from heaven. Jesus here tells the Jews that manna in the New Testament represents himself. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, the Jews grumbled about the bread from heaven, so too did they grumble about Jesus; they did not understand Jesus' teaching (verse 30). About the manna which bred worms and did not last when it was kept for personal use the next day (Exodus 16:20). What does it mean for us? That things stored away and not used corrupt and one can become the enemy of God (James 4:4). But in the wilderness there was other manna which never corrupted (Exodus 16:22). This

represented Jesus as the manna and container. Jesus was a man with an ordinary nature before he died (that is, mortal). We also see this when Moses was commanded to make an altar from earth and undressed stones. (Exodus 20:25). I realize that man had nothing to do with the preparation of the Christ-altar: he was not born of the will of man but of God (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35). The earth shows that Jesus was to be mortal (as was Mary), that he physically inherited human nature from Mary.

“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger ...” (John 6:35,51). On this issue Jesus refuted the Jews because he knew that their attitude was materialistic (verse 26). They were not willing to hear his teachings. That is why he said “I am the bread of life ...” and told them that their fathers had manna provided in the wilderness in spite of which they rejected God (Numbers 14:1-4).

What does it mean for us? We who accept his teaching shall gain everlasting life and the hidden manna (Revelation 2:7,17). This is like the ark, which also speaks of Jesus. And we shall overcome the second death by being given the white stone; without this we should have everlasting death like the Israelites who were cut down by God (Psalm 78:31).

Jesus quotes from Psalm 78:39: “For he remembered that they were flesh, a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again” (John 6:63). What does this mean for us? The worldly are working for nothing to God and they will not go into the kingdom. We must bear spiritual fruit, as we are chosen by God (John 15:16). Looking at John 15:19, if we follow fleshly things we are not of God, but of the world. “Do not love the world or anything in it” (1 John 2;15-17). We should leave behind all fleshly things which will pass away and remember the covenant we made on baptism.

Bro Dzingai Sumberera (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)

Where there is no Doctor –

We are proud to announce that our classic manual, *Where There Is No Doctor*, is now available online! <http://www.hesperian.org/publications_download> to access the complete, newly updated 2006 edition on their website.

According to the World Health Organization, *Where There Is No Doctor* is perhaps the most widely used health care manual for health workers, clinicians, and others involved in primary health care delivery and health promotion programs around the world. The manual provides practical, easily understood information on how to diagnose, treat, and prevent many common illnesses. With over 90 translations and adaptations of the book available worldwide, and millions of copies in print, the book is an essential health resource for individuals and communities around the world.

Lisa Gonzalves, Book Publicist, Hesperian Foundation

World Cup Challengers!

The Australians sent us some bright yellow T-shirts with the Christadelphian Logo, now proudly worn by the Salima Christadelphian football team in Malawi. – I guess in their minds they are preparing for the world cup, could they on equal terms beat the Aussies if they played them, as they play on a rough stony pitch without shoes or socks and any challenging team would have to be dressed the same, and play with a welded plastic papers ball.

You will have noticed in some photos that Brethren, Sisters and children do not wear shoes - simply because they cannot afford them. Shoes, we understand, have positive health and fitness benefits, eg shield the body from soil-borne diseases and toxic substances, prevent some injuries, protect the joints and even protect against snake bites and other biting creatures.

What would be the practicalities of someone setting up a good quality second-hand shoe bank for sending to Africa in bulk? MH



Above: Malawi football team and elderly members posing for a photograph after playing. The ball, made from plastic papers, heated to bond them together, is handled by the second player on the left of the centre row.

The team in action with Bro Smart as the referee.

Paul's Living Faith and Hope

Paul wanted to emphasize that although he had obtained forgiveness of sins through Christ, that did not mean he no longer sined. He was to keep trying his best to be worthy of all that Christ had made possible (Philippians 3:12-21).

“He that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matt 10:22). We must be careful to distinguish between our thankfulness and joy in the hope of salvation now and our recognition that it will not be given us until after the judgement, salvation is a process which is not completed until the judgement.

Christ took hold of Paul on the road to Damascus. After a period in which Paul was fighting against the truth and trying not to face up to its enormous implication for him, he saw that the living Lord was real. Paul then determined to “take hold” of that eternal salvation with which Christ “took hold” of him. Paul stressed that he has not yet obtained salvation, but he was putting the past behind him and constantly “straining forward” to what lay ahead.

It is no use dwelling on sins that we have committed. We must confess them and believe that in Christ they are forgiven (1 John 1:9). We must press forward doing our best with our eyes set on

the kingdom. The successful runner is dedicated in training and committed to winning the next race so we must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Everything must come secondary to that. The runner has his eyes set on the finishing tape, like Christ who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame (Heb 12:2). We must fix our sights on Christ knowing that the prize will be given to us: God will invite us to share His glorious nature. We shall be like Christ in his perfect resurrected state (Matt 25:23; 1 Cor 15:53-58; 1 John 3:1-3). The Philippians had some fine examples of Christian faith in action in Paul and his companions: men like Silas, Luke and Timothy.

Paul often warned about those whose discipleship becomes a form of self-indulgence. It was with deep regret, even weeping, that he had to brand them enemies of the cross of Christ.

When we are baptised into Christ, we identify ourselves with his sacrifice and put on the selfless life of Christ. If we later allow our instincts (our belly) to rule our actions, we crucify the Son of God afresh (Heb 6:6).

The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Now we must try to live as citizens of heaven; our thinking, speaking and manner of life must be directed by Christ, our king. Our hope for the future is not to go up to heaven but to be rewarded when Christ returns to the earth (1 Cor 15:23-26).

The same wonderful prospect is promised to all those who are looking for the appearing from heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then our physical disabilities and the effects of age will no longer wear us down. Then our characters will show forth love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and selfcontrol, for sin will have no place in those given immortal lives.



Photo: Bro and Sis Wanjala

Bro David and Sis Jacklyne Wanjala (Makhonge, Kenya)

The Coming of the End

We witness quite a number of public talks in an endeavour to bring people to Christ. But many stay in fleshly thoughts, failing to understand the talks. I suggest the use of examples that the listeners are acquainted with will help. We have “the coming of the end”. As the disciples asked the Teacher: “What would the time and signs be of his coming?” Jesus gave them a very satisfactory answer. He said, “You will hear wars, rumours of wars, nation against nation, kingdoms against kingdom, famine everywhere, pestilence and earthquakes” (Matt 24:6,7). Let us compare these with Luke 21:25-28: “Signs in the sun and moon and stars, distress of nations, famines, wars and roaring of the sea and the waves.” All these and hearts failing but Jesus assuredly tells his disciples to be happy because these signs show that ‘redemption is

near.' This is a lovely assurance of security against torments. The listener will want to know how to get this security.

All these things are happening in our time: famine in Africa, earthquakes in some countries the dreadful tsunami wave in Asia. Hurricanes etc it is recorded that thousands of people have been killed. Matt 24 and Luke 21 are confirmed. Jesus gave a parable to illustrate his cool answer: "When you see a fig tree budding, then know that summer is near" (Luke 21:30). Beware of worldly things; repent and be baptised. Put Jesus in the innermost part of your heart. Pray for the forgiveness of your sins. Meet with each other for encouragement and preach fearlessly.

Bro Stevan Tedza (Karozi, Zimbabwe)

Visit to Mozambique

The trip was undertaken by Bro Moses and Sis. Evelyn Dhlakama (Zimbabwe) to encourage and assess the 15 Shona correspondence course students that had responded to our advertisement. We were truly delighted to find them waiting for us at Bro. Arone's home and we spent the afternoon discussing questions. We divided into two groups - the Shona-speaking students and the Portuguese. One student said he wants to be baptized, but he still needs more instruction.

Bro. Moses gave the advertised talk on, "What is the True Message of the Bible?" The talk was attended by a combination of students and those that came as a result of the advertisement. We suggest that for any similar effort in future a day be set aside to advertise it by way of leaflet distribution.

We have been welcomed into the homes of these very grateful villagers. Life here is harsh, but all the difficulties visitors face are soon forgotten when they see the abundant love and affection the villagers show, because we bring them the 'glad tidings'.

During our visit we were asked to come back and speak especially about baptism and the new life. Almost every night we talked well into the morning with a good number of people present. Among other things the Mozambiqueans are hard workers in spite of the poverty. I noticed an unwavering hope of a better future that can sustain them in their daily lives. The true gospel we preach has been well received.

As I am writing, Moses and Admire Museba of Masvingo Rural have just returned from Mozambique and they bring us some good news that Christ's family has recently increased by one member in that area. Our new Sister is Evermore Muchanga, the wife of Bro. Arone who was baptized in February this year. By being a constant example in daily matters, Arone introduced members of his family to our Correspondence Course and Evermore has been corresponding with me.

Lastly, but not least, we must have the spiritual ambition to take the gospel to the whole world, no matter how small or large that world may be - the 'world' of our street or our town, or our nation or as far as we are able.

Please, my dear brothers and sisters, keep strong, "always abounding in the work of the Lord."

Confession

Confession means to acknowledge, to make known, to declare, to express faith in, a thing. In this case, one is to confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. According to the scriptures, this is to be a public confession, made with one's mouth. Christ himself says, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt 10:32,33).

Now let us observe a few things. Firstly, Christ said, "Whosoever". It doesn't matter who they may be, if a person will confess Christ before men, he in turn will confess one before the Father in heaven. Christ is simply saying, 'You confess me and I will confess you': isn't that fair enough? It would seem that it is. On the other hand, he makes it just as emphatic that whosoever denies him before men will be denied before the Father in heaven. That is, whosoever will reject him and his will on earth will be rejected at the judgment.

Paul says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom 10:10). There are two things that we need to notice in this passage. To begin with, Paul says that this confession must be made with the mouth, and we have a scriptural example that we are going to use a little later to verify this. Secondly, the writer states that both the belief and the confession are unto salvation, or in the direction thereof. No, one is not already saved just because he believes in the Lord, and the same is true of the confession that Christ is the Son of God. But the next step does put one into Christ and that is baptism: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:3,4). Likewise: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3:26,27).

Let us now turn to the book of Acts to read a scriptural example of the public confession of faith. Philip had been directed to go and teach the eunuch the truth and the record says: "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza which is desert'. And he arose and went; and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of Ethiopia, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto certain water: and the eunuch said, See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water,

the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:26-39).

In the foregoing reading it isn't difficult to see what happened. The angel of the Lord commanded Philip to go to a place where he would find a certain man. Note though, the angel did not go himself but sent a gospel preacher to relay the message. Philip found a religious man on his way back home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. No doubt he was actually a Jew, or a Jewish proselyte, since the gospel had not yet been preached to the Gentiles. He was reading the scriptures, even though he didn't realize that he was reading about Jesus Christ. Philip joined him, taught him the truth, and assisted him in his obedience to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But in order to obey the truth he had to be a believer, had to confess Christ as the Son of God, and then had to be baptised for the remission of his sins. Only after this, was he able to go on his way rejoicing as a Christian. The matter of confessing Christ is but another step in the direction to salvation. “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Tim 6:7).

Paul says: “Thou, O man of God, flee those things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou also art called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Tim 6:11,12).

James says: “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). We ought to confess our sins: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Let us as brethren and sisters try and follow the character of Paul: “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air” (1 Cor 9:24-26).

We are in the last days before our Lord's coming to set up God's Kingdom on the earth: are we really ready? As Peter says, “For it is better, if the will of God be, that ye suffer for well doing” and, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 3:17; 4:17).

Paul says: “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (1 Timothy 4:2-8).

May the Lord bless us all as we wait patiently for his coming.

Bro Joseph Oppong (Shama Junction, Ghana)

Questions And Answers (Part 3)

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

What is the unforgivable sin or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

As with many questions, Scripture itself provides answers if we study the context carefully. The two expressions both come from the mouth of Jesus and occur in Matthew (12: 31, 32), where Jesus says, “And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven...anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or the age to come”. In Mark 3: 28, 29, he says: “But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin”. Mark then helpfully adds, “He (Jesus) said this *because*, they were saying, “He has an evil spirit” (v 30). Thus Jesus’ pronouncement relates to the incident which Matthew and Mark have just recorded.

Going back in the chapter (Matt 12), we find that Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, had just healed a dumb and blind man. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law attributed Jesus’ power (the Holy Spirit) to cure the effects of sin, to demons (Beelzebub – Lord of the flies; one commentator suggests ‘Lord of dung’!). These men looked on the obvious working of the power of God and not only refused to acknowledge it but *called it evil*. They had, what one writer called, “a malignant determination to shut their eyes to all evidence”.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ miracles was (and still is) to bring all people to conviction of sin and repentance and make them receptive to his redemptive work. It follows, therefore, that those who deliberately reject the overtures of God’s Spirit move themselves from the only force which can lead them to forgiveness and salvation. They render themselves ‘unforgivable’! Furthermore, the more determined they are to resist God and the longer they refuse to move from that state, the more likely they are to stay in it permanently – it can become a settled state. Those who reject the overtures of God’s Spirit will be unforgivable and unforgiven in this life and in the world to come.

The passage is essentially a most serious warning from the Lord. Whether it applied to all the Pharisees and religious rulers, we don’t know. We do know, however, that, according to Acts, many priests were later obedient to the Faith (6:7) and also that there were Pharisees in the early church (15: 5). One fact does seem certain: earnest and faithful brethren and sisters who fear they might have unwittingly blasphemed against the Holy Spirit are the least likely to have done so!

Jesus tells us to go and speak to an offending brother privately (Matthew 18: 15). So why did Paul rebuke Peter publicly in Galatians 2: 11 – 14?

The Jews traditionally believed that God’s salvation belonged exclusively to their race and found it difficult to accept the Gentiles. But God had made a point of teaching Peter, through his experience with Cornelius (Acts 10), that “God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life” (Acts 11: 18). Peter had learned this lesson thoroughly, explaining and defending his preaching to Gentiles Acts 11:1–18; and 15: 6–11.

Now suddenly, (Galatians 2: 11–13) Peter separates himself from fellowship with his Gentile brethren and sisters because he is afraid of what his Jewish brethren from Jerusalem will think.

What a terrible example to set before the believers. Consider Peter's standing in the early church: an apostle who had spent three years with the Lord Himself and was a witness of His sufferings; one of the leading figures in the church – see how high profile he is at Pentecost; one who had persuaded other brethren of the rightness of fellowship with Gentile believers; an elder and a senior brother in every respect. God puts great responsibility on those who lead his people because the example they set has a powerful effect on others.

In 1 Timothy 5: 17–19, Paul explains how elders should be treated: those who discharge their responsibilities and lead the church well should be given double honour. “Those who sin are to be *rebuked publicly*, so that others may take warning” (v 20). Peter should have known better and had the courage to do the right thing as an elder in the church. I believe Paul did the right thing to administer a public rebuke.

It would seem that Peter accepted this rebuke in a godly spirit for there is no record of animosity between them as evidenced by Peter's warm and affectionate reference in his second epistle (2 Peter 3:15) to ‘our dear brother Paul’.

MATTHEW 8 : 34...” they pleaded with him to leave...” Sad that they thought only in financial terms.

Yes, we quite agree – it was sad that they were only concerned with their lost livelihood. But this is just as big a problem in our day as in the Lord's! One interesting point about this story is that the Jews were forbidden to eat unclean animals (it was God's way of teaching them that He was the one who determined what was clean or unclean, righteous or sinful, acceptable or unacceptable) and pigs were listed in the Law of Moses as unclean and therefore forbidden animals – see Leviticus 11:7,8. So no Jew should have been keeping pigs...

Why couldn't the demons just be destroyed?

The demon-possessed men must have been what we would call mentally deranged. ‘Demon possessed’ was the way of describing such disorders in the first century. All Jesus' healing of mental and physical illnesses is described by Matthew in chapter 8:17 as “infirmities and diseases”, quoting the OT (no demons mentioned there – only illnesses). The two men were convinced they were inhabited by many demons. Jesus could have just cured them but I believe he wanted to help the men to believe in him and so acceded to their request to “send the demons into the pigs”, giving them dramatic proof that he had that power.

MATTHEW 9: 14 & 15. John's disciples? Then they will fast?

John the Baptist also had disciples. He was the one appointed by God to be the forerunner of Jesus to prepare the Jews to receive their Messiah. He is described as the greatest of the prophets. It was common for great religious teachers to have disciples – to pass on their learning to the ‘next generation’ as it were. Some of Jesus' disciples were originally John's – see John 1:35, 42

Fasting – though never commanded by God in the OT, was considered a sign of mourning and self-neglect. So Jesus says that it would be totally inappropriate for his disciples to fast whilst he is with them. When he had gone to heaven, then they would have plenty of opportunities for (involuntary) self-neglect and mourning. There is no virtue in fasting unless it is self neglect for the sake of others! – see Isaiah 58.

Verses 35 – 38:

Jesus had compassion, as he went through Israel, on the common people, neglected and misled by the religious rulers, so much so that they were like 'sheep (not particularly intelligent animals, always need a leader and carer) without a shepherd. But he could see that there was great potential in them to respond in repentance and service to God and so tells his disciples to ask God to send workers to help the people and realize a harvest for God.

MATTHEW 10: 5. Why were the disciples not to go among the Gentiles or enter any towns of the Samaritans.

Like any good leader and organizer, Jesus knew that the focus of activity was of utmost importance. With a limited work force – the 12 – he wanted them to concentrate on a particular area rather than spread their energies too thinly. His first concern was to call the people of Israel back to God, and he told the 12 to concentrate on that. However, throughout the Gospels, though he did not go specifically to the Gentiles at that time, he always welcomed them – see John 4: 4 – 43 for example – and preached to them and healed them. The task of spreading the Gospel was given to the early church as we have been reading in Acts!

V 19 – 23: Very powerful, but please tell us more.

Jesus was warning his disciples that, because of him, they could not expect to have trouble-free lives and to be prepared for persecution and even arrest because of their allegiance to him. However, v 19, 20, he reassures them that the power of God will be with them so that when they are interrogated and tried God will give them the right words to say – see also Mark 13: 11 and Luke 21: 14, 15.

V 21 – 23, continue the theme of persecution for the Lord's sake. Jesus warns them that faith in him will sometimes split families and believers might be betrayed by their own close relatives, to death, but the believer has to stand firm to the end. However *if* there is a way of escape, they should take it by removing themselves from danger.

Books of the Prophets

'The gospel of God which he had promised before by the prophets in the holy scripture' (Romans 1:2); 'By the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith' (Romans 16:26); 'Saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come' (Acts 26:22). There are numerous allusions of the same sort throughout the New Testament. Those we have quoted are conclusive; they are clinched by the statement of the angel to John in Patmos: 'The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy' (Revelation 19:10). The work of the prophets took various forms during the long interval between the entrance into the promised land under Joshua and the rebuilding of the temple on their return from Babylon.

When the prophets are spoken of, most people think of the books of the prophets forming the last part of the Old Testament, from Isaiah to Malachi. The writers of these books form only a part of the order of men by whom God spoke to Israel. That order of men goes back to the very beginning and embraces many who did not write books and those whose books have not been preserved. Their primary work was not to write books, but to deliver oral expostulations from God to Israel, to bring them back to harmony with Himself.

If this is kept in mind, there will be none of the quandary that some appear to experience on the subject of unwritten and lost books, people who seem to think that a prophet's work was a failure if he did not leave something for the Bible, and still more so if he wrote something that has been lost. They have not realized that the prophet's primary work was his own living presence in Israel, and that in the case of preserved writings, this preservation was something over and above the natural work of their lives. It was a gift of God's providence to succeeding generations which have not been thankful enough.

These remarks will be verified by a careful perusal of the history of Israel as contained in the scriptures. The books that are preserved are sufficient for the work to be afterwards accomplished by their means. If we had had the others, we should have only had books agreeing with those we already have. 'And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all nations shall be blessed"' (Galatians 3:8).

Bro John Richard Chulu (Lundazi, Zambia)

Increasing The Yield

Much labour goes into the preparation of the land for food – cultivation, planting, etc. The amount of labour expended is about the same, whether a good or poor harvest results. At very little extra cost it is possible to significantly increase the yields; the purchase of good quality seed, although more expensive, justifies this.



Photo: Sis Emily Mayimba of Sengabay (Malawi) with some of the bags of maize which benefited from the use of fertilizer.

We have been told that fertilisers can boost the yield up to six times. In some cases the cold reality is that many of our brethren and sisters in African countries cannot afford either good seed or fertiliser, hence a poor return for their labour and an inability to provide for better things next year.

In an endeavour to lift them out of this situation, some have been helped to get good seed and fertiliser, the hope being that after initial help they will be able to save some money from the better crops to provide seed and fertiliser for the next season. In many cases, if this initial help had not been provided most of them would still have survived somehow. And so, in theory, in spite of all the other pressing needs, it should be possible for them, once helped, to provide for the next season's crops. It does mean sacrifices have to be made to achieve this, but then the extra yield would not have been obtained without the initial help.



Photo: Sis Chimwemwe Jairos and Sis Eunice Mphambo of Chapita (Malawi) showing one of the bags of maize realised from the use of fertilizer they were helped with

A Young Sisters Real Life Experiences

This is a true account of a young Sister who came into the Truth in her late teens, and through considerable difficulties has established an Ecclesia. On purpose we have just called her 'M' to save her blushes but this testimony will give encouragement to others who are undergoing difficulties and to have confidence that things will work out all right in the end.

Dear Sister Robin,

I know you wanted to hear about how my life has been since, as I told you I became involved with the Christadelphians via *Gospel News*. I am a Luo lady born in southern Kenya about 350 km from Kisumu city. I am 29 and my husband died when I was 23, six years ago. I was left with three children, Kevin, Cherlingstone and Beverly. They are 12, 9 and 5. Kevin is finishing his class 8 this year, God willing, he will be in secondary school next year, there will be school fees for him as students in Kenya do board in Secondary level so the fee is very expensive. Cherlingstone is in class 5 and Bev in nursery class (beginner).

In my family we were four and I'm the last born. Two died and also my father. I remained with my elder brother who cannot help my mum or me at all. My parents were Catholics and I was also a Catholic when I did not know the truth, I was on my mum's footsteps, followed her in her denomination, as I thought that it was the only church in the world. I attended this mission for 15 good years and then I came to realize that it is not the way to the truth, I decided to read the Bible alone and realized that what the Bible is telling me is different to the things I am seeing and believing in the Catholic church.

When I reached 17 I came across somebody with *Gospel News*, I asked him to lend it to me, which he agreed to, the man was busy looking at the pictures but I was very keen reading and eager to know more about the Gospel.

After having the booklet, I read its cover and found some addresses and was pinched with all the news I got from the book. I asked the man to give me some more details about the book and he wrote for me the address and I immediately wrote. After one month they replied me and asked me if I'm interested in the lessons. I replied again as they attached their letter together with the stamps. I was shocked to see the stamps were from Kenya while they were in UK. I did not mind this as I wanted to know more about the Gospel. During these days I was not attending Catholic church as it was out of my mind. During all those days I wrote to Marcus Heaster as I had his address already with me because I took it from the cover of the *Gospel News*. He sent me a copy of *Bible Basics* and after my baptism he sent again to me the *Beyond Bible Basic*.

Waited for two months and felt that may be they forgotten to reply the letter I wrote, the P O BOX I was using was not mine so I was depending on somebody, so this person delivered my envelope full of questions very late as he was thinking that may be there was something like money inside. So he took some time with the envelope.

The day he got me my lessons I started to do them as they sent me four lessons together. Immediately I had my tutor from UK. The lessons took me one year to finish, then in April 1996 some brethren from UK came for the interview, when I was being interviewed I got all the questions as I had read *Bible Basics*. So I did not have any problems. I was afraid to be interviewed by a white man as I was not used to them and I feared the English, because how they are calling things differently to how we call things here. The tongue is not the same. But when something is planned by God things become very easy and possible.

I was really interviewed for three good hours without translator but in the end I was successful and the Brother who came announce that I was ready for baptism. I could not believe my ears as I was really so wanting to be baptized. We walked down to the small swamp whereby I became baptized by Bro Trevor Hughes from UK.

Since then I started to walk and imitate Jesus Christ as he told me that, 'M' now you started anew walk in Christ. Because you died and rose as Jesus did. I was very happy to be called Jesus' follower. After that I started working as a teacher to students who did not understand English and I persuaded some and they later also got baptized. I ordered some *Bible Basics* for them. They are so strong in the word up to date and some do keep writing for *Gospel News*.

In the same year I persuaded my husband to become a student, and he was also intending to be baptized the following year. I was very happy because we were in the same faith even though we did not have worldly things but believe that what we have is worth more than these worldly things. Now you see how it helps me?

To my surprise in the year 2000 my husband got very bad malaria and within a short week he pasted away. I could not do anything as I know that one day I will follow. After the falling asleep of my husband I realized that the only people around or close to me were my Brethren and Sisters in Christ. Well I had two children at that time and was expecting my little daughter. My step father and mother and my in-laws rejected me as they said if joined them in their denomination, Catholic, they would help me. I told them NO. They said so many things until they said that I am the one who killed my husband because of my denomination which is satanic as they never had heard a church called Christadelphian. I told them if that is the case then leave me alone, my God He will take care of me and my children.

I walked away from that family and went very far and stayed there without anybody helping me or my children. When I was about to give birth to my little daughter I went home to stay with my mum who stays with my children up to date. I gave birth to a baby girl who is now five. After that I went again back home my marital status and the in- laws chased me away from home as they wanted me to get inherited, but I did not agree to them (some tribes still insist that a dead man's brother should raise up children from the dead brother's wife). After that they took all my things and left me with my poor children and at that time they were so young. It is now six years I did not yet go there at my marital status same to my children. They have been to my mother's place up to now. This is why I'm trying to tie myself even in this little salary to keep my children going, and life to continue. I am not planning to go there again as am praying to get a land and build a home, a small house for me and my children.

I came to Tanzania where I am now, in 2003. As I came here I found that there is no ecclesia here and the nearest brethren were very far somewhere about 350 km from where I was. I wrote a letter to them and they came and look for me. They surprise to see that I had some students who were ready for interview. Then they sent a letter to UK for further confirmation. The Linkman sent a Brother to come and interview them. After being interviewed they were ready for baptism and so got baptized. This is how my ecclesia started in the year 2003. This happened as I used the *Bible Basics* as my shield wherever I go, that it is my foundation.

The whole of my life is, I like to be with my Bible part and parcel, as it is the only spear that can guard me. Always when the life becomes tougher then I ask God to help. And He has been helping most of the time.

My hobbies are writing letters, reading the Bible and playing Volleyball if there is spare time. Most of my free time I use in teaching the Bible to those who are in need.

Am very happy as this year also we are blessed with three newly baptised brethren who are helping us walking to the Promised Land. Because in Tanzania many people don't understand English I ordered some of the Msingi ya Biblia (Bible Basics in Kiswahili) and some have already arrived and they are making good use of them. Recently Bro Marcus sent me a book *Speaking about Jesus* I know it will be a big help to me. Bro Duncan has really simplified the book and it is very easy to understand.

Am teacher at the moment in one of the Vocational Schools, but it is under the Catholics, but there is no alternative. Even though I am working under difficult circumstances I am because I can preach the Gospel as well.

All workers here go to church, as they call it chapel, to pray every Thursday but I do not go and they think that I oppose their denomination. So they trying to accuse me of some useless things. I believe that one day I will get my freedom and will not fear anybody again. Am teaching computer, book-keeping and English as my part-time work where the salary is very little but can manage to squeeze it to write to my friend and other brethren and sisters.

Your loving Sister, 'M'.

A Letter from Indonesia

We all must be aware from the signs around us that the return of Jesus Christ is very near, proof of this is the occurrence of natural disasters as recorded in Matt 24 v 6 -14

Let's recall the events surrounding Sodom and Gomorrah which were totally destroyed by God. This was because of the terrible behaviour of people. Only Lot and his family believed in God and they were commanded to leave the city before it was destroyed by God. In Gen 19:15 "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city." At the time they were hurrying to leave Sodom the wife of Lot who was behind him, looked back to Sodom and became a pillar of salt as we read in Gen 19 v26 "*But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*"

“Looked back” means that in the thinking of Lot’s wife it was hard for her to leave her possessions, it was the main focus of her thoughts. At that time her love of the possessions she had left behind was more important than her salvation. There is obviously a lesson for us connected with the idea of ‘looking back’ Things that may hinder or stop us from receiving salvation when Christ comes are 1. Possessions. 2. False teaching from false prophets or teachers 3. Problems that often affect us.

1. Possessions

A person may become evil because of their connection with money. We must be very careful with regard to money. Those involved in corruption look for wealth using means which are unlawful. In extreme cases people may be killed for riches. If we look back to our possessions we may receive judgment like Lot’s wife. Our focus must be on the return of Jesus Christ.

2. False teaching which is spread by false prophets or teachers.

Let’s read Galatian 1 v 6-10. These verses speak of a false gospel which leads people astray: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. If we look back to other teaching we risk receiving judgment like Lot’s wife. Our focus must be on the true teaching of the Bible.

3. Problems that often affect us.

If we have problems with our day-to-day economy, let’s not be overly worried. Let’s remember what Jesus said in Math 6v33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” If we ‘look back’ and our focus is more on our day-to-day life than the Kingdom of God, we are just like the wife of Lot. Also in Luke 9:60–62 “Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead:but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him. No man, having put his hand to plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”.

If we are ‘looking back’ we won’t be received into the Kingdom of God. If we have a problem with anyone, including anyone connected to or in the ecclesial family, let us resolve it quickly so our focus can totally be on the Kingdom of God.

Brothers and sisters, there is something that is very important, we all face the prospect of being brought before the judgment seat of Christ. Christ will be our Judge. We cannot take to ourselves the position of judge as that alone is the right of our Lord Jesus. Sometimes we can forget that we need the mercy of Christ ourselves yet we take the right that belongs to Christ and judge other brethren; an example may be: “I don’t give permission for you to break bread with the ecclesia, because you have done ...”. If words like this are spoken by a Christadelphian brother, then the brother has forgotten he will need mercy at the judgment seat of Christ. Brethren with humble hearts, let us take the position of one who will need mercy at the judgment seat. Jesus will be the just Judge to judge all of us.

We are people of God focused on preaching the gospel together. Let us not look back to ecclesial problems which can become stumbling stones and stop us from focusing on the Kingdom of God. Let us remove every type of conflict in the ecclesia, wherever it exists. Let us solve the problems as quickly as possible so that at Christ's return we may all be his chosen ones. If we have the same faith and the same God, there is no reason for not working together in preaching the gospel.

Bro Sigit G Sugiarto

A Granted Request

First of all I'd like to thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for His Word which is life and medicine to our flesh. Thanks for all the people who put this study together *Introducing Bible Basics* and *Bible Basics*. Thank you for your time and effort to give us not a compromising gospel, but a gospel that pricks our hearts. I never regret the day when I saw your ad. In the *Daily Sun*, it has changed me completely from the inside out. These studies have destroyed all the rotten stuff and false doctrines in my life. I regret the day that I went to some Pentecostal churches. If I had known this before I would now be far in my walk with the Lord. Now that I have I read these studies and know the truth there is nothing that stands in my way to be baptized. I would like one of your brethren to come and baptize me as soon as possible.

Gordon Hendricks (South Africa)

Free Dictionary / Thesaurus

As part of our on-going program of endeavouring to help our readers understand the English language, we are happy to send a Dictionary/Thesaurus to any that send material to be printed 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.

Northern Conference 2006

Everyone sang loudly as the bus approached Resthaven. Bro Steve Moore waited near the main hall to welcome brethren and sisters as the bus came to a halt. A queue of brethren in Christ gave a greeting by hand to the UK Brethren: Alan Tanner, Steve Moore, and Sisters Ruth Moore and Sonia Tanner. Soon everyone shambled into the main hall and Bro Steve gave a special welcome to the Resthaven CBM Northern Conference.

The President opened the session with prayer which was followed by readings: Leviticus 11 and 1 John 1:5-7. Bro Steve talked on the subject, "Israel: Separate From Other People". There was an eerie silence in the hall as Bro Steve explained how and why God chose the people of Israel.

God chose Israel because of the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Deuteronomy 7:6-8, because they were men of faith. Bro Steve talked of Israel as God's witnesses. Isaiah 48 was read and he continued with the reasons why God chose a special people. The session was good inasmuch as brothers kept to time, time being crucial for every event during the conference. The first day was closed by musical items where each and every ecclesia sang at least one or two songs. It was fascinating as brethren and sisters praised the Lord through hymns of praise.

The following day Bro Tanner gave a lucid description of the geography of the Bible and Israel from the time of Jesus until today. In the time of Jesus, Israel was ruled by Herod the Great, controlled by the Emperor (Caesar) in Rome. Bro Tanner explained the importance of knowing the geography of the Bible as it can help us in understanding the lessons. It was marvellous indeed.

The last day (Sunday), we had the Breaking of Bread service as Jesus said : "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22). It was Jesus' wish that his followers should regularly do this until his second coming.



Photo: Bro Emmanuel Kondowe

Bro Emmanuel Akwaa Kondowe (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

Point to ponder

We must be solid and consistent from outer surface to inner core. If we relax into foolishness or fleshiness in our non-ecclesial activities, our 'holiness' is a sham and a delusion. True saints are saints at all times, under all circumstances, or they are not saints at all. Holiness cannot be donned or shed at whim or convenience.

Salvation

SALVATION Is so wonderful and marvellous and glorious a thing that – if the whole mind is set on it and the whole life directed towards it, and everything else is put resolutely aside – there can be no unhappiness. Unhappiness is vision-failure.