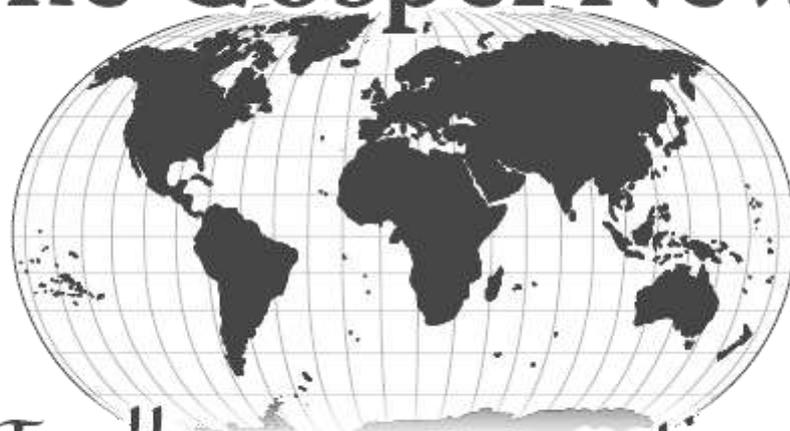


# The Gospel News



“To all  nations”

## **Editorial: "Thou God seest me"**

Continuing our theme that basic Bible doctrine is important because it leads to a radically transformed life in practice, I want to think about the implications of the fact that God sees and knows all things.

### **No Secret Sins**

Job knew this, and therefore, he commented, it was impossible that, e.g., he would lust after a woman, if he really believed (as he claimed he did) that God was omniscient (knowing everything). "Why then should I think upon a maid [as the friends implied he had done]?... doth not he [God] see my ways, and count all my steps?" (Job 31:4). Proverbs 5:20,21 make the same warning against being "ravished with a strange woman", "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings". Also in the context of sexual sin, David could say that his awareness of his sin was 'ever before him' (Ps. 51:3); and also that he sensed God 'ever before him' (Ps. 16:8). A sense of the real presence of God leads us to an awareness of our sins. In our struggles to achieve realistic self-examination, this sense of God's presence can powerfully help us.

God had to remind Israel: "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth?" (Jer. 23:24). The context is appealing to the people to quit their sins. We should labour to enter the Kingdom, because God knows absolutely every thought and action of ours and will ultimately judge them (Heb. 4:11-13). The Sermon on the Mount is really based around translating the knowledge that God sees and knows all things into practice. Our thoughts are equivalent to our actions; but often we think that the fact we are clever enough not to express them in action is somehow a lesser failure. And yet God understands our thought afar off. Realizing this will help us avoid the greatest danger in the religious life: to have an outward form of spirituality, when within we are dead. Brother Fred Barling commented: "What God loves is the man who is genuine through and through; in whom the " without" and the " within" are really one; whose dominant persuasion is, "Thou God seest me" ". Note how the Lord Jesus begins each of His letters to the ecclesias with the rubric: "I know..."; His omniscience of His people ought to motivate to appropriate behaviour. His criticisms of those ecclesias imply that they didn't appreciate the fact that He knew them and their ways. Hannah had reflected upon God's omniscience; and on this basis she tells Peninah not to be proud and not to use hard words against her, exactly because of this: "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not hardness [AVmg.] come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed" here and now, because He sees and knows all things (1 Sam. 2:3). This ought to chase all pride and hard thinking from us.

The Hebrew language reflects certain realities about the nature of God's ways. The common Hebrew word for 'to see', especially when used about God's 'seeing', means also 'to provide'. Abraham comforted Isaac that "God will see for himself [AV 'provide'] the lamb" (Gen. 22:8 RVmg.); and thus the RVmg. interprets 'Jehovah-Jireh' as meaning 'the Lord will see, or provide' (Gen. 22:14). The same word is used when Saul asks his servants to "provide" him a man (1 Sam. 16:17). When Hagar said "Thou God seest me" (Gen. 16:13) she was expressing her gratitude for His provision for her. What this means in practice is that the fact God sees and knows all things means that He can and will therefore and thereby provide for us in the circumstances of life. Note that Prov. 28:27 and 29:7 RV speak of 'hiding the eyes' in the sense of not making provision for the need of others. God's eyes are not hidden, and therefore He makes provision. Dt. 2:7 speaks of how God 'knew' Israel's journey through the wilderness, and therefore they "lacked nothing". Struggling against materialism, the fear of tomorrow, the desire

to hoard wealth, to deal with all the “What if...?” questions in our own strength... will be greatly empowered by believing that “Thou God seest me”, with all that requires of us.

### **Motivation For Repentance**

We may wonder why a chapter like Ezekiel 27 is full of such minute descriptions of Tyre, all leading up to God’s pronouncement of judgment upon her. Surely the connection is in the fact that God’s detailed knowledge of our lives, surroundings, interactions etc. should lead us to repentance. Not only our knowledge of God, but also His knowledge of us, makes us responsible to His judgment. The fact God sees and knows all means that we might as well open our lives up before Him in prayer and meditation. Jeremiah “revealed my cause” before the Lord because he knew that God “triest the reins and the heart” (Jer. 11:20). This may be why men like Jeremiah were somewhat ‘rough’ with God; whatever they felt about God, they told Him. They so realized that God knew their thoughts....there was and is no point in saying fine words to God in prayer, whilst feeling harder about Him in ones heart. The Psalmists talk to God in a far ‘rougher’ way than we do. They pour out their feelings, their anger and frustration with their enemies, their inability to understand how God is working... and they let it all hang down, told it as it was. They seem to have no reserve with God; they talk to Him as if He is their friend and acquaintance. David pleads with God to ‘avenge my cause’ (Ps. 35:23), he protests how he is in the right and how he longs for God to judge him. And so do the prophets, in the interjections they sometimes make in commentary on the prophecy they have just uttered. The emotion which David often seems to have felt was “Damn these people!”, but he pours this out to God and asks Him to damn them. We need to take these feelings, absolutely as they are, with no rough edges smoothed off them...to God Himself. Pour them all out in prayer and leave Him to resolve the matter. In passing, this fits in with the conclusions of modern psychiatry- that we can’t eliminate our feelings, so we must express them in an appropriate way. This latter option is how I understand the imprecatory Psalms.

We must ask whether our prayers are of this quality, or whether we have slipped into the mire of mediocrity, the same standard phrases, the same old words and themes... and even worse, could it be that we perceive that God only sees and hears the words we say to Him in formal prayer, and disregards our other feelings and thoughts? As He sees and knows all things, let us therefore pour out all that is within us before Him. And we will find it wonderfully therapeutic when struggling against anger and hurt. If God really does see and know all things, then He surely hears prayer. We raise our eyebrows when we read David’s desperate prayer: “Be not thou deaf unto me” (Ps. 28:1 RV). He who made the ear shall surely hear. God of course isn’t deaf - and just as surely and obviously, He will likewise hear prayer.

### **Our Words**

Paul twice assures his readers that he speaks the truth because he is speaking in the sight / presence of God (2 Cor. 2:17; 12:19). The fact God is everywhere present through His Spirit, that He exists, should lead us at the very least to be truthful. In the day of judgment, a condemned Israel will know that God heard their every word; but if we accept that fact now then we will be influenced in our words now. And by our words we will be justified (Ez. 35:12). Reflection upon the omniscience of God leads us to marvel at His sensitivity to human behaviour - not just our words. He noticed even the body language of the women in Is. 3:16 - and condemned them for the way they walked. This is how closely He observes human behaviour.

Because God sees and knows absolutely all, we must recognize that He realizes the unspoken implications of our words. Job’s words of repentance of Job 40:5 are seen by God as Job effectively condemning God, because presumably they were said merely as a mask over Job’s

inner feelings that God had been unjust with him (Job 40:8). But when Job uses effectively the same words in Job 42:6, God accepts them. God's ability to see to the core should therefore not only affect our words but elicit in us an honesty of heart behind the words which we use. The culture of "nice speak" in which we live is so dangerous - so long as one says the right words and types a politically correct form of them in emails and letters, everything's OK. But God sees to the core that lies behind them, and reviews all our unspoken [or more secretly spoken] words. To act as if God doesn't see all our ways is to effectively deny His existence. Babylon acted as she did because she reasoned that "None seeth me...I am, and there is none else beside me" (Is. 47:10 RV). They appropriated the language of God to themselves, they played God in that they thought their ways were unseen by any higher power. And we all have a terrible, frightening tendency to do this.

### **Trusting God's Judgment**

In Zech. 3 we have a picture of Yahweh's court. God Himself weighs up human situations and gives a verdict. A figure called 'the devil', the accuser, is there. Now I've reasoned elsewhere that there is actually no personal being called 'the devil'. Rather I suggest this figure is a vehicle for showing us that God is aware of all counter arguments against any of His decisions about us, and He takes them into account in making His judgments. His Angelic "eyes" range or [Heb.] "scour" through the whole world to gather information (Zech. 4:10). They "ponder" our hearts, right now, as we read this (Prov. 5:21). Now of course God could simply decree what is right and be as it were automatically just. But He wishes us to understand that He does actually process each case, considering human objections to what He does and how He judges. Being God, He judges with the full knowledge of every possible reason and nuance and background factor. He considers the counter case. And so if e.g. someone is smitten with cancer, or your car won't start, or you lose your job - He has considered all the counter arguments in that case. It's not that God somehow forgot and left us to the whim of fortune; quite the opposite. We trust that God is the very essence of love, and means only our ultimate salvation in our latter end. He judges according to what I would call the ultimate algorithm, taking absolutely all possible futures and possible human moves into account. When you play chess against a computer, the program simply races ahead to consider all the millions of possible future outcomes of any move made, either by you or by the computer. God is infinitely above that, but it's perhaps a helpful analogy. Accepting this empowers us to accept God's decisions- even though in His love, some of those decisions are open to amendment by human prayer. It all leads us to reflect how we simply cannot ultimately judge- for we know and perceive so little of the myriad factors behind the behaviour of other humans. And yet the Zechariah 3 vision shows us Joshua the High Priest admitted to that Divine Council, as if God in His grace is willing to enter into a kind of power-sharing with His people, considering their viewpoints and situations, just as He was willing to listen to men like Abraham and Moses in amending His decisions e.g. about Sodom and Israel.

### **God In Search Of Man**

There is a mutuality between God and ourselves when it comes to His 'seeing' of us. Hagar called God the One who saw her because she had seen the back parts of God (Gen. 16:13 - "looked after Him who sees me" s.w. Ex. 33:23 about Moses seeing the back parts of the Angel). Hagar understood that our 'seeing' of God is His 'seeing' of us. She coined a Name for God: "You, the God who sees [Heb. 'stares at'] me", exactly because "I have even here [in the remote desert] seen the back parts of Him who sees me" (Gen. 16:13). She knew God saw her, because she saw Him staring at her. This may sound very laboured and obvious- but insofar as we have

sensed God looking at our lives, perceiving that life is lived in His presence, we 'see' God. And our seeing / perception of God is also in a way how He 'sees' / perceives us.

Especially in our reflection upon the cross of Jesus, the thoughts of our hearts are "revealed". As Simeon held the baby Jesus in his arms, he saw in that beautiful little boy something terrible; for he looked ahead to how His soul would one day be pierced in crucifixion, "that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk. 2:35). In the piercing of the Son of God, the thoughts of hearts would be revealed. But the question arises: revealed to whom? Could it not be that the cross is used by the Father and Son to know the minds of men? They see in our response to it the real you and the real me. "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts" (Prov. 20:27); our self-examination is what reveals us to the Lord. What we think about at the memorial meeting, as we are faced with the memory of the crucified Saviour, is therefore an epitome of what we really are. If all we are thinking of is the taste of the wine, the cover over the bread, the music, what we didn't agree with in the exhortation, all the external things of our Christianity; or if we are sitting there taking bread and wine as a conscience salver, doing our little religious ritual to make us feel psychologically safe - then we simply don't know Him. We are surface level believers only. And this is the message we give Him. Our spirit / attitude is the candle of the Lord, with which He searches us. Our thoughts when confronted by the cross reveal us to Him who died on it. Likewise Joseph (one of the most detailed types of the Lord) knew / discerned his brethren by his cup (Gen. 44:5). 1 Cor. 11:31,32 further suggest that our self-judgment at the breaking of bread is in fact the Lord's judgment of us: "If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord". We expect Paul to say: 'But when we judged ourselves, we are chastened...'. But he doesn't; our judgment is what reveals us to the Lord, and is therefore the basis of His judgment of us. Even if we flunk conscious self-examination from an underlying disbelief that we will attain the Kingdom, then this of itself reveals our hearts to Him.

This connection between the breaking of bread and God's judgment of us is in fact a continuation of an Old Testament theme. Three times a year, the Israelite had to 'go up' to present himself before the Lord at the feasts (Dt. 16:16). He was to 'appear' there - a Hebrew word elsewhere translated approve, discern, gaze upon, take heed, look upon oneself, perceive, shew oneself. His very presence before the Lord would have this effect: he would be revealed openly to God, and he would see himself as he was. This was the intention; and yet Yahweh went on to warn them not to appear before Him "empty", vainly, 'to no effect'. Behold the intense relevance to our appearing before the Lord at our Passover: we can so easily present ourselves there 'to no effect', when the intention is that we should be manifesting ourselves to ourselves and to God. The familiar order of service, the well known hymns, the presence of familiar and often family faces...these factors (not wrong in themselves) can all tempt us to 'appear' there to no effect.

Joseph's cup of divination pointed forward to how the Lord Jesus would use His cup to know us. The Hebrew for "divineth" means literally 'to make trial'; the brothers' taking of the cup was their trial / judgment. Thus we drink either blessing or condemnation to ourselves by taking the cup. The word used by the Septuagint for "divineth" in Gen. 44:2,5 occurs in the N.T. account of the breaking of bread service: 'everyone should examine himself, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup' (1 Cor. 11:28). The Lord examines us, as we examine ourselves. He searches us through our own self-examination. He knows all things, but there may still be methods that He uses to gather that information. Our hearts are revealed to God through our own self-examination. What is He seeing in us?

*Duncan Heaster*

## News from Africa

### news from burundi

From December 2006 until January 2007 the rain was terrible; there were floods, destruction of fields and houses. At this moment we come to view the things that happened before, here in Burundi: dryness which led to the famine and then heavy rain every day. We see that we live at the end of the kingdoms of this world as we read in Matt. 24:7, 12.

*Bro. Costantin Mwagalwa*



*The Burundi Christadelphian Ecclesia*



*Bre Samuel Mutoo & Kikoma Kihemu Burundi*

### news from cameroon

#### **DSCHANG**

An especial welcome to our newly baptised Brethren and Sisters. I would like to tell them that it is the best road that they have chosen, which will bring them happiness at the end through the key, which is prayer. I would also like to thank God for taking care of us and for those that have finished their work, that they may rest in peace. Thanks also to any person who in one way or another helps the Word of God to go round the world; we should keep on with this work. Let us not forget to put into practice prayer and studying the Word of God in daily life. I beg for prayers for my family as some of them are not well at this hard time. Thank you for the book on miracles and the leaflets. I will be very grateful to receive anything as a help on behaviour as my family are not well.

*Bro. Bernard Mbouna*

#### **MUTENGENE**

The Characteristics of love in Christ are:-

1. Love is patient; I can wait for others to grow in their relationship with Christ without getting impatient with them.
2. Love is kind; I try to help people rather than hurting them.
3. Love is not jealous; I do not get jealous of other people's possessions, physical attributes or successes.

4. Love not boast; I do not feel the need to remind people of my own gifts or successes.
5. Love is not arrogant; I do not insult those who do not have as much as I do.
6. Love is not rude; I am courteous.
7. Love is not quick tempered; I do not get angry or get my feelings hurt quickly.
8. Love does not rejoice when others suffer; I do not enjoy seeing things go wrong for others.
9. Love is faithful under pressure; I continue to support friends even when others desert me.
10. Love believes the best; I refuse to believe rumours about others.
11. Love hopes in others; I see the potential in others, not their failures.
12. Love never ends; I continue to love people. They can count on me.

*Bro. Ebong Brain*

The Bible is the word of God but it is not read as expected. People like reading novels, magazines and daily news-papers which contain the activities of the world. Some people attend church service but you can't see them reading the Bible. They depend on their pastor who will read and explain any chapter of the Bible for them. Most of who try to read only read the New Testament. Every word of the Bible is important, no word should be left out. People hold the view that you can't understand the Bible unless you go to a theological school or seminary. I don't think this is true, God does not make only a certain class of people understand His word. When somebody is reading the Bible to you, listen to what they say, but let us be like the Bereans who, when Paul preached to them, the Bible for themselves to see what Paul preached to them was true (Act. 17-verse 11). There is a prayer in Psalm 119:18 which says "Open thou mine eyes that I may see wonderful things out of thy law". Let us read with our whole heart regularly. If we must get a degree before we understand the Bible it means the word of God is only for the rich, because getting a degree entails money.

*Bro Nicolas Menjuah*

#### **news from congo**

Brother Théophile Mwagalwa has asked me to translate this message from French and forward it to you for inclusion in Gospel News. Sis Sonia

Our ecclesias here need help at all levels; Brother David Smith or Brother Steve Weston could tell you about it. Some of our members were even raped by militiamen. They were taken away into the forest by members of the Interahamwe opposition movement from Rwanda. The three of them were raped, and then released a few days later. They are now receiving treatment at a Norwegian Protestant centre. The ecclesia where this took place is Bukavu –Lukananda, in Congo, about 25 km from Bukavu.

#### **news from ghana**

Singleness - whether temporally or more long-term, is a privilege rather than the problem many regard it as and Christians can and should enjoy the freedom and responsibilities that the single life brings. A speaker once said, that to be a widow is pure humiliation. This brings to my mind the time the prophet wanted to describe the desolation of the holy city - Jerusalem - after the fall of Judah. He actually compared it to a widow! 'How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become a widow! she that was great among the nations, and the princess among the provinces; how is she become tributary!' (Lam 1:1). I can remember the very night

Valisnana, departed out of this world in my own hands and how lonely the night was with me in the hospital ward, the sleepless night I experienced then as no other patients nor visitors were around. A lady attendant because of her work, had to be in her office. I was forced to accept the fact of 1Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" . Give thanks for this? A sick brother, unsatisfactory living conditions, being in this mess? My prayer, or should I say thought few minutes before his lonely departure was, 'You give and take'. If it is your will, then take his life". I understand the stature of loneliness then - being in isolation from the brotherhood, receiving exhortations from them, I got myself embedded in the readings of the pioneer writings and other literature pertaining to our call of the gospel. And I don't think, should we be faithful servants in the Master's vineyard, anything can separate us from the call we were being called for! We hope for the coming of Christ, the Messiah and strongly believe that the signs in the Middle East will culminate in His coming. (What if He tarries still, 'cause of our friends, colleagues, relations who have not yet received His message?) Whether lonely, in isolation or in an ecclesia, the great commission still binds us to our call. (Mark 16:15).

*A Brother*

#### news from kenya

##### **BULIMBO**

Here in Kenya we are all very fine, fighting a wonderful fight for our salvation from our Saviour and spreading the Gospel all over the country. I am very grateful for the epistle which I received and this message has developed faith deeply in my heart. We have a total of fifty members in our Ecclesia but due to inadequate capital for the construction of a hall we usually worship and praise God under the mango trees. Relating to this many members have joined other denominations that have got church instruments. I was very much encouraged to receive the copy of Gospel News. This magazine has enabled me to ginger up my faith. The problem which I am facing is that I sent a letter to you but until now I have not received the requested literature to enable our church to remain strong. The books were as follows:- 1. Bible Basics, 2, Why Are We Here? 3. Holy Bible, 4. Where There Is No Doctor. 5. Gospel News, 6. Bible Basics for Moslems. I would be very glad if you would send me these materials. Thank you.

*Bro. Emmanuel Bokhebi Joumer*

Comment: They were sent sea mail and sometimes takes months to arrive. MH

##### **BUNGOMA**

I thank God for His guidance of last year although we were forced with some problems. We need prayers from Brethren and Sisters worldwide for God to open a way to solve such problems which can hinder our spiritual growth. You have given me a homework: instead of sitting free I can go through Gospel News and it is one way of growing in the Word of God.

*Bro. Aggrey W. Muyila*

I am very proud to send you this epistle informing you that your assistance has made my fellow Brothers at Luuya ecclesia carry on with the work of God easily. Actually the books that you have been sending to us, Bible Basics, has a good message and the true way to the Kingdom of God. I am really interested in studying God's Word and extending it to those who really need the message. I was baptised on 24.12.2006 at Kabuchai during the Bible School.

*Bro. Moses Mzungu*



*Bro. Moses Mzungu*



*Bro. Wycliffe Wekesa Wasike and Maina Wabwile*

Warmest greetings of love and peace in Christ. Brother I want to pray that God will help you in your effort to arrange for us to continue to receive Gospel News in Kenya and worldwide. As we are waiting for the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ we need to learn more about the Bible. So brother I request the following books – The baptism books ‘Revision’, The human kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and the Bible. God bless you.

*Bro. Maina George Wabwile*

### **CHWELE**

Thanks for the books about Jesus and four English Bibles as they are helping us to learn more. We also wish to comment about the publishing of material about circumcision which we are sure will help people understand more about it. Thanks also for your help on the Makhonge’s plot; discussions are taking place regarding the problem. At the moment what our eyes can see and what our ears hear we realise that God is in control in our lives.

*Bro. David and Sis. Jacklyne Wanjala*

### **CHERENG’ANI**

Thank you for the books you send us, continue sending to us. May God bless you all while doing His work.



*The Ecclesia at Chereng’ani: Sis. Lydiah, Sis. Janet, Sis. Agnes, Bro. Koech, Bro. John Vero, Vickie, Eliza and Edith*

### **CHWELE**

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*Bro. David and Sis. Jacklyne Wanjala*

Thank you very much for your constant endeavour in spreading the gospel of God and supplying us with very many books and? Bibles which give us strength always to stand steadfast in our

Christian lives. Brothers and Sisters here at Makhonge Ecclesia are very grateful for the favour and support you have shown to them in solving its conflicts/problems on the current plot they worship from. Again we cannot forget the love and help given us by sending to us more books. We are really getting the basic knowledge from the Bible.

*Bro. Manasseh and Doricus Wamamiti*

### **DAGO**

Looking forward to the coming of our dear Lord Jesus Christ who I pray will soon come to redeem the world. In Kenya last year, from October, which used to be a dry spell, we received an unexpected and abnormal rainy season which lasted until January 2007. But the rains brought many more bad problems than good to Kenyans because they caused many deaths, many crop species on the farms were destroyed and others, which withstood the rain, grew too tall without bearing any fruits. The rains swept many crops, animals and people downstream and many roads and bridges were cut off. Pit latrines were destroyed as well and swept away and as a result many strange diseases followed. Even now many people are still counting their heavy losses. It is as if the area has been hit by war. These, and more, are just clear indicators that our dear Lord may come at the hour we least expect him. We have had a Bible School for two days at Dago Primary School where representatives from Nyanzo North Area participated and we shared many ideas and other things together with those who wanted to know the Truth. The only limitation now facing us as an ecclesia, is finance to hold such Bible Schools at least twice or thrice in a year to make people around know much more about the Truth. Our Sister-wives in the ecclesia are in the business of making reed baskets for sale, but they are not making much profit from the sales. If Brethren and Sisters would like a photograph or a sample of these we would be very glad to send one.

*Bro. Raphael Aimo*

### **ISHIARA**

Thank you very much for your generous offer. I got about five copies of Bible Companions/Calendars as well as the other very inspiring materials. I distributed the Bible Companions to my friends who were very glad to receive them. I pray that God may open up their minds to read and understand the real meaning of the Scriptures and the gospel of Christ. I look forward to seeing God's power in increasing the labourers in His vineyard around the area. Present day events are clear evidence that Jesus Christ is coming very soon to restore the Kingdom of Israel and to reign all over all the earth. May God Almighty keep us watching, waiting and worthy to share in his glory in the Kingdom. I was out of the school gate when I was being called; curiously I received a parcel which contained the Bible Basics. After a hand shake from a Catholic priest, with lots of thanks, I went home straight away and opened the parcel to find out that it was from Christadelphian Advancement Trust. Postal costs are very high, above our ability and therefore it was hard to communicate about the pleasure I felt from your reply.

*Sis. Joy Aphaxard*

I am fine, together with the rest of the family members and am much awaiting his return in the hope of Israel, which all of us "Christadelphians" are awaiting. We know none of us is perfect, we always seek forgiveness from God through Jesus, being washed in his blood which was poured out on the cross for remission of sins to all human kind who accept him. With many challenges overcome on my side I remember my dearest close friend, Jesus, for I know whatever the condition, he promised never to leave me. This is the reason I want to point out to all Christadelphians Psalm 23:-

## THE SHEPHERD'S PSALM

The Lord's my shepherd. He will see  
That in green fields I lie,  
And by quiet waters He will lead  
His sheep. We shall go by  
The path called 'Righteousness', and if  
We reach a shadowed place,  
I will not be afraid of harm,  
For still I see his face.  
His shepherd's staff will comfort me,  
And he will surely spread  
A meal for me. He fills my cup;  
He will anoint my head.  
Goodness and mercy follow me,  
And I shall always rest  
In God's own house my whole life long,  
And may his name be blest!

Here we have the most worrying and not understood question to many people of the world:- where will the Kingdom of God be? heaven or on earth? Many people understand very well that the Kingdom will be on earth but because of their ignorance they are all lost they lack of understanding. Another question is, will the earth be destroyed during the last days? The earth will not perish but the people on it will not be fit for everlasting life and many things which make our lives difficult in this corrupt world will also be destroyed. During the times of Noah we know that God punished the people but not the earth itself. If I recall Matt. 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." If the earth was to be destroyed, then this verse could not have been quoted. Brothers and Sisters, we cannot say that the Kingdom will be in heaven but it will be on earth for I know all Christadelphians are waiting for Christ's return, We remember the disciples, during the ascension of Jesus, were told "...this same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" Acts 2:11. Finally I would like to request for four Bible Basics. May Almighty God keep you in good health.

*Sis. Caroline K. Aphaxard*

## **KIBIOEZI**

Kibioezi has four members who are Christadelphians. They would like to receive Gospel News. We would like to keep in touch with our brothers and sisters in the world so that they can help us in the Word, and work of the Truth, because Christ is the King. We need to live now as though we are already in the Kingdom. Let us try our hardest to do only what is pleasing to God. Let us keep very near to God in prayers and reading and thinking about his Word. The time to serve God is "Today". The future is in God's hand. May He help us to live today for him so that we will be a part of His future.

*Bro. Moses Ali Mnyasi Kassim*

## **KOBUJOI MIWANI**

I have been keeping fine and in good health but ecclesial duties have been pressing on me on top of mundane day-to-day jobs. Currently I am a member of the Miwani meeting. We all thank our Heavenly Father for the blessing that after many years of being in isolation I can now enjoy the company and encouragement of those of like precious faith in the household of the living God. I admire the zeal the first century believers (Christians) had for the Word of God. At times I

wish I had lived in their time. God's plan is for me to live in the 21st century and to witness for Him in the best way as the 1st century Christians did. Circumstances then and now vary in many ways though. In Acts 4:32 we read of the multitude of believers that were of one heart and one soul ... and that they all possessed things in common. To be of one heart alludes to the fact that they were like-minded. They had the mind (spirit) of Christ. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil.2:5). In this state of one-mindedness there was great joy amongst the believers because they were able to share their possessions and so none lacked (Acts 4:34,35). But, alas, a certain man named Ananias with Sapphira his wife (Acts 5:1) had a different heart. They had conceived in their heart to lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3,4). Lessons for we 21st century believers – are we ourselves guilty of lying to our Brethren or Sisters over our personal situations in a bid to defraud them? Are we?

*Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir*

### **LOITOKTOK**

We cannot provide any financial support to the Gospel News but pray always for all who contribute to see that this Magazine reaches as many people as possible. Thanks for the continued supply of Christian literature to me.

How happy I was to receive your letter and to hear and know that 2007 is 40 years after Jerusalem was freed from Moslem and to know more about the signs of the times. Gospel News keeps us in contact with Brothers and Sisters all over the world. I also am trying to earn a living and spread the gospel in many places using painting with a hope that the Master will return before the end of this year. I have to say thank you to Brother Leon and Sister Shuker for their tireless effort to answer these very important Bible questions (i.e. where did Elijah go after he was taken by a whirlwind? The book of Hebrews and Chronicles answered those questions.

*Bro. Peter Thyo Kariyki*

### **MAKHONGE**

We had the privilege of attending a Western Progressive Meeting organised by area representatives. It was interesting to hear the reports from ecclesias being read by the elders. Enclosed is a copy of Makhonge ecclesial report. We certainly appreciate the great work you are doing and the help you have given to us for a long time.

#### **MAKHONGE ECCLESIAL REPORT 2007**

Makhonge Ecclesia is about 300 metres from the market. We meet on CBM temporary plot/hall. Sunday School starts at 8.30.a.m. to 9 a.m. and Memorial Service 9.30.a.m. to 11.30.a.m. There are 32 baptised Brothers and Sisters – 24 active members, eight irregular/working members, 10 friends of which five are ready for interview for baptism. We request the office to arrange for interviews. Other ecclesial activities include a Sisters' group who meet on Wednesday afternoons for Bible studies, health education and welfare visits. Youth projects include sawing timber for furniture making and farming – Growing of a balanced diet.

*Bro. Manasseh and Sister Doricus Wamamiti*

### **MARALOL**

I am very happy and thankful for Gospel News and leaflets concerning signs of the times which I received. My family are fine, except that I am still ill and doing exercises and taking treatment. I believe God will do the recovery and I will walk. I request the following books for encouragement: "Where Women Have No Doctor" and "Wrested Scriptures", God willing. My wife Judine passes you warm greetings in sharing the Truth, may God bless you and keep you

well with long life. The signs of the times show clearly that the coming of our absent Master, even Jesus Christ, is very near, so it is our part to be always ready.

*Bro. Joseph Opiyo Nuani*



*Bro. Manasseh Wamamiti and Bro. David Wanjala cutting timber, Dec. 2006, a project that generates income for daily bread for the youths in the ecclesia.*

## **MOMBASA**

### **THE DEVIL AND THE BODY OF MOSES**

Michael, the archangel, when contending with the devil, he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation. (Jude 1:9). What devil was it? If this is your question, there are two incidents in Scriptural history to which it may allude and Jude refers to it as a thing known. There is first, the “scene” exhibited to Zechariah the prophet (Zech. 3:1-5) in which the adversaries of Israel appear, by one of their number, in the presence of the angel and Joshua the high priest. Satan (margin, an adversary) standing at his right hand to resist him, and the Lord (that is the angel) said “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan”. A reference to Ezra 4:14 will show the nature of the opposition brought against Joshua and his coadjutors, at that time. If this is what Jude refers to (and the identity of the words imputed to the angel would seem to show it), then the “Body of Moses” was the body politic of Israel, which was the body of Moses in the same sense as the Church is “the body of Christ”. (Col.1:18, Eph.5.23, 1 Cor.10:17 and 12:12), and the devil would be the adversary that stood up against Israel to frustrate their re-organisation, represented by the individual who appeared in the company of Joshua. For, it is recorded that Moses died and the Lord “buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-peor: BUT NO MAN KNOWETH OF HIS SEPULCHRE UNTO THIS DAY.” Also please can you favour me with the contact of Bro. John W. Coles, he was my tutor, and after some time (10 years ago I walked away (resigned) from fellowship and now I am back, and welcomed at the Lord’s table. I belong to Mombasa Ecclesia. I should also thank Bro. Charles French of Australia for his encouragement during this period. I read your book, Bible Basics, and answered all the questions therein. God willing we shall be responding and if the Kingdom shall be restored soon let us meet at God’s judgment seat to receive what is due to us. Lastly pass my loving greetings to all Brothers and Sisters in your Ecclesia.

*Bro. Walter Wanyama Wasike*



*Bro Isaac with Mombasa Ecclesia members after memorial service*

## **MUHURONI**

It seems that it is time for all of us Christians to face God and tell Him, “Yes Lord we are with you for where else can we go?” or to say “No Lord, your sayings are too hard and we shall not follow you any longer.” A sense of deep sadness comes over me when I think of how Christians sit on

the fence. What is the matter with us? Have we forgotten that he was just the son of a carpenter, himself a tradesman, a strange, itinerant preacher who criss-crossed the tiny country of Palestine, preaching his gospel to the poor. Have we forgotten that from the moment he began preaching he walked in the shadow of death?

Have we forgotten that following him means to take the greatest risk that man can take? Have we forgotten that following him means living dangerously? It seems that we have spent years trying to eliminate the risk and the danger of his call. It seems that we have cushioned the risk and practically eliminated any and all danger by drawing up a set of moral rules that gives us security instead of holy insecurity: rules that tell our conscience to sleep instead of making it wide awake and ready to undertake the risk of being a Christian. Christ said that if we are not with him we are against him. How do we measure up to this saying of his? Are we really with him? Are we ready to give up father, mother, brother and sister in the sense he means it, to follow his commands? Are we ready today to lay our lives on the line of his law of love with its fantastic dimensions of dispossession and surrender? Do we truly love one another, beginning with ourselves? I wonder how long we can sit on the fence of compromise. God is not mocked!

We have to begin to love one another in the fullest sense of Christ's teaching, but to do so we must pray. It is only through prayer that one can follow Christ to Golgotha and up onto the other side of the cross and to become free through this ascension. The immense problems of war, of social injustice, of the thousand and one ills that beset our world; these can be solved only if we begin to love one another. When man begins to see love, respect and reverence of Christ in the eyes of another, then he will change and society will change also. Christians must openly declare their allegiance to Christ or their non-allegiance to him. The story of disciples who had to choose is repeating itself today among us. Who do you say that I am? Peter, for the other apostles, openly declared himself for Jesus. On another occasion Christ's words were too harsh and other disciples also admitted it and left him. It is time we stopped fooling around. If ever there was a time when humanity needed followers of Christ and fewer fence-sitters, that is now.

*Bro. George Stanley Nddiege*

### **NAIROBI**

I am okay and doing well in the spreading of the Gospel despite the normal difficulties that were encountered by the disciples of Jesus (means of transport and opposition). All in all people are receiving the Truth and are changing their lives. The Gospel must be spread to the ends of the world before Jesus comes. Kenya has been doing well, new Brothers and Sisters are increasing. I thank God for giving me the strength and courage to enlighten many to the truth of the Gospel. I have been of great help to my home ecclesia – Mwandeo Ecclesia. Many have been baptised through my efforts and I also thank Brother Bernard Mutuna. I thank you very much for your support of teaching materials. I therefore kindly request you to continue sending them together with Gospel News. I understand it costs much but all in all God will bless you. Here in Kenya Brothers and Sisters are working hand in hand to see that we are counted worthy to enter into God's Kingdom. We thank God for everything good and bad knowing that one day we shall celebrate for ever and ever in His everlasting Kingdom. I am longing to see you face to face one day, God willing. I always meditate upon how we can sit together and discuss the Word of God. Nevertheless we shall one day meet, if not at this particular time, then the Kingdom where we shall rejoice together with our Master the Lord Jesus. Lastly I pray for those Brethren and Sisters who are in difficulties and especially those experiencing hostility from the people around them. May God be their Protector and Guide throughout their journey to the Kingdom. I also remember those Brothers and Sisters in Israel where there is war every day. May God bring peace to them

and to us all. Amen.  
*Bro. Gideon Mukeku*

### **NAKURU**

Thanks for the books about Israel. I was glad to hear how Duncan and Cindy are producing fruits for the Lord. I wrote to the three Brothers in USA, Canada and Australia in November 2006 so that they can invite me to their countries and accommodate me before I can live on my own, but to date none of them has replied. I am to receive the skilled visa from the migration experts of Australia this year. On 18.1.2007 we spent a day with Brethren David Green and Peter White and had lunch and supper together and discussed the gospel. If you are in possession of the book about Dr. John Thomas, the founder of our movement, please send me a copy. I still lack Bible Basics in Swahili and English for my missionary work.

*Bro. Samuel Wanga*

### **NALONDO**

Thanks be to God for keeping us alive and for making us communicate again. We appreciate the literature you send us and we are fine in the Lord. God blessed last year's mission of visiting both Brethren and friends in different parts of Kenya and Uganda when Brethren Vincent Muloboti, Leonard Wafula and Paul Mukenya were baptised. This year's agenda, besides the major one (which is pushing of the gospel ahead and other smaller ones like transport and communication), is for ways of supporting orphans and the disabled who share with us the wonderful hope of Israel and have only acquired free primary education to join and achieve secondary school education which will pave the way for their employment. Here there are large or small Sunday Schools in almost every ecclesia. We have been using the Bible as the major tool to sharpen and guide them. We shall be extremely happy to have help with our Sunday Schools.

*Bro. Nimrod and Caven Masika*



The baptism of Bro. Vincent Muloboti at Muungano Ecclesia by Bro. Moses Boter (left) and Bro. Vincent Nyongesa (right).



The Brethren and Sisters who witnessed the baptism of Bro. Vincent Muloboti

### **NALONDO**

I would like to remind you about the books requested from you two months back. One was entitled 'The Death of the Cross' and another one 'The key to Understanding the Bible'. They are available in your library. May you now send them to me? Together with Bro. Nimrod Masika I had the privilege of visiting the Brethren of Kaptama ecclesia at Muungano. We witnessed the baptism of Bro. Vincent Wanjala. The Bible study was very encouraging and we hope to continue with such a programme.

*Bro. Laban Sirengo Kisaka*

## **NDHIWA**

### **WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED?**

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt.28:19. He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:15-16. “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to other apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? Peter replied, Repent and be baptised, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all nations who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:37-39. “Those who accepted his message were baptized and about 3,000 people were added to their number that day.” Acts 2:41. “Crispus, the synagogue ruler and his entire household believed in the Lord and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8.

### **WHY ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?**

“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, wash your sins away, calling on his name.” Acts22:16, John 3:3-5, Romans 6:4. “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Gal.3:27. “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the River Jordan.” Mark 1:9. “And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the river and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:38.

### **AFTER BAPTISM**

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching.” Heb.10:25, 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18, 1 Cor. 10:12. As for us, we are still waiting for the Master.

Have my greetings in the name of our Master, Christ Jesus. As I am having a reading problem you can give help by giving reading glasses. As I am facing this problem I attended the optician and he told me that my reading glasses specification is + 2.25, so please send me reading glasses of that specification if available and I think I will be in a good position for reading without any trouble.

*Sis. Dorine A. Mboya*

We here are going on well. The Christadelphians have made my heart feel great by its teachings, putting me close to the glory of God. I would like to beg you one thing, God willing. Is there. any way of enabling Brethren and Sisters to visit other countries? Can you please put me in touch with such a group so that I can be able to go and preach or visit my fellow brothers and sisters in other countries and share God’s Word. I have always prayed to God that one day I can travel, just even to other African countries to see how they are going on with God’s work. In my life, up to now, I like talking with new people and getting new ideas. Let it be my prayer that one day, before I fall asleep I will be able to do this. I would also like to persuade you about the book about the midwives. It will be a good help in my duty at Lambwe Valley dispensary as a chairlady of C.B.D. - community based distribution. I am one of the village midwives and have undergone the family planning programme course and am pleased to advance my knowledge about these issues. The books I have got helped me a great deal with my duties about the ecclesia and the community.

*Sis. Emmy Aseyo*

I hope that many within our area will wish to join us because of the Truth found in Bible Basics. I would like to inform you that Brethren in Okumbo are progressing well in the Lord, even the

health project which is well though there are some areas which need attention.

*Bro. Mike Gerald O. Juma*

### **OMBOGA**

Well, this is just a note to thank you abundantly for the good you have done to the family and to thank you for connecting me to the weekly exhortations from Bro. John Aldersley in New Zealand. I deeply enjoy his 'something to chew on' and it is a great boost to my spiritual growth. I have already written an appreciative note on his work.

*Bro. Isaiah Awino*

By having a keen look at what is happening globally, we are nearing the Master's advent. Here in Kenya we had fears of bird flu. Now we have a deadly Rift Valley fever claiming the lives of many carnivores and lastly to mention the global warming, this has caused many effects such as the persistent rains, floods, strong winds etc. The societies we live in are wrecked. Now the permission of gay marriages in some churches. Surely we and the world need redemption soon. Our plans are also coming up to start an ecclesia. We were three i.e. Bre. Nelson Anyals and Joseph Nyipillah but the latter moved to Musoma, Tanzania, to join hands with Sister Monica Achieng. Lastly, but not least, do our namings have any significance nowadays as compared to the Biblical names? I am compelled to ask this question because many so called Christians end up naming their children with names like Saddam, Arthur, Margaryan, Osama. I remain your fellow servant in the Lord's vineyard and hope to meet you in the Kingdom.

*Bro. Lawrence Kowiti*

Comment: 'Lawrence' comes from the Latin Laurentum, which was a city in Italy known for its laurel trees, taken by some as symbolising eternal life. MH

### **SINDO**

I was baptised into Christ on 21st August 1976 in the city of Nairobi, thirty years ago. I believed the gospel message and was baptised after a true confession of the Truth, to serve the God of Israel, who resurrected our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and gave him immortality. We must stand firm to preach the true gospel and be aware of people who distort the gospel of Christ. The Bible promises us that Jesus will soon come to reign on earth and give us salvation - immortality. We believe the Kingdom will be restored world-wide and the glory of the Father will be done on earth. Peace will be certain. We pray for that Kingdom to come, for God's will to be done on earth. If we refuse to believe the true gospel message we have lost the hope of living after death. The work done by CAT. needs prayer and contributions world-wide to enable all of us to witness for the Truth. I am one of the brothers worldwide who supports CAT. in its service to proclaim the gospel message to the whole world. We must not be ashamed to stand firm for the Truth. I have appreciated your service from the year 1999. The gospel message must be obeyed to get salvation or we perish with no hope of being those who will help Christ to rule the earth. Rev. 5:10 – my last word to you. We must remain firm and strong in the Truth until our Lord Jesus Christ takes over the kingdoms of men. "Thy Kingdom come". The Lord's prayer will be fulfilled.

*Bro. John Owalo Onan*

### **TIRIKI**

All we want to do is to explain why we are here, what it is which distinguishes us from others and why we feel we need to stand alone. Everyone knows that there are countless churches in the world, big and small, and when an enquiring person comes upon a fairly small community, with an uncommon name and with a none too long public history behind it, he has a right to be told why that body is here. There are Roman

Catholics, to whom it is unthinkable that a person should ever be anything else; there are members of the big non-Roman churches, who, to a lesser degree, feel similarly about their own faiths. There exist well-established and respectable communities of closely similar standpoints, the Baptists and the Methodists, the United Reformed Church and the Presbyterians, who cannot easily see that there is any justification for the existence of bodies smaller and less respectable than their own. There are numerous evangelical bodies with great enthusiasm within their own camps and yet with profound antagonisms or differences from each other, which divide the remaining ground amongst them.

*Bro. Modest Gwademba*

### **TONGAREN**

I was very sorry to hear of the falling asleep of Bro. Philip Thompson. Yes, we expect to meet him in the coming Kingdom. I am glad that bro. Trevor has accepted to print Bukusu leaflets and booklets as Bible Basic truths, which will promote the Bible truths in Bukusu language. May God bless him 100 times. Brother, I write this to remind you that many people have requested Bible Basics in Bukusu language. You remember we printed three studies. It could be better if we complete printing Bible Basics in Bukusu language because it's a marvellous book to have in Bukusu language, the biggest of all. Many people have requested the book, they want to know what is written inside. Due to these people requesting me the book regularly, I ask you to do the copies of the printed studies I gave you, and bind them in books so that you may send them to me for distribution? Even in our ecclesial hall we are expecting to use this book of "Bible Basics" in Bukusu as a text for teaching Bible lessons. About our ecclesial project, we have managed to buy plot and have put a temporary structure of an ecclesial hall for Sunday worship and a tailoring school. Through this textile project, we are expecting many trainees to come for their courses, so we have attached the Bible lessons as a free compulsory course for trainees. This is why we need the completed "Bible Basics" in Bukusu for teaching practice. Also send to us three copies of "Bible Basics" in English and three in Swahili language for school use. May God bless you.

*Bro. Sikola Kapa*



*Tongaren Sunday School Children*



*Tongaren members in their new ecclesial hall*

### **news from malawi**

#### **BALAKA**

I received the books you sent including the health book *Where Women Have No Doctor*. As you told me in your letter I gave this to the health officer of our community for use. She finds it very

helpful and it gives her more knowledge so that the women in our community will be healthier than before. I wish to record my deep thanks for the spiritual encouragement you give me through the books, lectures and letters you send to me. Troubles come to everyone; people experience moments of fear, worry and apprehension as the pattern of their life is disturbed by the unexpected or by events over which they have little or no control. When this happens what do we do? You encouraged me that the immediate and natural reaction should be to turn to God and ask for His help. The scripture abounds with examples of the caring, all-embracing love of God for His people. We have this assurance that he cares for us, that He will never fail nor forsake us and that He will always be with us and above all we have the gift of his peace. When problems arise that threaten the very foundation of our lives, let us turn in the first instance to the living God and ask Him to help us bear our burdens. Jesus said "Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). He will not let us down but will assist us through our difficulties until we emerge once more into the light which Jesus sheds on our way. "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayers, preserve my life from fear of the enemy" Ps 64:1.  
*Bro. Edson Makwecha*

### **BOLERO**

We are saddened to report the death of Bro Brian Mzikila Gondwe of this ecclesia from the effects of TB. Brian was for many years a deeply committed servant of the Lord and certainly made a name for himself in the area of writing spiritual poems, hymns and letters from Zomba Central Prison. Brian will be sadly missed in the congregation of the servants of the Lord. He was 33 years old.

I pray hard for Tumbuka Bible Basics to exist, as most here speak Tumbuka language and we only have a few Tumbuka Bibles. Please send me the study paper on circumcision from a medical and scriptural point of view. We need Chichewa and English Hymn books and Chichewa Bibles.

Tomorrow waits  
Today will have an ending,  
Tomorrow starts anew.  
Another chance to start again.  
When all our plans fell through,  
Though sun may set on every scheme,  
And fall we often may,  
Tomorrow's sun will rise again,  
To show this is your day.  
Though days will have an ending,  
God will His son be sending  
Tomorrow waits for you.

*Bro. Lukanga Nyomiro*

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks for the book entitled Where There Is No Doctor, it arrived safely without any problem. I was happy to read from the Gospel News about a dictionary/Thesaurus which I hope can assist me through my Bible lessons which I have not finished.

*Bro. Stuart Gondwe*



*Bro. Stuart Gondwe*

Warmest greetings in the truth we share in the Name of almighty Jesus Christ. With thanks for your letters of the end of November and the current news of the Middle East. Indeed the days are escalating to the end and we should be looking, always because the coming King will judge us with just judgement upon whatever we did. Please keep on writing to me. We are three Brothers here, Luke, Furasani K. and myself. I am taller than Luke and Luke is taller than Furasani K. I am preparing for marriage; I have burnt bricks but resources of cement have become a stumbling-block because I want to build a house containing three bedrooms, bathroom, toilet and kitchen.

*Bro. Godwin Banda*

### **DOMASI**

Thank you very much for the ten English Bible Basics which I gave out to friends and they are very happy to have them. Some others need books in Chichewa.

*Bro. R. Kawonga*

### **JALI**

Thank you for the Chichewa Bible Basics and the Middle East update and I am looking forward to having more and more updates concerning the Middle East as we are waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am happy to let you know that I am now working under DAPP Malawi as a TCE Field Officer and I am working within my community. My task is to mobilise, educate and inform people to be aware of the threat of HIV Aids epidemic so it is a door-to-door, inter person mobilisation. Another piece of good news is that I have newly-born twin boys and they and mother are well. More about the keeping of rabbits, they are now breeding well.

*Bro. Lucky F. Mbalale*



*Bro. Lucky F. Mbalale*

### **KASUNGU**

Loving greetings in the glorious hope of Israel. Thank you very much for the dictionary sent to us and for your regular remembrance. May God be with you, prosper you and guide you by your way of encouragement in our walk together towards our Heavenly Father's glorious kingdom soon to be established on this grief-stricken earth. With regard to tapes, they are very good indeed but the problem is that batteries re very expensive and my tape recorder is not functioning very well nowadays. We don't have electricity to use but I suggest that if one buys a car battery and has a good tape recorder he can still use them. Of course people have got solar electricity in the villages but for us we still use an oil lamp. At present we are receiving such heavy rain that most of the houses are falling down, but

crops in the field are very good despite much rain. As you have rightly said, the farmer can never be sure until the harvest is safely gathered in. We have been blessed with two baptisms; Bre. Reuben Peter Banda and Maxwell Mbewe. Bro. Reuben is in his 60s and Bro. Maxwell is 20 years old. Although my house is very small to be used as a meeting place we are still using it because we are in the rainy season and we cannot pray in the open air. We meet for students' Bible Course every Saturday from 2pm. and for Bible Class every Wednesday. Our ecclesia wants quality not quantity so we appreciate every book and notes for our instruction.

*Bro. Harmony & Sis. Susan Ntchalachala*

### **LILONGWE**

I want to request the free Dictionary/Thesaurus, also 'One Bible Many Churches' and 'Do Christians need Priests?'. I belong to Mtenthela Christadelphian Ecclesia and send greetings to all Brothers and Sisters. I am very depressed and suffering at this time but I decided to make this effort to greet you all and say I love you all in Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Henderson M. Sosola*



### **LIWONDE**

I was very happy to receive this gift of seven books; indeed I am sure they will help me to know the power of God more. Please brother continue to help us because I and my family want to learn more concerning our God and Jesus Christ. Brother, last year you sent me a book heading line - Mfundo Zoonadi Zenizeni Buku Lopatulika. On page 110 – 'Is the Gift of the Spirit is still working or not?' When I read this page I undertstand. There is a debate between Bro. John Allfree and Pastor John Lilikas and I would like to know the result of this debate; can you please send it to me? I ask you to provide me with reading glasses please; my size is 2.50.

*Bro. Michael Geoffrey Chisanga*

### **MIGOWI**

Please send more good magazines, Gospel News and an English and Chichewa Bible. Try to assist me in so many things so that I can grow spiritually. But, Brother, when I have finished my work, even my studies I like to make nursery beds, whereby I grow some vegetables. So I wondered if it is possible for you to send me some vegetable seeds like rape, mustard, onion, cabbage and any type of vegetable which you like to grow in England.

*Bro. Maxwell Tebulo*

I thank Bro. Keith Lowe for the Bible study he sent us here – I answered all the twelve questions and I have confidence he will tell us the result of our Bible study. I enclose a photo from Brothers who are worshipping here at Nachopwa Christadelphian Church. Nachopwa is the name of the village headman.

*Bro. B. Kathumba*



*Chinani Ecclesia*

### **MWANZA**

As to the spiritual growth of our ecclesia, we wish to inform you that there are usually 65 Christians – 50 children; 10 baptised adults, at present; 5 non-baptised adults, totalling 65. We acknowledge receiving six English Bibles and four French Bibles, but, unfortunately, the box containing these books had already been torn – so we would like to know whether there should have been anything else in it. Brother, seeing that many of our brethren do not understand English, we beg you to send us Bibles in French and Swahili, plus some Christadelphian hymn books. Concerning the construction of our hall, we have already finished the building and have covered it with the plastic given us by the Zomba Mission . For lack of straw this plastic is already ruined because of the heat. We are sending you a photo of it as evidence.

*Bre. John Abwe and Jafari Amisi*



Bro John Abwe's Family



Mwanza Ecclesiastical Building

### **MZUZU**

I have written this letter to request a dictionary, written in English and a Bible. I have done this because most of the time I find it very difficult to read and understand some difficult or deep words written in English in some of the Christadelphian books. Here, in our country, Malawi, we do learn English but there is a very big problem in learning. Many of us learn English in schools and the more you go further with education the more you are going to learn English, so it depends on what type of family you come from as regards wealth. So many poor families decide to send their children to primary schools because they are free and when their children pass standard 8 and are going to start form 1 they cannot manage to pay the school fees for them; this is a very big problem to poor families. Now I ask for a dictionary so that I can be assisted in defining some words and identifying them. Many of your books are printed in English which is not our native language, so, as a Christadelphian member since I was baptised in 2005, I learn everything with difficulty just because I love and like knowing the real truth. Secondly, my Bible request, as some books of the gospels need some Bible references and verses with other supporting verses too which mean the same, I don't have a real reliable Bible because many Bibles we have are cut short, like New Testament only and some Old Testament books are from

Genesis to Ruth only and these cannot help at all. I want these two things so that I can be helped because they will stand as shields for everything I read, that can be sent from you. I remain your real Brother in Christ.

*Bro. Dutch Mphayah*

I would like to share with you the request of the young rich man in the gospel message: "What must I do to enter eternal life?" It seems to me that the man's enquiry here was a genuine one, for he humbled himself as he seems to me that the man's enquiry here was a genuine one, for he humbled himself as he approached Jesus unlike others who came to Jesus in order to put him to the test. Next we hear that Jesus loved him. We may assume that he loved him for being very frank. Hence the revelation to him of the one thing he lacked, "Go and sell all that you have and its revenue to be given to the poor." Just these words showed truly the rich young man's position – for his face was cast down. We may further assume the young man's motive behind asking about eternal life. Maybe he wanted that eternal life for the purposes of enjoying his wealth and wealth was the young man's weak spot. Let us admit here, we all have 'one thing lacking'! It may be the same as that of our colleague in this story or a different one. And so as we come to realise that we are sinners, let us put ourselves in the positions of Peter's hearers in Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19. Acts 10:43. Again Paul's testimony in Acts 22:19. The message in all these verses is one of repentance and believing. If we really do this, the request of our colleague here will be ours and for good reason – of being in the Kingdom of God which is our most desired goal. Your brother in anticipation of Jesus.

*Bro. Sylvester Tembo*

### **NSANJE**

Greetings in the all saving name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I am very delighted to inform you that I have received with joy two cartons of different books and booklets and the book about miracles with your informative letter. Could you please send some Bible Reader's Calendars for distribution to my students here. As you are aware, I have already done Introducing Bible Basics and the Bible Basics correspondence course, and if there is an extra course please send it for me, in order to improve my knowledge as a Bible Basics teacher. It is very nice to hear that you would like to send a free Dictionary/Thesaurus for us who send material to be printed in Gospel News and I will be very happy to receive this in order to understand the English language. We Gospel News readers thank God that our request for this, particularly as another tool, has been understood. Lastly, but not least, here the work of God is getting bigger and bigger. We are still establishing new ecclesias and baptising. The scripture says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt.28:19). May the Lord bless our united efforts to encourage people to get back to the Bible. Your Brother in the patient waiting for the Master.

*Bro. Venancion Malata Phiri*

### **NTCHEU**

I am just recovering from malaria and stomach pains and was glad to receive your letter. I wanted to inform you that I have been released from Zomba Central Prison and am now at a home in Ntcheu district working with orphan and vulnerable children, the aged and those who are too ill to work.

*Bro. Lytton E. Mkwaila*

## **TENGANI**

I like listening to Gospel Scriptures from the radio cassette as I asked in my first letter. I will be very happy if you can send me radio cassettes.

*Bro. Elick Biyala*

## **news from mozambique**

### **ESPUNGABERA**

Brother Moses and Sister Evelyn Dhlakama have been with us and we have been enjoying their exhortation to use whatever means our Father has blessed us with to help in the preaching of His wonderful message of love and compassion and salvation to any who hear. We are also living in perilous times, for the brotherhood needs the assistance of faithful Brethren who can feed us with truth and show to us the visions of glory that help us on our journey Zionwards. We long and yearn for that day to soon come. May the Father's comfort be with you in the work that you are doing.

*Bro. Arone Muchanga*

## **news from nigeria**

### **AKURA**

I receive Gospel News for which I am indeed very grateful. I have been very ill for two months, but thank God I am now in good condition of health. I must confess that God has done wonders in my life, now that I know He exists. I shall appreciate it very much if you can please send me some pamphlets for distribution and one more Bible Reader's calendar to be given to a friend who showed interest when he saw the one you sent to me.

*Bro. Benjamin O. Akinuli*

### **ENUGU**

My aim in writing to you is to tell you all the Lord has done for us and to publish it. Since last year's CYC three persons have been baptised. In June two Sisters were baptised; they are Sis Nwaka and Sis Chiege Nuaji, of the same father and mother. Bro Emmanuel Iweha, put on the Name of Christ on 2nd December. He had been a friend of mine for over five years. He made a good confession during his interview. All his family are Catholic and his brother is a Rev Father, yet he forsook them. They accused me of causing trouble in their family by bringing another faith. Thank our God for blessing us with three last year. I have heard that there is a book called 'Where There Is No Doctor' but I haven't seen it; where can I get it? Things are going from bad to worse all over the world, especially in Nigeria (2 Tim. 3:13). My advice is that all Brethren and Sisters keep patient because our Lord is coming quickly to set us free. May he come very soon.

*Bro. Goddy Nwosu*



*Bro Emmanuel being received into fellowship by Bro Goddy*

### **IKWUEKE OBORO**

Group photograph taken beside the Ikwueke Oboro Ecclesia hall. From left to right standing: Bro. Friday E. Umesi, Sis. Grace Enyiogu, Sis. Florance Umesi, Sis. Janet Enyiogu, Sis. Comfort Umesi and Bro. Friday E. Eyiogu. Sitting from left to right: Sis. Victoria and Bro. Chituru Ogbonna.



*The newly baptised Brother and Sister are – from left to right: Bro. Chituru and Sis. Victoria Ogbonna and standing in the middle is Bro. F.E. Umesi ready to baptise the two.*

### **KADUNA**

I pray that God will enrich you bountifully for propagating His Word when our Lord comes, and above all that we all may be worthy to live with Him in His Kingdom. In Gospel News I read about the Bible Basics Manual; please send it to me. I also wish you to send me the book, 'Where There Is No Doctor', for the benefit of knowing ailments and cures that we encounter nowadays. This will help me and our ecclesial members as well. All the Bbrethren in Kaduna greet you and I hope to hear from you soon if the Lord tarries.

*Bro. Anthony Coker*

### **news from tanzania**

#### **KAENGESA**

Everything made by God is good and is to be used for His glory. If we use all things properly then God's will is our wish, but if not, then we are against God's will (1 John 2:15-17). Whatsoever things we do wish, should be centred upon biblical principles. Our wishes should be in line with God's will and glory. God is always there for us. Christ throughout His life sought God's will (John 6:38-40). not regarding what we consider suffering. We should do the same, knowing that God does not want us to perish (2 Peter 3:9-15).

*Sis. Faustina Mweupe*

#### **KASULU**

My wife went for the operation; she had a swelling in her belly which troubled her much, but I thank God that my and your prayers to Him were granted. In my last letter I besought you to send me the programme of burying and a programme of praying for children. I begged you to call on us in order to teach us in a workshop. To all I say, do read Psalm 19:12 and, 'Who are the Christadelphians'? Do read John 15:3-4 and also verse 12. Really love exists.

The Bible tells us that our yes should be yes and our no, no. We can only be thankful for the

Truth, the faith is the Truth of things for the future, it is the reality of things that are unseen (Heb 11:1-5; 11:6).

I believe one day we shall be returning to our country, Congo. Hunger and need will vanish, and God will forgive us. We are still refugees.

*Bro Albert Akembe*

### **KASULU**

Thanks to God I have this opportunity of writing you this letter, the main point of it is to inform you about the change of our Committee which took place . The new Committee is composed of three persons: Chairman, Muli Bin Etulo; Secretary: Iyendya Amsini; Treasurer, Akembe Albert. Please try to spread this message to others in Gospel News. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of God.

My uncle tried to persuade me many times to go to a church, named 'Kasanga Fundi'. I did not like to go with him, but one day he was reading his Bible before going to church; when I heard what he was reading I appreciated really what he told me before was true. Because of hearing I was baptised and became a Bible believer. I am now secretary of CBM in Nyamigusu Camp.

*Bro. Iyendja Amsini*



*Bro Iyendja Amsini*

### **KIGOMA**

We are very happy to write this letter to you because it is now many days without any communication. This has given me the time to explain the situation in which we are living and us to know your situation. I would like to receive your letters often and books of different kinds in order that I get to know God's word. I am sure that you will hear us to that end.

*Paros Yunus and Machozi Mkangwa*

### **MUSOMA**

Grace and peace be with you as always. I am very happy to read from Gospel News about Musoma news which was so good. One Brother from England called David Welch to whom I wrote a letter some three years back could remember me and the name of the children and managed to send a letter to me again which I received today. Is this not great? I will write back to him and I will ask him his email address.

Musoma is doing well and they need Bible reading planners (six if possible). Thank you for the used Bible. I am very happy to read the messages and how the dear Brethren are continuing helping some of the needy souls especially in the refugee camps. I recently went home to take the children back to school, they are all at school at the moment and I'm going to miss them again. I know I will have them again, God willing, when they vocate in August. There's no problem in our ecclesia at the moment except they do ask most of the time about the ecclesial building, as so many people are interested to join but they don't understand why we meet in the house. I'm very happy to read more news from Tanzania as it is one country where English is a problem. I really appreciate how some of the Brethren in Tanzania are having such courage to

write good English for the readers and copies of the Dictionary are much appreciated..

*Sis Monica Achieng*

I greet you in Jesus' name and thanks for your letter which I received a few weeks ago, but I was miserable at your answer of not being able to let me have a mobile phone for I'm in great need of it.

I want to persuade you to represent my request.

*Bro Makenga Reveriyano*



*Ulyankulu Ecclesia*

### **MWANZA**

We thank you for sending us copies of Gospel News for a long time. From reading them we have got a lot of encouragement for salvation and how to be ready for Jesus' return soon. The ecclesia also thanks you for the books which you have sent and we also have need of the following books: 'How To Grow A Balanced Diet' and 'Conservation Farming Methods'. These books will help us to grow some crops and to conserve soil.

*Bro. Jactor Rufano*

### **UVINZA**

I am still enjoying receiving Gospel News regularly and reading the news from the Brothers and Sisters worldwide. Here at Lugufu 1 ecclesia we enjoyed the visit from Bro Tim Evans and Sis Judith and family (from Southampton UK), Bro Thierry Kabangu (Arusha, Tanzania), and Bro Alinoti (Kigoma, Tanzania). We enjoyed the fellowship and we had a Breaking of Bread together. I send my article, 'A Real Kingdom' for Gospel News.

*Bro Amnobe Iyingu*

### **UVINZA – LUGUFU 1**

Thank you very much for your letter and the enclosed books Miracles by Bro John Bilello and Legalism vs Faith by Bror David Levin and for help in painting our Ecclesial hall, inside walls, all these things help our spiritual growth. We were once again happy to welcome a visit to our ecclesia from Bro Tim Evans and his family from Southampton, UK, accompanied by Bre Thiery Kabangu (Arusha) and Samuel Alinoti (Kigoma), Tanzania.

It was a great delight to have sweet fellowship together and we were comforted by the word of eternal life by Bro Tim while his wife, Sis Judith, dealt with our Sunday School scholars. We broke bread and drank wine in remembrance of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ in our ecclesial hall combined with the Lugufu 2 ecclesial members. We do thank the CBM for the gift of a bicycle for ecclesial use and other help. On the same occasion we were pleased to receive Bro Innocent Baruani E'Engele from Nairobi ecclesia, Kenya as a visitor to our Ecclesia and we thank him for the word of exhortation. Visiting Brethren and Sisters are especially welcomed to strengthen us in the Truth.

*Bro Isidore Mwibeleca*

## news from uganda



*Butacho Sunday school*

### **KAMPALA**

I hope you are keeping well, as for me I am fine. A certain Brother wrote an exhortation which touched my heart and I would like to share it with you. Since it is God who determines the outcome of every situation, the important thing is not to have the best and strongest human allies, but to side with God, to get right with Him. There are times when God allows suffering for a purpose and He brings good out of it, for the individual himself and all he comes into contact with. Suffering strengthens our faith in Jesus. When we suffer we learn many things about ourselves. Suffering is then for a good purpose since we learn to be more patient and to trust in God. The experience of suffering is God's means of testing our trust in Him, perfecting our character and preparing us for the greater purpose He has in store for those who are faithful. Suffering is the means that God will use to teach mankind the lesson that we are powerless to help ourselves.

*A Sister*

### **KASESE**

My responsibility is to train the Sunday School children and teach them some new songs about the Word of God and I like music very much in my life. I have been a Sister for one year. I am now old and I still need your support for spiritual growth.

*Sis. Janet Kimekeke*

### **KISINGA**

We are here co-operating with Bro. Remegio for the spiritual growth of Kisinga ecclesia. May you and all Brothers around the world pray for us that the Lord may use us, that our light may shine to all.

*Bro. Justus Masereta*

A Christian is one who follows the example of Christ. In John's letter he says, "For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:20-21). We must not be misled – if we or others do not follow the example of Christ we are not true Christians. God's eyes are too open for us to hide anything from Him – He sees all the corners at the same time. He will reward us according to how we follow Christ's example.

*Bro. Remegio Mwanamwolho*



*Bro. Remegio preparing a notice board.*

### **LULU ISLAND**

Favouritism has been a great problem in Uganda for so many years especially on the side of government departments and public service. Many officials have been considering special

people from a particular region, tribe and family background before a person could be considered for any government post, this should not be. Our dear Brother James in the Bible says that as believers and Christians, we should not do this (James 2:1-4 and 8-11). As believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, do not show favouritism. "Suppose a man comes into your meeting hall wearing a gold ring and fine clothes and a poor man comes in shabby clothes, if you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here is a good seat for you', but say to the poor man, 'Here you are, stand here or sit on the floor by my feet', have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? If you really keep the royal law found in the scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself', you are doing right, but if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, 'Do not commit adultery', also said, 'Do not murder'. If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a law-breaker".

Showing favouritism is when we treat one person better than another. There are many ways by which we can show favouritism and there are many reasons for doing so. James tells us that it is wrong to view one above another because of his nationality, age, tribe, wealth, position or any other reason. Matthew 23:11 also tells us about the dangers of showing favouritism: "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." It is a surprise to some people who consider others inferior to them that at some time the inferior ones will become superior and the greater shall be brought low? If we treat one Brother better than another because he is from the same tribe, and treat another Brother harshly because he is from a different tribe, we sin by judging between our Brothers. John 13:13-17 tells us the same and informs us that Jesus, our Brother, never showed favour to any person but treated everybody equally. This is seen in v.14 where we read about Jesus having washed the feet of his disciples. We need to follow this example for if we desire to inherit the eternal life to come (Romans 14:10, Matt.7:1-2). We should treat all our Brothers and Sisters equally, thinking of them as better than ourselves.

*Bro. Robert Ochieng*

## news from zambia

### **CHINSALI**

I enjoy reading Gospel News because it sheds light on what is happening in other ecclesias all round the world, especially how the good news is being disseminated throughout the world by the Christadelphians. This is fantastic! May the Lord God bless this life-giving work. After having helped in the formation of three ecclesias in Chinsali District, I am now helping the students at Malangura – eight of them. Their keen interest has encouraged me and it is my hope that, God willing, we might have another group embracing the true doctrines of the Bible. Thank you for the tapes which we have put to good use.

*Bro. Brighton Chiluba*

I hope and trust that you are doing fine in the hope of Israel which we share. I am glad to tell you that I have received your letter, together with Bible Basics for Moslems. I received it late due to the problem I have in terms of transport, since I live in a remote place. The information you wrote to me is very interesting and encouraging.

Communication is one of the most important elements in our daily lives. Without it man cannot develop. Alas live communication is very expensive and only available to the rich. This is one reason why the rich have taken advantage of the poor. Now, communication with God is free. It

doesn't matter what kind of language you speak, but what matters more is to confess our sins and seek our Lord Jesus Christ as our Mediator between us and God. God does not discriminate. That is why if we read Matthew 7: 7-11 we will find that Jesus is encouraging us a great deal. So the only communication which matters is that which is spiritual.

*Bro. Goodwell Mubanga*

I would like to thank Matero ecclesia for the help they gave in burying my father, Bro. Jack Bowa, after his death in Lusaka. It was a great work. May our Heavenly Father bless them abundantly and give them encouragement in Christ.

*Sis. Justina Bowa*

My house has burned with everything in it. Brother, I'm suffering so much with my family – I am left with nothing. The house caught fire when we were away with the entire family. We went out to work on the farm. Therefore, will you kindly send me books, together with a Bible, as these were all burnt.

*Bro. Edward Mutale*

### **FRINGILLA**

Accept my greetings in the faith and the hope we have in our Lord. Recently I was struck by miseries: I had my house burnt and everything was destroyed. Some two months later my daughter was bitten by a dog. These miseries have disturbed my living; however, I have put all these things in the hands of God because if we read Isaiah 45:7 we are instructed. Therefore we need to look to Him and humble ourselves. Brothers and Sisters, please pray for me so that one day I might have contentment as I used to have. Having lost my literature in the fire, I would like to request some: 'Where There Is No Doctor', and a New International Version Bible, cross reference edition. I like this version and am very much in need of it. I would also like 'Elpis Israel', amongst other books. Lastly I would like to encourage and commend the wonderful work being done in printing the books and other materials; please continue, God will reward you. I conclude my writing with the Christadelphian Hymn No. 10 in Bemba ('There's a Land That is Fairer').

*Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa*

### **KABOMPO**

The Bible warns those Brothers and Sisters who are leaving the Truth and joining other churches. The Bible warns us in 2 Tim 4:4 "the time will come when ... they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." We pray we may all grow and build each other up in the Truth. All of us need to be strong in the Word and to follow the Truth in the Bible; to bring many to Christ by preaching to those who have not heard the word of God, at the Sombo Guest House normally used when our Brothers and Sisters visit Kabompo from the UK with Zambian brethren. Bro. Amos Chkanda

On the translation I'm trying to do, I hope to get it printed into our local language since we are getting a lot of computers here. I will tell you about any developments, because I have learnt that the book will help my community here.

*Bro. Charles Muhupu*

### **KABWE**

I started studying the Christadelphian Bible Correspondence Courses in the 1980s and I was baptised on 31st July 2002. Currently I am studying with Bro. Blackstone who is a very good tutor and has helped me greatly since I became a Brother. I was very glad to receive Where There is No Doctor. Please continue sending Gospel News and other literature which may be available. I

was also pleased to receive a book about the Principles of Planning Vegetable Production.

*Bro. Greenwell Kunda*

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, Brother, have refreshed my heart.

*Bro. Maybin Bwalya*



*Bro Amos standing behind the CBM Vehicle the CBM Visitors use*

### **KAFUE**

Be on time! Do you procrastinate and rush around at the last minute? Do you over-schedule yourself, trying to do too many things in too short a period of time? The principle given in Ecclesiastes 3:1 can prove to be helpful: "For everything there is an appointed time." Having an appointed time for things allows you to do them in an orderly manner. First, list all the things you need to do. Next, follow the principle given in Philippians 1:10, "make sure of the more important things." Yes, prioritise: what absolutely has to be done. What are the things that can safely be put off for later? Finally, figure out how much time you need to get things done and when you can realistically do them, so avoiding scheduling too much in too little time.

*Bro. Lotson Kayuns*

### **KALOMO**

Thank you for the papers you sent and all the news, plus tapes etc. I delight in reading about the present happenings, so please if you can send me more of these papers from time to time. I need more preaching materials for when I go out on a mission trip, as more and more people have shown interest in the Christadelphian doctrinal message, for it is biblically centred – although we face a lot of opposition from other churches. But this will never discourage us from preaching, for we are baptised for the same and sent to do the same by our Master. Attached is the programme for my short trip to visit the students of both English and Tonga lessons. I am very glad to have received Wrested Scriptures by Ron Abel, this will help me to answer questions on various topics. Yes, the 40 lessons in English have been translated into Tonga and many more students have liked the lessons and some have already progressed to lesson 15. More are needed, but I hope Kelly of Kafue has enough to meet the demand. I have today written to him to include more names to his list. So, please, if anyone has something helpful for preaching to the students, please request some on my behalf. May the Lord bless His word, and it is my prayer that once in a while you pay us a visit in Zambia: we only see you in the Gospel News, but wish for your presence so that you encourage us physically..

At least the Gospel is now moving towards other people whose interest is to know the Truth, but had no means of doing so, not having had schooling. All the same we give thanks to our Lord for His goodness towards us in His word. Just like the Gospel News, it contains vital news for all who love reading God's Word. It encourages, builds, strengthens, corrects, guides, moulds, shapes, sharpens, brightens, makes one think, choose, follow and act, etc. I and my family say, Continue to send us Gospel News.

*Bro. Harry Hambula*

## **KAPIRI**

The Bible tells us that after the day of Pentecost and when the apostles had received the Holy Spirit, they went forth preaching the Gospel everywhere. Those who believed were baptised and they devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They even went further, to sell their possessions and redistribute to the needy (Acts 2:42-47). We are told they had everything in common. The onlookers, both Jews and Gentiles, exclaimed, "See how they love one another."

Imagine the quality of love that the apostles and these early believers portrayed which even amazed the non-believers. The question is, does this kind of love exist today in our ecclesias? The Bible challenges us that as believers blessed with the Truth, we have the gift to display such love in our ecclesias. It should all start with an individual: as individuals in our homes, even before we leave the door to meet our Brothers and Sisters, we should examine our conscience as to how we will serve the ecclesia each day. Love and service in the ecclesia is an unending cycle: Brother towards Brother, Sister towards another Sister, Brother towards a Sister and vice versa. At the end the entire ecclesia will be filled with admired love and those around us will surely say, "See how they love one another." They certainly would be attracted to our faith, hope and truth.

It is common in ecclesias to find differences between one Brother and another, one Sister against another and so on. This is by virtue of being human with weak flesh, which has its own desires, and also due to differing backgrounds and personalities. However, as Brethren assembled together, this should not be the case. Listen to what Peter had to say, "Having purified your soul by your obedience to the Truth for a sincere Brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart" (1 Peter 1:22). The apostle Paul also says, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil, hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour" (Rom 12:9-10).

*Bro. Mike Mweene*

## **KASAMA**

We all eagerly wait for the Lord's second advent in our time. It is very worthwhile, though, to imagine how prepared we are to receive the Master. Many prophecies are finding fulfilment in all of us but many people are still in incredible apostasy. However, this does not and won't delay Jesus' return even if there are fifty in the Truth, like the instances with Noah and Lot. May the Lord God increase the number of workers for His harvest that His chosen ones may be gathered in. The NIV is helping me with some historical religious discoveries I would not have learnt from my local school history. It contains very good commentary notes, though one has to be guided by the Truth's doctrinal concepts as some comments derive their root from apostate Christendom, e.g. the Trinity and deity of Jesus and evil spirits.

Please never lose heart when you hear disturbing news from us, for sometimes we write in unfavourable circumstances due to our living conditions, sometimes you may wonder when you hear from WHO reports concerning death tolls due to malaria and cholera, - preventable diseases. In villages, people's living conditions are difficult to describe. It is common in some remote African areas to share a pool of water with cattle, hyenas and dogs in dry seasons because of water scarcity. Living with many flies, cockroaches and mosquitoes would not be a strange sight or experience in countries like Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. Donor funds through Governments can't reach the targeted areas and important medicines and facilities like mosquito nets received from donors are shared amongst the medical staff and later sold at such prices that many cannot afford. For example, a mosquito net is supposed to be sold at

K3,000 at hospitals and health centres (\$0.50) but it is found in medical staff's drug stores as high as K60,000! The former is the official Government price at a subsidised level.

*Bro. Boniface Simpanzye*

### **KASAKA**

I am sending my great gratitude for sending me Gospel News. I used to be in so many churches here in Zambia looking for the truth and sound doctrine. But when I came across the Bible Course and started studying it, I found it to be so interesting that I completed it through my tutor, Sis Sheila Mothersdill of UK and got baptised on 17th June 2000.

Now my request is: Would it not be possible for this straightforward doctrine to be put on TV here in Zambia when the Linkmen visit us, for others to enjoy the gospel we enjoy as it is written in Matthew 5:14-16. Most Brothers here have tried their best to send the message all over the country, but it seems not to be enough.

I am appealing to Brethren and Sisters worldwide who have received sound doctrine, to fully follow the steps our Lord Jesus did when he was here on earth. We should not merely talk about the gospel but try by all means to practice what we read in the Bible, just as it is stated in James 1:19-26. By so doing I think we may be able to convince other people that we have a good doctrine and practice.

*Bro Adams Nsamu*

### **LUSAKA**

I do appreciate that the Gospel literature that you send me is helping to lead me to salvation. Please continue, for my own betterment as well as others.

Thank you so much also for briefing me about the tension in the Middle East which is one of the biggest signs of Jesus' second coming. I must tell you that Armageddon is very interesting to me, because as I am reading this book I see the whole scenario unfolding in a well simplified explanation. On this one I am very well informed and I pray that at an appointed time God will send Jesus to establish the glorious Kingdom here on earth.

*Bro. Jaxon Kalumba (Jnr.)*

Thank you very much for the study materials I received. Here I am doing well at school; even though some things seem to be hard, I put all my faith in God that one day everything will be well. As I mentioned earlier, there are challenges that I'm facing, but I am able to stand, and some of my friends are accepting literature which I offer them. I would like you to send me more literature for distribution to my class-mates and other interested pupils.

*Bro. Stephen Siamabi*

I am only physically fine because I can move and do things, but the emotional part of me can only be healed by God, who allowed my Mum to fall asleep in Christ. I thank God for the nightly sleep He blesses me with, but I expect to see her every day when I wake and find myself then feeling her absence. I first lost my young dog, a dog like my kid brother, and to add to that pain I also lost my Mum. It hurts so much that I at times fail to know what to think or do. My Mum willingly served God and that's one thing I can't forget. The two dogs we're keeping seem to accept that she's nowhere in the house, though my Mum would embrace them and treat them like her grandchildren. If making people know the true Gospel is what will make Jesus come, then I do my best so that he can come and resurrect my Mum. The thought of eternally living with her in an immortal state gives me so much comfort and peace. The day she'll be resurrected will be the day my dream comes true. Doing the Bible readings is something I love to

do, it's what we used to do with Mum and it's what we continued doing when she was resurrected in my dreams. I hope the time comes soon when I'll be able to write about Mum without tears in my eyes.

I just completed my ABMA Diploma 1 (Clearing & Forwarding, Cargo Storage, Warehousing, Customs Declaration, Dissertation and Office Practice). God willing, I hope to do 2 and Advanced 3 in 2007 or later, because it's expensive. College life takes much of my time, studying, doing assignments and researching from different Companies. The weekend is one thing I looked forward to after a busy week, coming back to our Christian (Christ-like) life. I hope we will all be able to do more in reaching out to the world with the Gospel message. We only need to pray for strength from God, unite in what we ought to do and do it with dedication. I pray that we may have more fun in what we ought to do and just enjoy being Christians. Jesus Christ was a strong, dedicated kind of person and I feel his followers should try to be like him.

*Sis. Bervelyn Tembo*

### **MAZABUKA**

It was uplifting to hear from you. I was happy to read news of different Brethren around the world in Gospel News, as we are all members of the same body of Christ. Let me tell you a little about myself. I am an orphan and live with two lovely sisters who I share my life with. I joined the Christadelphian community on 26th March 2006 by full immersion in water. I have found the love and care of Christ in the Christadelphian faith. Since the day I was baptised I have been an active member of the ecclesia. I also serve as Secretary of Mazabuka ecclesia. My tutor is a German Brother based in Wirral, UK, named Bro Gunter Rudolph. He is a good tutor and very caring to me and I love him so much. He gives me advice for this life and peace of mind, and I know the love of God whenever he writes to me. If you have other books like Legalism v. Faith, Christian Marriage, Where there is no Doctor, and Calendars I would appreciate them. I long to see Jesus soon and when he comes, he will bring only the good news for all who believe in him.

*Bro. Gideon Hankomone*

### **MUFULIRA**

I last wrote to you when I was a student requesting Bible Basics. Now I'm very happy to inform you that I am a baptised Brother. Enclosed is a photo of my baptism. I'm glad that my name is now included on the Gospel News list. May our gracious Father be with you as we keep on praying for the wonderful work you are doing in His service. Will you please send my name and address to the producers of Logos magazine, as I wish to receive this magazine if possible.

*Bro. Gibson Mulenga*

I am very glad to say to everybody that Sister Sandra Chabala and I Brother Geoffrey Chabala both of Mufulira ecclesia, were married on 5th November 2006 and would like to extend our appreciation to the Brethren and Sisters in the truth across the world for the spiritual and material support during our wedding ceremony. It was an awesome experience, marvellous to all who attended and inspiring to all fellow youths who are contemplating doing the same. We would like to encourage all the youth to set perimeters for partners within our faith. This is the foundation of the good life one can ever think of because it typifies the special relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His people, which is the ecclesia.

*Bro. Geoffrey Chabala*



*Baptism of Bro. Gibson Mulenga, Bro. Kombe Dennis on his right and Bro. Joseph Lumuna to his left.*

### **MUSHOTA**

Thank you for your letter and contents, may you continue to help us in this way. We are well, Brother John Mwewa (the blind Brother), myself and all students. Please continue to send me Gospel News. Pass my warm greetings to your ecclesia please, and to Bro. John Palmer my Tutor. Please pray for my wife who is waiting for baptism.

*Bro Titus Mwansa*



*Bro. Titus' wife and children, Titus (Jr.) and Webster Kabwe Mwansa*



*Titus Mwansa Jr their first born gift of God*

### **NDOLA**

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the Test answers for student Reuben Kubama. Reuben has given very impressive answers to all the questions. In my view he is a suitable candidate for baptismal interview if he wants to put on the Saving Name of our Lord. I have written to him so that he attends one of our Sunday meetings in order to discuss further issues pertaining to his Bible course and, if possible, plan the way forward.

Thank you very much for enclosing notes on Circumcision, Resurrection and Judgement, PDE., GPL and Are You in the right Church? which contain important up-to-date spiritual materials.

*Bro. Dennis C. Kombe*

I am always happy to read the Gospel News and I am encouraged with the articles from Brothers and Sisters. Please do not weary of supporting the magazine – it is very pleasing to read different ideas and messages of encouragement to spiritual growth. I like reading the books, but with my eye problem it is made difficult: I hope you received my prescription for reading glasses and will be able to help me. With this letter I enclose a photo of myself with Bro. James Mwanza. I pray that the Lord will be with you all as we await the coming Kingdom. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

*Bro. Harris N. Mulongesha*



*Bro. Harris Mulongesha with Bro. James Mwanza (right)*

### **TOUR OF NORTH WEST**

First and foremost, many thanks to our Linkman Bro. David Nicholls for calling and remembering me to be part of this tour in the Province. I joined them in Solwezi on the Monday afternoon, and it was a very good day. There were so many students who attended the Bible meeting, where I found the President was our Linkman Bro. David and he was assisted by Bro Arnold Kunda of Lusaka ecclesia; Sister Lynda Nicholls was also there. I thank Bro. David for giving me the chance to translate from English Lunda Kikaonde and Luvale and am glad to say it went well. After two days we left for Kabompo district: on our way we had a stop-over at Mufumbwe to see a student for two hours. Thanks be to the Lord that it went well. After seeing our student we left for Kabompo and on arrival found Bro. Muhupu and other Brothers who welcomed us; the Bible Study there was well attended. We stayed in Kabompo for three days, then left for Zambezi district, where we stayed for two nights before leaving for Kabompo. Once more on our way back to Solwezi from Kabompo we stopped at Mufumbwe to see our student, who we were pleased to meet again. We then left for Solwezi, spent a night there and then left for the Copper Belt. In Mufulira we had a Bible Study presentation by Bro. Peter Osborne of Australia. I pray that the Lord God will be with them all, and if it is His will we shall meet them again later this year.

*Bro. Harris N. Mulongesha*

### **PEMBA**

It was so wonderful to hear from you about issues of the Middle East, sending Gospel News and other material. We really have to focus our attention on these problems around us, as they all show us how near the Lord is. We should believe that with these problems, whatever work is being done with regard to them will be repaid when that time comes, but this cannot happen overnight.

Most wonderful of all is that many are coming to understand and know the truth about these things. A harvest of men presses more on my mind, especially now with available literature, that we should share the good news with others. We are all being urged to be fishers of men as Peter was called, and I am sure God's power will be with His people – therefore let's all reach out.

The pre-school pilot project is doing fine, although we still have a pressing problem of a lack of learning/teaching materials. It is wonderful now at least 20 children are in uniforms, and I enclose a photo of them. We are now using this same room for ecclesial fellowship, Bible study and Sunday School, and CBM has now started paying rentals, which is much appreciated. Soon we hope to open a small ecclesial library.

*Bro. Wilfred Chibomba*



*Bro. Wilfred with the pre-school class*

I was very happy to hear that you have already printed up to part seven of the Tonga translation of 'Introducing Bible Basics'; not only that, but also to hear that you have already mailed some finished, printed material which I hope to receive shortly. Surely the signs and events recorded in Micah 7:15 and the Gospel of Luke 21:32 remind us of the hope we have for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to restore peace and joy in this world. We praise the Lord that we have had heavy rain, and if this continues, we may expect a good harvest. There is sad news that in other parts of Zambia - Western, Northern and Eastern Provinces - they experienced crop damage caused by flooding.

Regarding the guide to the CBM (UK) Welfare Fund for Brothers and Sisters in time of need, it is now very good that the CBM has made things clear to everyone, especially those who live in poor countries like Africa. Some requests were unfortunately not genuine. Here I wish to comment on a few things. We have to consider the Brothers and Sisters who are currently still in isolation and in small ecclesias, for, as you know, most of the countries in Africa are still trying to develop. So for one to live a better life you need to be able to join with groups working together in order to have access to a Project Income Generating Fund to have help from lending Institutions. Without the ability to do that I am afraid the Brothers and Sisters in small ecclesias and in isolation areas may continue to live a miserable life.

*Bro. Joseph Mulawo*

### **SLAMU**

I am one of the baptised members of the Christadelphians who was baptised in Chipata in 1995 by Bro. Graham Mitchell. Of late I have been moving too much, but now I am stationed in Petanke. I therefore wish to inform you that all correspondence to me should be sent to my current address (Zambia Wildlife Authority, SlamU, Petanke Sector, Box 560300, Petanke, Zambia.)

*Bro. Davis Mwanza*

### **news from zimbabwe**

#### **CHEGUTU**

Thank you very much for sending me Gospel News and calendars. Thanks again for publishing my article; I hope it will go a long way in showing others the way to the Truth. I was wondering if you could please send me some material for a Sisters' Class. As an elder Sister I am willing to teach my younger Sisters. I hope we will get something. We look forward to the coming of our Lord as we spread the word.

*Sis Hlezipi Phiri*

Thank you for your letter which came just after I had been having discussions on the Middle East with my cousin Reuben. Right now in Zimbabwe we have not received enough rainfall in all districts and the plants that we planted at the start of the rain season are wilting. This is the result of global warming.

Thank you very much for the book 'Miracles' and the literature that you sent. Could you, if possible, literature on Jehovah's Witnesses. We keep strong as we look forward to the coming of the Lord.

*Richard Phiri*

I would like to let you know that I have been meeting with Harare Ecclesia, but I'm no longer staying in Harare, I have moved. I am now in Darwandale Area in farms. I have a small plot where

I am staying. So I'm in isolation but sometimes I visit Chegutu where I meet some Brethren and I have fellowship with them.

Please, if it is possible, could you send me some pamphlets to distribute in my area as I share the word of God, and a Bible with simple English. In my area, there are those who call themselves like the apostles and wear white garments. They are faith healers, and many people go to them because of the miracles they claim to perform. They don't read the Bible. They say they have the Holy Spirit which guides them to speak the word and they are strong on keeping the ten commandments. They do not teach what Jesus and the apostles taught, so they do not know the truth in God's word.

I shall be glad if you will send me what I have mentioned above and a Shona Bible Basics, it will be helpful for me to teach some about the truth, as we may read the Bible with them and know what God has said for us in His Son Jesus. Then God may let them see the light of truth shining upon them, so that they can move out of the darkness.

*Bro Reuben Chokufanacho*

### **CHINHOYI**

So You Have Decided to quit Christadelphian Beliefs Because:-

a) You are too isolated.

You are responsible for breaking that isolation through study groups and preaching in your locality.

b) The majority of your relatives are non-Christadelphian.

The truth shall set you free despite your loneliness. Narrow is the gate (Matthew 7:13,14).

c) You have been enticed in secret polygamy.

A man shall leave his parents (and so shall the woman), and the two shall be one. God in the beginning created Adam then his wife Eve- Monogamy unwaveringly encouraged (Matthew 19:4,5).

d) You are orphaned, diseased, neglected or less privileged.

Call upon the Lord's name day in, day out. He will console you. The biblical Lazarus ate crumbs from the rich man's table but was a God-fearing man and severely less privileged. Be the Lazarus of today (Luke 16:19 onwards).

e) Your term of office expired in the running of your local ecclesia.

Be part and parcel of God's ecclesia always; the earthly life is both educational and temporary.

f) Non-Christians appear to be more blessed than Christians. They own cars, big businesses and lead luxurious lives.

Unless the prosperous non-Christians repent, they are having their short-lived share of wealth in this corrupt age. In God's Kingdom, their earthly riches will vanish away in their destruction (Matthew 6:19-21).

g) I would like to bribe to become rich. If one bribes, he/she is fooling earthly men. God can never be fooled. The wages of bribes are always disastrous (Exodus 23:8; Deuteronomy 27:25).

h) The wait for the coming Messiah has been too long.

The date of the coming of the Lord is known by God only. The time frame of God is 1,000 years for one day – which implies that the coming of Jesus is not far. Reading the signs of the time in Matthew 24 is yet another indicator of his nearness. Belief, perseverance and a contrite heart lead one to the most valuable gift of eternal life.

i) You have toiled in past years and not seen prosperity; prayed now and then for God's intervention but to no avail.

God knows our situation and lets everything run normally for a purpose. The Creator always

answers. Our problem is that we tend to force our way. The Almighty can never be a slave to our requests. YES, WAIT, NOW are His decisive answers portraying His wisdom.

*Bro Innocent Kuvita*

### **CHIPINGE**

Our effort with the student Bible Classes in Mozambique is now yielding results as we are celebrating yet another baptism, Bro Hebert Mahala of Mossurize district (Espungabera), into the saving Name of our Lord Jesus Christ after giving a good confession of faith. The baptism took place in the Tanganda River, Zimbabwe, and was witnessed by the Chipinge district ecclesia including two of his relatives who travelled with him from Mozambique and there were also other Bible students present.

We also want to thank our heavenly Father for giving us good rains and we are looking forward to a good harvest.

*Bro Moses Dhlakama*

With God's love the gospel preaching in Espungabera-Mozambique- is raising much interest. This is encouraged by Brethren Moses and Admire who are frequently visiting them from Zimbabwe. We do many activities like Bible readings and attention to the Bible correspondence course students. The book, 'Speaking About Jesus' is well received by many of them. I hope, God willing, we will achieve a good harvest in God's name.

*Bro Arone Muchanga*

"His wife said to him, "You are still as faithful as ever, aren't you? Why don't you curse God and die?" Job answered, "You are talking nonsense! When God sends us something good we welcome it. How then can we complain when he sends us trouble?" In spite of everything he suffered, Job said nothing against God (Job 2:9,10).

Job was a man of great faith and patience who lived a life of righteousness and near perfection. He loved and feared God and shunned evil. He was subjected to trouble and tragedy in the most severe and lasting forms, yet at no time did he waver in his belief in the goodness of God. However well-meaning they had been, Job's friends did little to assist him in his time of trial while his wife did everything she could to provoke him into turning aside from God. But Job's faith was rock-solid and was eventually rewarded by God.

There are those moments in life when we are tested; when events take place that test our faith in God. At times like these the mind is often filled with doubts and can even begin to doubt the very existence of God – let alone His love. Always remember that the living Christ laid down his life to establish his love for you and that nothing in all the world can take that love away. Cling to that hope and put your trust always in God.

*Chionisa Sainah*

### **CHISAPE**

We were saddened by the death of our Sister Joyce Seremwe on 4th January 2007. She was ill for a long time but she was always present at the Memorial Service every Sunday we met, a good example to us all. Now she sleeps in the hope of our Master.

Concerning the keeping of rabbits, I would like to tell you that I have just finished making hutches and bought two rabbits last year. They bred four last year so they were six. Unexpectedly, two fell down from a hole in a fence one night; one was badly injured by

neighbour's dogs and I missed one. I have made up the hole in the fence. I hope more rabbits will be bred soon. I am requesting any information on rabbit keeping.

Thanks for 'Wrested Scriptures', Bible Views on the News, Middle East Update and some leaflets to distribute. The free Dictionary/Thesaurus is so good. I needed it to understand the English language; some I can read but I don't understand well.

The devil is not a supernatural being, but the evil principle in human nature, apostolically styled, 'sin in the flesh'. The two men, a publican and a Pharisee both went to the temple to worship, (Luke 18:10-14) but God did not accept the self-righteous Pharisee, instructing us that we should be extremely careful before we pass any harsh judgement upon the actions of other people. Such self-righteous condemnation is still to people who profess religion and our own community is not free from such thinking. When someone has been responsible for grievous sin in the ecclesia, he or she is often immediately disfellowshipped, rather than sat down with at a meal to feed them with our love and concern for their recovery.

Too often, removing someone from fellowship is done to purge the ecclesial attendance roll rather than to serve as a means of recovery. The person disfellowshipped is often thereafter ignored: case closed as far as we are concerned! Yet this is not at all the tenor of what our Lord Jesus is teaching in this case. The miracle of healing of the flesh is coupled with a wonderful lesson on the way to heal the flesh and spirit. "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice; for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:12-13). That marvellous way of healing spiritual illness is with the medicine of mercy. While offering it graciously and generously it is often contrary to the human mind, nevertheless it is the mind of Christ, Son of God.

*Bro Stanford Kuuzha*

### **CHISHUMBA**

The books you sent are proving very useful and are circulating among the brothers and sisters of Chishumba Ecclesia. More are needed if available. Mostly needed are (1) Christendom Astray, (2) The Christadelphians: Who They Are and What They Believe and Preach. I would be glad and thankful if I, on behalf of the brothers, can have these books.

*Bro Norman and Sis Grace Kamutikaoma*

### **CHISHUMBA**

I am thrilled by the feeling of having an unfailing friend – a friend who never leaves me when I am desperate, surrounded by opposition. He comes to rescue me. I know most believers have gone through some hard, trying times before or after baptism. God, an unfailing Friend comes in to lift you up. He gives you and me courage and He whispers, 'Take courage'. He gives you what to say and never leaves you alone. This is what happened to Peter when Herod killed James, brother of John (Acts 12:2-7).

James was killed by Herod, so the next was Peter. He was arrested and guards were paid to have Peter under close watch. God is universally powerful; the angel of the Lord came into the prison where Peter was. Chains that tied Peter dropped off while the guards were put into a deep sleep. Peter was rescued by God's hand to go on preaching His word.

In Jesus' teachings, he did what he taught his followers. In our preaching, are we examples to people, or are we just persuasive talkers? Yes, we may be crowd-pullers without following what we teach. Let's practice what the Bible tells us to teach, and do not use our God-given talents

(oratory) for personal gain. Jonah tried to run away from God's directions. Do God's work, for He called you to do it.

*Bro Steven Tedza*

### **HARARE**

To all Brothers and Sisters worldwide who have made an oath through baptism that they will serve God until the coming of Christ, I say to you have patience when suffering under the gods of this world. The Kingdom of the God of peace, love and patience is near. Our experience comes when we see and hear the problems being experienced by other people, such as wars, hunger, brother against brother, etc. These are foretold in Matt 24:6-14.

When we hear of these wars today do we turn away from the faith? Do we betray and hate each other? Do we let deceivers deceive us? If we do, we are false prophets. A true prophet understands that all these happenings are the beginning of birth pangs (Matt 24:8).

Now, who can name the many churches of this world? Who can number them? Amongst them only one teaches the real true Bible teaching. Others we can say are deceivers since they preach the opposite to what Jesus told us (Matt 24:4,5).

We are living in a world of trouble, so let us live with hope that one day we will wake up seeing Christ. Because of the increase of wickedness the love of many will grow cold. Are we letting our love of Christ grow cold? Bros/Sis, let us say a big 'NO'. For we are told, "He who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Mat 24:12,13). All that is needed, is patience, love and experience from our daily readings. Let us pray that those in hospital may be healed, and we wait for the Peacemaker to come soon.

*Bro Israel Mutunduwe*

### **KADOMA**

This is to confirm that the book, 'Where Women Have No Doctor' arrived safely and the Bible reading calendars. Many thanks again for listening, Brother, and for lending a hand. On calendars, I meant the wall calendars although the reading ones are very useful and were most welcome. I am currently making efforts to reach out to as many contacts as I can and this is being aided by my current position of working with the public as I also attend to customers in direct contact and on the phone. So any material you have which might help this cause will be greatly appreciated.

*Bro Itai Tembo*

### **KARIBA**

Many thanks for the magazines you sent to me and indeed they are of general interest to the Kariba ecclesia. I read about the free Dictionary/Thesaurus in Gospel News. It is in my interest to have one since it will help us a lot in improving our English as an ecclesia. Lastly, I pray for your wonderful work for the world as a whole.

*Bro Witness Majeche*

### **MUTARE**

Righteousness is necessary to attain the Kingdom of God, and it is by that that we are saved (Ezekiel 14:20). It is the opposite of wickedness which God hates. However, He loves righteousness (Psalms 45:7; Acts 17:31). He will judge the world with it (Psalms 96:13) and uses its qualities in judging. All those who know Him will be judged accordingly (Rom 14:10, 2 Cor 5:10). God rewards according to how fully we live out the qualities of righteousness in our lives (Psalms 18:20,21). If we do strive to be righteous, we should expect to be persecuted or put

under trial in some way (Matt 5:10). Righteousness comes through faith. It needs to be sought by faith, not by works of the law (Rom 9:31,32). Without it, everything is sin (Roms 6:20).

Jesus Christ's words to his disciples in Luke 5:10, "from henceforth thou shalt catch men", should not be lost on us today. As followers of our Lord and the apostles, are we prepared to endure what they did whilst spreading the word of life to those about them?

Read in Matt 4:18,19 what Peter and Andrew were to become. They were instructed that all followers of Christ must be fishers of men.

But what do we know about fishing? Often there is a lot of effort with little result. We can increase our success in fishing by making sure that we choose the right bait, the right fishing spot, the right tide, the right weather conditions and the right time of day – all of which also applies to the preaching of the Truth to others. Greater success can be obtained by going about the gospel proclamation in the right way and saying the right thing at the right time.

But fish, like men, might be caught at any time, as both are unpredictable! Therefore we also need to: (1) Be constant, (2) Present the bait properly (see 1 Peter 3:15) and (3) Use different types of bait, for not all fish are attracted by prawns, some like squid etc.

In case you think that to present the truth we must go out and be involved in the things of the world to show them what we have to offer, we are told not to do this! When Jesus went to teach the people, he got into a ship and thrust out a little from the land. Whilst maintaining a distance from earthly ways, we are to draw men and women out from the world to higher standards – to show them by example in the way we act and live, that God's ways are higher than man's. From time to time we have all types of men and women (or unusual fish) come into the gospel net, and we might wonder why those with a rather shabby or weird appearance turn up at our lecture. We must remember that the power of God's word is able to change a person's life and appearance, and it is not what people were that God considers important, but what they will be. So let us spread the word of God and be the example ourselves.

*Bro Gilbert Tevere*

### **MUTEMA**

I am now working in the Department of Veterinary Service as a Dip Attendant. This is a relatively lowly paid job. I must study further for my salary to be up-graded. I started working on 2nd January 2007. It is about 300m from home to the workplace. I have enough time to do ecclesial activities. I thank God very much for this employment opportunity. I've been unemployed permanently since 1996, when I left school. God has done miracles for me this year. Thank you. Please help me to thank God in your prayers. May God continue sending these blessings upon me, though I am unclean before Him.

*Bro Patrick Manduringa*

### **RIMBI**

Have any of us asked yourselves this question: Why should God keep you alive longer than today? Do you remember what Hezekiah did when he prayed to God after being told he would die? "O Lord, remember how I have walked before you faithfully" (2 Kings 20:2,3). The house must be built upon a rock, such as the guidelines, "He whose walk is blameless and who does what is blameless" (Psalm 15:2). Walking in the word involves the activity of the whole body, from head to toe, uprightly and spiritually (Psalm 1:1). We must walk according to God like Enoch and Noah (Genesis 5:22; 6:9). Walking with God means that followers of Christ have to be perfect, continually doing what is good in the eyes of God; "he speaks the truth from his

heart” (Psalm 15:3). All that we do must be good in the eyes of both God and man. God knows what is in the heart. We must market ourselves to the world showing that we are the followers of God, and we must preach all the time (2 Timothy 4:2). We must not find out other people’s faults or weaknesses (Romans 14:10). It is easy to sin and James tells us that the tongue is a deadly poison, so let us not offend in this way (James 3:8-10).

*Bro Dzingai Sumburera*

## **News from Europe / Eurasia**

### **news from belarus**

#### **BARANOVICHI**

I have had many problems lately and also Br Maksim has been ill quite badly. My mobile phone and other things were stolen so it has been hard for me to be in contact as I like to be. We continue to preach here and some are deeply interested!

*Sis. Larisa*



*Photo: Sis. Larisa with a quilt sent from sisters in Australia*

As I meet more and more Brothers and Sisters and see the impact the Truth has had upon their lives, I realize what a colossal labour you have done. For me and for others, for now we have hope, whereas we did not previously.

*Bro. Leonid*

#### **ORSHA**

I am having good discussions with my grandson about Jesus. Here as it is now Summer we are so busy in the fields, but always I am thinking of you and above all of God and the Kingdom.

*Sis. Nina*



*Photo: Sis. Nina milking her cow early one morning*

#### **VITEBSK Obl.**

My brother and I have not been well recently, as you know we are invalids of Chernobyl. Now it is

hard for us to change our shoes as our feet swell. We really appreciate the wheelchairs and all help given, but if it would at all be possible to get an electric wheelchair we would be simply so appreciative. We read the Bible each day, our only hope is the return of Jesus and we pray for this each day and look at the news on the TV always hoping to see signs of it.

*Bro. Valerij*

### news from kazakhstan

#### **ALMA ATA**

Hearing and reading from others of how wonderful are your Bible Schools, I would so love to come, but I know my health won't allow me. I appreciate deeply your prayers and the parcels of clothes and food received this Winter.

*Sis. Lena*

#### **ASTANA**

I so enjoyed the last edition of our *Zvezda* magazine! It is good to have our own magazine in Russian. I was sorry not to come to the Bible School but I hope brother Duncan can get to see us here.

*Sis. Elena*

#### **KOKSHETAU**

It was really a very wonderful Bible School in Poltava and I returned here with so much strength not only from the lectures but from the meetings with the brothers and sisters. I so appreciate all financial efforts made to enable us to gather like this.

*Sis. Svetlana B.*

Sister Regina and I have been so ill lately, we were in one and the same hospital at the same time so we read together and encouraged each other in our hope. Brother Sergej is also in hospital. I am so glad I came to the Bible School. I remember the words spoken and I dwell on them. I am reading Duncan's book "A world waiting to be won" at the moment and people around me. I stand with you all.

*Sis. Elvira*



*Photo: Sister Elvira at Bible School*

I was so blessed to be able to attend that amazing Bible School, it was as if during those days we were somehow in another world, where we could concentrate only on God, just as we will for ever in the Kingdom. Thank you so so much that I could come.

*Sis. Marija*



*Photo: Sis. Marija [centre] at Bible School*

### **news from latvia**

*We're delighted to report the baptisms of KRISTAPS, ANDREJ, STANISLAVA, VALENTINA and BRONISLAVA. They were baptized during the visit of Br. Phil & Sis. Miriam Worsnop from New Zealand. May the Lord keep them in His way.*

#### **AIZKRAUKLE**

I am writing this very early in the morning because it is the only time I have any peace with which to write to you. I want to thank you for the food and other help given, I feel very awkward and inadequate before you all, only hoping I shall remain firm in faith until Jesus comes.

*Sis. Irena*

#### **DAUGAVPILS**

I continue reading the Bible each day, I find I have good days and bad days in my walk before God, but I can say that each and every day, I find strength in prayer.

*Bro. Ruslan*

#### **MADONA**

I am now on a course with my new job and I hate the way it takes my time, when I have so many lovely Christadelphian books to read and study. I am so glad that Sister Nina has been helped to rebuild her farm, well done!

*Sis. Sarmite*

#### **PILTENE**

I have been moved to tears by the help received. I hope for better times. God does not keep us from life's storms, He walks with us through them.

*Sis. Olga*

#### **TUKUMS**

I was so delighted to be at the Bible weekend. At the moment I am working 15 hour shifts so it is a very stressful time for me, and having those days off gave me great strength.

*Sis. Vaira*

### **news from russia**

*We're delighted to report the baptisms of ANVAR and VENERA in Tatarstan. May the Lord guide them towards His Kingdom.*

#### **EFREMOV**

I am still under such strong impression from the absolutely wonderful fellowship which I enjoyed at the Bible School! The atmosphere was just so spiritual and we all felt as members of

the same family. I remain in touch with Bro. Boris and also Sis. Lena, I feel to them as my true brother and sister in this new family God has created.

*Bro. Oleg*



*Photo: Bro. Oleg giving a 'from the heart' presentation at the recent Bible School*

### **IZHEVSK**

My brief message this time is that I am longing more than ever for the return of Jesus Christ to earth. May God bless you all. I enclose a list of my relatives who would like to receive *Bible Basics*.

*Bro. Ivan*

### **KAZAN**

Despite all problems, and old age as well, I take much comfort from our sisters here, from phone calls from brothers like Duncan and Oleg,. Please pray for me about my operation. I thank God for all and in all situations.

*Sis. Ludmila K.*

### **KIZIL**

I really so enjoy reading news of the brothers and sisters. It was such a shame that I couldn't come to the Bible School, I so wanted to but the distance is far. I enjoyed reading of the baptism of that Russians in Israel, I find this simply wonderful, and I want you to know the news of you all encourages me in my lonely life here.

*Sis. Oksana*

### **MUSLYUMOVO**

As you know I live amidst Moslems, and it makes me feel very deeply that truly I am with Christ. I have to say, I suffer at times from them, and I find it hard to forgive them, and I only pray for more grace to forgive those who do not repent.

*Bro. Mikhail*

### **RZHEV**

I am glad to hear of the growth of our ecclesias with more baptisms going on, and the successful Bible School. May God be with you all!

*Bro. Sasha*

### **SHCHYOKINO**

As you know I have no relatives apart from my dear sister Sofia, I think often of how she is in Ukraine, and worry for her. I am hoping that God willing I will be able to make a visit to her. I wish to record my gratitude to Brother Oleg Grudzinsky who faithfully visits me. I so enjoy the breaking of bread together with him. We discuss you all and what is going on and know we can play our part by praying for you. My heart is so ill, I fear each day will be my last sometimes, please pray for me as I face death alone.

*Bro. Boris*



*Photo: Brother Boris walking with his beloved sister (in the flesh and in the Lord), Sofia*

### **ST. PETERBURG**

I recently received 8 kg. of Christadelphian literature from Brother Marcus and I am so grateful! I read a lot and I feel so much opening up to my understanding.

*Bro. Valerij*

### **TYMSK**

Here in northern Siberia the soil has now unfrozen enough for us to dig it, and we plant in hope of a harvest. It is as we are doing with our children, we make the Bible readings with them each day and they do really love these times. I give thanks to God for such great blessing His word has brought my family.

*Bro. Ivan*

### **VOLGOGRAD**

I am eager for more copies of the course about *Speaking About Jesus*, I am finding people here interested in this. I ask for your prayers for my university course. My wife and I commit all our ways to the Lord.

*Bro. Sergej*

### **news from serbia**

#### **BELGRADE**

I enjoy reading the Russian magazine *Zvezda* and am writing an article for it. I am trying to persuade some websites here to publish my translation of the Russian Christadelphian books which I have made into Serbian.

*Bro. Vladislav*

### **news from sweden**

*We're delighted to report the beginning of activity here, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Our sympathy is with sister Dilbara and Brother Alek in the loss of their father in Uzbekistan.*

### **news from ukraine**

#### **KHARKOV**

I am so glad when I remember how we met at Tuchkovo and you baptized me. I want to thank you for your great work in labouring to bring people to God. I also want to thank you for your help in saving me from cataracts. In March I had the operation as planned. Straight afterwards my

distance vision became much better. After 2 months I will be able to wear glasses to help me with my close up vision (reading and writing). Now I am still taking medicine for that eye. I can now read the Scriptures again!

*Bro. Anton*



*Photos: Brother Anton reading with difficulty at the January Bible School; and explaining his sight problem to Sis. Cindy*

### **KIEV**

I have prepared disks with recordings of the Bible School talks, in MP3 and WMA format. They are available for those who wish them!

*Bro. Peter*

### **POLTAVA**

I have thought much about the words of the brother from Australia who spoke at the Poltava Bible School, those words have been my food so often since then. It was truly an encouraging time there.

*Sis. Veronika*

I have been thinking about the fact that one day, the last person will be baptized, and then Jesus will come. I really think this is so, and so we must all try to preach the harder.

*Bro. Vladimir*

We here are very happy with the *Zvezda* Russian magazine and I have written an article for it. We are sorry to tell you of the deathly illness of our dear sister Ludmila Shtofel who all the same has the hope of the resurrection.

*Bro. Gennady & Sis. Ludmila*

### **News from the Americas**

#### **news from guyana**

I enjoyed the March edition of Gospel News with the delightful news of a free dictionary which I would like please, I have a Thesaurus. Circumcision must always be done under the most hygienic conditions; a pity it was done in the open air with cotton wool on the ground. We pray for the return of the Master, when misguided beliefs and practices will be put where they ought to be. The Sisters' effort to help themselves is excellent – my congratulations to them as reported in the last Gospel News.

*Sis. Enid D'Anjou*

## News from Asia

### news from china

*We're happy to report the baptisms of LI and CHEN and rejoice in the great spread of the Gospel in China.*

### news from nepal

*We're delighted to report the baptism of SANTOSH, a result of the internet outreach of Carelinks.*



*Photo: Brother Santosh re-living how some years ago he began reading a New Testament starting at Matthew chapter 1, and read a few pages each day until he had read through.*

### news from philippines

*We're very happy to report the baptisms of LOVIGIE and IAN as a result of the visit of Brothers Steve Jones and Mark Gilbert to Mindanao. May their work there be blessed further.*

#### **BUGALLON**

The copies of Bible Basics and Gospel News that we continue to receive does not only truly enlighten us in the Truth but have become our especial spiritual mentors. They also greatly widen our atmosphere of knowledge and recognition of how the Word of God dramatically worked in the lives of men and women designed for the Age to come. They add grandeur to our ecclesial library. The Bugallon First Christadelphian Ecclesia celebrated, on 8th September 2005, their 20th Foundation Anniversary. Bro. Sergio A. Bumadilla and his family were the first converts. The joyous occasion was attended by about 70 Brethren, Sisters and Sunday School pupils. The speakers dealt on Christ's Second Coming and the Day of Judgment. We all enjoyed this memorable event.

*Bro. Sergio A. Bumadilla*



*The Gemino Family*

## The Sinfulness of Man

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **RULES FOR CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS.**

The rebukes for Christ's followers embrace all aspects of life: the mutual relationships of husband and wife; of master and servant; of fathers and children (Eph 5:24-6:9). The duty of love to fellow man is one unsettled debt: but the love of neighbour springs out of love of God which is begotten in response to God's love in Christ (Rom 13:8).

*John Carter*

*Bro Emmanuel Maugente (Magunje, Zimbabwe)*

## **South West Cameroon Bible School 26 to 28 January 2007**

Theme: Abraham Father of the Faithful.

Brethren and Sisters in Cameroon, attended a three days Bible school at Limbe. The school began with a word of prayer, praying God to forgive the seed of faithful Abraham who have repented of their sins, through Christ, and have chosen to follow the footprints Father Abraham. Over 135 of us were schooled about Abraham, father of the faithful.

The Sessions

1 Abraham called to faith 5 Walking in the steps of faithful

2 Abraham believed in the Lord Abraham

3 The promise of Isaac 6 Coming out of Ur

4 Sacrifice of Isaac 7 Remaining separate in the Lord

The UK brethren urged us to uphold the examples of Abraham and try to flee temptation, unfaithfulness, drunkenness, idolatry, adultery, discord amongst one another and much other sinful behaviour that will deprive us of a place in the Kingdom.

Ur was a civilised city and had a Ziggurat to the moon god and many idols which the family of Abraham worshiped. When God asked Abraham to leave the comfort of the city, it was going to be a journey of faith, and he trusted in God to be his leader, not knowing where he was to go. The most essential thing was to separate himself from his family since they worshiped false gods. Ziggurats are huge mountain - like buildings made of bricks which seemed to reach up to heaven, see Gen 11: 2-4

There was a question-and-answer session; health matters; Sunday School teaching skills; how to do Bible study and elders and Sisters workshop, all handled by the UK visitors, as well as a Bible quiz.

It is always said that when one has repented and is baptised, the Angels rejoice. All were encouraged by the fraternal meeting to remain faithful and give glory to the Lord.



*Rejoicing after the six baptisms from the Cameroon Blind and Handicapped School at Mbengwi during the visit of Martyn, Muriel and Tracy East.*

*Bro Umarou M Samuel (Limbe Ecclesia)*

## **Refugee Matters - Update on Bro Abedi and Family**

I had the pleasure of visiting Abedi, our refugee Brother, and his family during a visit to Guyana, South America.

He and family are comfortably accommodated in the village of Kilcoy in their own home, which has a fair sized vegetable garden attached to it, and an area for poultry rearing. They are able to sustain themselves with the produce of their garden, in addition to selling some to the people around them. Bro Abedi's two eldest daughters, Rose and Dianne were baptized some months

ago and assist with the Sunday School. They, along with the younger ones, are reportedly doing very well at school, much to the relief and satisfaction of Abedi.

Their meeting hosted the country's 36th annual Easter week-end Bible School, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all who went, including visiting Brethren from the USA and Canada. The family was very involved in the preparation and activities, and from all appearances thoroughly enjoyed it. Discussing this with his youngest daughter, about seven years old, she disclosed that he wished the school could go on until December!

A week later in the Georgetown ecclesia, on the occasion of the celebration of the 100th birthday of our beloved Sister Amy Washington, Abedi paid a very stirring tribute to this sister on behalf of the ecclesia in Kilcoy.

At my request, Abedi revealed some of the experiences of his life as a refugee, an extract of which, with his permission, I propose to share with Brethren and Sisters in order to provide some awareness of the suffering of our Brethren in the refugee camps.

*Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)*

### **The Power of the Gospel**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” (Rom. 1:16-17. Hab. 2:4)

This good news is about the Lord Jesus Christ and God’s purpose in him. Where believed, it is a good news message with power. Its power is in the content of this message that reveals the righteousness of God. This power inspires those who believe to actually begin to live the grace and truth that is the righteousness of God.

The Lord Jesus is the fullness, the perfect expression, of his Father’s grace and truth (John 1:14-17). This is truth in the larger sense of God’s character, His faithfulness to His word of promise, and His always being true to Who He is. In His grace and truth revealed in His Son, He condemns our sin, and yet forgives and empowers us who believe in His Son to begin to overcome our sin.

In his letters to the Galatians and to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul stresses the power of his inspired message about Christ and his cross. “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God . . .and the wisdom of God.” (I Cor. 1:17-31)

“Not with wisdom of words” should cause us to pause and ponder about our own preaching. Do we rely solely on rational argument and on our correct explanations of the Bible in contrast to error? Do we thus rob our teaching of the gospel of Christ of the power to change the hearts of our hearers and empower them to live for him? To avoid that, Paul says, “I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (I Cor. 2:1-5). He sums up the essence of his Christ-centred message and its power, saying, “But we have the mind of Christ” (I Cor 2:16).

That the Apostle Paul expected the power of this message of the cross of Christ to change the lives of disciples is seen in his reproofs and warning in I Cor.4. These enthusiastic, but inexperienced disciples, all of them baptized within the previous three years, were glorying in themselves - in the diverse gifts of the holy spirit given to them and in their knowledge. They were puffed up (like strutting roosters) against each other (4:6-7; 5:2. 8:1). "I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power", Paul writes, "for the kingdom of God is not in word but in power (I Cor. 4:18-19).

These striking words about the kingdom of God describe the moral power of the word of the kingdom and of its king. They remind us of the words of the Apostle in writing to the Romans on the controversy about eating meat from the market that had been dedicated to idols, "for the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the holy spirit" (Romans 14:17).

Paul's words to the Corinthians about the kingdom of God have a similar meaning. When he came to Corinth again, Paul wanted to see, not how much they knew, nor how much more knowledgeable and gifted with spirit powers some were than others He wanted to see expressed and clearly evident in their attitude, words and deeds the power of the gospel. The purpose of the revelation of the grace of God that brings salvation, Paul tells Titus (and us), is to train us to live righteously in the present age, and to purify for Jesus Christ a people of his own, zealous for good works (Titus 2:11-14).

The Lord Jesus and his apostles clearly are confident that the gospel that they preached has the power to break the complete hold that sin (our pride and passions) has on us. As the Lord Jesus says, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32).

The chief of sinners, the Apostle Paul, who acknowledged that he was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent (violently arrogant) man, speaks humbly of the mercy he obtained. "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 1:12-16). In Paul, Jesus Christ was showing his perfect patience as a pattern to those who believe on him for everlasting life.

The power of Jesus Christ's grace and love toward him profoundly changed the Apostle Paul's thinking and behavior. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). To Paul, the Lord's loving giving of himself was done for him personally, as well as being the pattern of his patient loving of all those who believed in him.

Again, Paul writes, "For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ constrains us, because we judge thus; that if one died for all then all died; and he died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again" (II Cor. 5:13-15). The "word of His grace", as Paul called the gospel he preached, has constraining power to move us to live for our Lord Jesus Christ. This word alone has the power to free us from our slavery to sin.

Everywhere--in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and in the Americas, men and women live in slavery to sin. Many people in those huge continents live under the illusion that they are free or that they can be given freedom to make decisions to do what they want to do. Yet, most people who have these precious freedoms are actually slaves to the desires of the flesh and the mind (Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7).

The reality of sin and man's slavery to it is all too evident in the great troubles that plague all peoples beyond any human remedy. The gospel of Christ alone can free people who respond to its message and choose to live under his rule from their hopeless bondage to sin. Only the future rule of the Lord Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God on earth will bring His righteousness and true peace to our wicked and violent world.

In Romans chs 3 and 4, the Apostle Paul shows how we are justified (counted righteous by God), as Abraham was, if we believe in His Son. God sent Christ Jesus to be, by his sacrifice, a mercy seat— a meeting place where we can find forgiveness of our sins from Him. For, in his conquering of sin, though tempted as we are, Jesus upheld God's just condemning of man's sin. In Jesus, God provides mercy, a basis for His forgiveness that is in harmony with His truth. Now, His forgiveness is extended to those who believe in Jesus (Heb. 2:24-18. Romans 3:21-30).

Forgiveness of our sin by God, the blessing experienced by David and Abraham on the basis of their faith (Rom 4), is meant to transform our hearts, minds, and lives. This blessing is for all families of the earth in Abraham's seed, the gospel preached to Abraham. (Gal.3:6-9)

The Apostle writes in Romans 5, that this blessing of forgiveness totally changes our relationship with God. Guilt and fear are gone. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and access to the power of His grace by our faith in His Son. Now we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, a hope giving meaning to our tribulations and power to endure and be trained by them.

These blessings of forgiveness and hope come from God showing His own love toward us in Christ's dying for us. Based on that love, we now have confidence that we shall be saved through his life (Romans 5:1-11). This lovely chapter goes on to show how much more powerful in its work in us is the grace of God in Jesus Christ than the wilfully sinful mind we all have inherited from Adam.

However, there is a real danger that we can take God's gracious gift to us in Christ for granted and just go on sinning, doing our own thing, relieved that we are now forgiven. We may still not really be living for our Lord. This the Apostle addresses powerfully in Romans 6:1-14.

Or, maybe we have changed a lot, but still are drawn to one favourite sin—worldly entertainment or gambling or liquor. 'This weakness', we may say, 'the Lord will surely forgive.' Paul shoots down this wrong, but attractive idea in Romans 6:15-23. Choosing to do a particular sin, strengthens the hold of sin on us. Our calling is to battle with every sin, with a constant, prayerful dependence on the Lord's grace and help.

"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set free from sin have become slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18). The huge difference between our former slavery to sin and our becoming slaves to righteousness is this: Slavery to sin is inherent in our nature and made stronger in us as we obey it. Slavery to righteousness is a process learned by the devotion of our hearts, minds, and lives to the Lord Jesus. Only in such devotion can sin's power in us gradually be overcome.

In Romans 7, the Apostle honestly describes his battle against sin in himself. We can all identify with that description. "Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord." Paul continues in ch 8, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit."

Paul's lovely words in Romans 8 emphasize our being in Christ Jesus, his spirit being in us, and our being led by the spirit. God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to put sin in the flesh to death. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the law (love of God and love of neighbour) might actually be fulfilled in us. He has destined us to be conformed to the image of His Son. As He delivered up His own Son for us all, "how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" "Yet in all these things (severe trials of our faith) we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." In this lies the power of the gospel.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Colossians about the "mystery" hidden from previous generations, but now made known to His saints. This mystery "is Christ in you, the hope of glory". "So, naturally we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:26-29). May we all grow into that maturity by daily and hourly tapping into the mighty power of the gospel of Christ so that it works in us.

Let us heed Peter's urging to add key, practical qualities to our faith so that we "may not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" and to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:2-8. 3:17-18).



*Happy Guyanan Sunday School scholars being brought up "with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice" (Eph 6:4 Living Bible Version).*

*Bro Robert Green (Canada)*

### **Could You Build An Ecclesia Like This One? Volunteers wanted**

Ten years ago in a remote village, in a country where there were no Christadelphians, Nzilamose contacted the Christadelphians from this country which seemed impossible to visit at the time. After four years of correspondence he was baptised and today a thriving ecclesia established. And this is a country still riddled with strife and hostilities. The instruction was doggedly persisted in with many difficulties by a Sister who learnt Esperanto in order to preach the Truth.

One cannot leave out the hand of Providence and the answers to many prayers which, together with the blessing of the Lord, has produced these results. Why, with the Lord's blessing, could you not do likewise?



*Kwilu Ecclesia, Congo.*

## **The Truth in Congo**

With joy I greet you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Eternal God of Abraham allows me to write to you for the first time, therefore I am asking you to excuse the delay in replying to you of the arrival of the packets which you send me from time to time. Although I do not speak English I am able to understand some of the articles by reading the chapters and verses quoted.

Mi volas iom sciigas al vi koncerne nia Ecclezio: gi komencigis je la 1986, tiam mi ekis la studado de la Biblia lecionojn senditaj de la gefratoj Judy Holt kaj David Budden. Poste 22 leciojn de la C.B.M. mi studis "Apostolaj agojn". Ni estis vere izolita mi kaj mia grandfrato Mbuenedio dum pluraj jarojn, nur korespondadon inter ni kaj fratino Judy Holt. Poste, ŝi sendis al mi vojabileton por min baptigi al Kameruna landon, bedaŭrinde ke la vojaĝo mi maltrafis ĝin pro la manko de la gastiga letero el de Kameruno.

*I wish to tell you a little concerning our ecclesia: it began in 1986, then I commenced the study of the Esperanto Bible lessons sent to me by Sis. Judy Holt and Bro. David Budden. After 22 Lessons, I studied the 'Acts of the Apostles'. We were truly isolated, living in a remote village with my brother. Mbuenedio. For many years there was only correspondence between Sis. Judy Holt and us. Afterwards, she sent me a travel ticket for me to go and get baptised in Cameroon. Regrettably I failed to make this journey because of the lack of a visa invite from Cameroon.*

According to God's will, in April 2002 Brethren Kankewa and Julias travelled from Cameroon to Kinshasa. Three of us from a remote village travelled to Kinshasa to be baptised. In 2003 the Brethren from Cameroon visited us again and three more were baptised. Again, in 2004, they visited and baptised a further three. In 2005 and 2006 they also visited and baptised one person each year. We do not know whether we shall have any baptisms this year.

Our ecclesial house is 8m. long and 5 m. wide. We provided the plot of land and received money from the UK for the building of the hall. At the meeting we have six young people who I am teaching by the French lessons sent by Sis. Josie Cottrell in England.

We long to have French books so that our Brothers and Sisters will be able to read them often and also French Bibles.

I am unable to write a letter in French, so I write in Esperanto. I enclose two ecclesial photos and hope they will encourage others to serve the Lord.



*Preparing to make a joyful noise to the Lord in Congo  
Bro Nzilamose Mayombe*

## **Western Fraternal, Ghana**

By the grace of the Almighty we held our fraternal at Moseaso from the 5th to the 8th of April. Our next fraternal will be at Subri from the 30th August to the 2nd of September, God willing.

Brethren and Sisters arrived on the 5th of April; there was no electricity as the level of the Akosombo dam was not high enough to generate it. Because of the lack of electricity we could not hold evening public preaching talks, so we had Bible discussion amongst ourselves in the dark. We yearn for the day when Christadelphians can own their own public address system, with a generator that will enable us to preach more effectively.

The theme for the fraternal was, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

First address: 'What is the way?' by Bro. Odiko. Second address: 'The Truth – what is it?' by Bro. Larbi. Third address: 'Jesus is the life' by Bro. Amashie. Fourth address: 'I am the way, the truth and the life – what did Jesus mean?' by Bro. Odiko.

Two people were interviewed for baptism and both gave a good confession of their faith in the Kingdom of God and the things concerning the Name of Jesus Christ; they were baptised in the river.

The exhortation was given by Bro. Larbi after which we said our farewells until we meet again.

As you know, we have put our hands to the plough of the gospel in this part of the vineyard. We have no alternative but to help to till the ground and prune the plants (which are our Brethren and Sisters) with singleness of mind and in all humility.

We pray that the Lord will open our minds to the Scriptures so that we can preach to the lost sheep.

Life here is normal, with some contentment and we all send their greetings to the Brethren and Sisters everywhere.

*Bro. Francis Odiko (Subri)*

## **Brazil Report**

On April 3rd I met Bro. Alan Eyre at the Kingston airport in Jamaica where we had a brief discussion on the possibility of visiting other Brazilian Brothers and Sisters living outside Cuiaba, where I was heading. I then checked in for what would be a long flight, as I was going from Kingston via Panama then Sao Paulo and finally Cuiaba, Brazil, a total of eleven hours flying time. For nine hours we were flying over Brazil, mostly over the Amazon rain forest, which shows you just how big Brazil really is.

Upon reaching Cuiaba the next day, I took a taxi from the airport to the home of Bro. Roberto and Sis. Leila de Queiroz. The family was joyful, seeing that my visit once more brought good news, comfort and loving fellowship. I had a lengthy discussion with Bro. Roberto, after which I gave the ecclesia copies of Bible Basics both in English and Portuguese. Bro. Roberto was grateful to receive these books and assured me that their purpose would be beneficial to his Bible class and also to the language students leaving the John Thomas Education Centre (JTEC).

My stay was only for nine days, so I wanted to start our Bible campaign the next day after arriving. But that was not to be, as Bro. Roberto mentioned that it would not be feasible as the week prior to Easter was considered a holy week and Brazilians in Cuiaba tend to work extra hours and stay home, not wanting to visit other neighbours' houses. So we rearranged our programme somewhat. The theme for our Bible campaign was 'The Gospel, the true source of light'. We had regular discussions on the Bible and also about the development of the JTEC. Each day I would meet students pursuing courses in English at the JTEC with smiles and laughter stemming from these students. They demonstrated a mood of comfort and growth within the Christadelphians. We need to foster this growth spiritually and to be more supportive. We must continue to remember our Brothers and Sisters far away in order to bring good news and encouragement. Let us follow our Master and establish the gospel among all nations. When Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees, who largely rejected his message, he said, "You are not willing to come to me that you may have life" (John 5:40). Following the Master is an active, not a passive thing, and involves a commitment to deny our natural selves and to shoulder our cross each day as his disciples (see Matt. 16:24).

On each afternoon I would travel to another place with Roberto's daughter, Kristiany, some 15 to 20 minutes from home where I would assist in teaching English to another batch of students. We issued leaflets about our campaign to the students and to neighbours as well. There was much interest in our message everywhere we went. Bro. Roberto and Sis. Leila's daughter Kristiany de Queiroz, showed a passion for the gospel and at the moment is being instructed. At the end of the campaign she mentioned to me that she would like to be baptised soon as a Christadelphian. It would be encouraging for more Brothers and Sisters to make contact with the family in preparation for her baptism and also to prepare for further missionary work.



*A class at the JTEC*



*Kristiany and Roberto in Bible discussion*

*Bro. Davion Sinclair (Kingston, Jamaica)*

### **"Bible Basics" in Libraries**

Recently we have been able to place a number of the Vietnamese translation of Bible Basics in Vietnamese Libraries and have received several letters of appreciation. From Ho Chin Minh City for example "Bible basics will be treated professionally and will go into public service in the

shortest time. It will be certainly welcomed by our readers". This silent witness in libraries frequently results in requests for further information as witnessed by the following letter. We are happy to supply free copies (we have them in about 60 languages) to any who wish to help in this work.

"I have the Bible Basics book as a check out from my local library and of course the problem is, I can't keep it, nor write in it, or highlight things -- which help my study. Since I have been reading Bible Basics, my entire understanding has changed. I grew up Catholic but disregarded that 'religion' long ago through just study of my own (which they frown upon) -- and just recently (about 4 years ago actually) I spent 4 years in a Pentecostal church seeing things that I just couldn't grasp as completely right. I spent 1 year doing distance learning through a non-denomination seminary (actually more Baptist than anything though) -- and learned quite a bit.

However, I haven't attended church for the last probably 3 years and last Sunday, I took Bible Basics and my kids and I got out our Bibles and had our own little worship study session and it was so wonderful. I want to learn the truth -- I can't believe I have read so many Scriptures so wrong for so long. So please, send me a copy because I intend to use it to gain freedom! It has made my Bible a new and living book again. Thank you so much!"

*Melissa Stewart*

### **Why Do We Need To Repent?**

The answer to this question is plain: man is naturally sinful and God is righteous. Man has to acknowledge his plight by believing wholeheartedly in the gospel of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, He must forsake his old way of life and follow the basic truth that scripture teaches. "The heart of man is deceitful above all things and is desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9). "From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, all evil things come from within and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23). "Remember that Gentiles in the flesh are without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:11,12).

How then can we come to repentance? How can we have another mind? The answer is to allow the word of God to have free and welcome access to the mind we already have. The word of God is adapted to achieving a change of mind in the one who hears, understands and keeps the message.

Those three steps are vital. "Hearing" the word of God is more than merely reading it. Bible 'hearing' is listening humbly with the intention of being instructed. In the Old Testament it is often described as "listening" (the ear) as though one were listening to someone who has a message for them personally. Anyone who reads the Bible in this way will soon discover that the whole book is designed for the personal reader, the one who wants to know.

"Reading" the word of God means that a man must give himself, he must open the doors of his mind and let the refreshing word of God enter in. This is the secret behind repentance and conversion. This word is God's root in the mind which will do its work without fail. Divine

thoughts are imparted by the word of God and the humble reader will soon begin to think the thoughts of God. He will begin to have another mind.

\*A righteous person sees the best in others.

\*A self-righteous person condemns others.

*Bro Wilberforce Wandera (Busia, Uganda)*

### **God Foresees the Future and Controls It**

God's thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are higher than our ways. What God has promised will come to pass according to His set purpose (Isaiah 55:8-11), because He is not a man that He should lie (Num. 23:19). Remember Brothers and Sisters, God sent Moses to lead His people Israel up out of the land of bondage. God assured them that He would watch over them (Psalm 34:7) to lead them into the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey, the land of Canaan. God, who is faithful in all He does and promises, led them out. Before they crossed the Red Sea, the Israelites were engulfed with their enemies behind and the sea in front. Miraculously God made the way through the sea for His people to go free but the enemies were drowned (Ex. 14).

Despite all this, Israel had no faith in their God and remained stiff necked. God said that all those who witnessed His wonders and disbelieved would not enter over the promised land of Canaan (Num. 14:20-23), except Caleb and Joshua (Num. 14:6-9,24,38). We are spiritual Israel and all the things that happened to natural Israel happened as examples and warnings for us on who the fulfilment of the ages has come and let us not set our hearts on evil things so as not to be disqualified. Before our baptism we were in bondage to sin but God, through grace, has redeemed us from the curse of sin and promised us great and precious promises if we remain faithful. Just as God delivered and led Israel through the sea and the wilderness, making a way where there was no way so that His people could go free, He is also able to lead us in the wilderness journey of this life to that which is to come, even eternal life. Let us serve God wholeheartedly.



*Villagers listening to the preaching at Bolero, Malawi. Bro Lukanga Nyomiro, expounding the Word and Sis Elpis Nyomiro who asks us to pray for her, for Jerusalem and world peace.*

*Bro. Paul Chembe (Lusaka, Zambia)*

### **Holiness**

Holiness is keeping myself unspotted from the world. Holiness means separation: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty”, stresses the holiness of God (Isa 6:3). We should be imitators of God as his small children, (Eph 5:1). As the one who calls us is holy, so we should also be holy (1 Peter 1:15,16). We should be separate from those of the world because the Lord our God is holy (Levs 11:44; Rom 6:19-22; 2 Tim 1:9).

Holiness is an essential part of God, so it should be a fundamental concern of all those who try to be imitators of God. If we do this, we will be partakers of his holiness when we are granted His nature. God disciplines us so that we can share in His holiness like a father disciplines his children for a little while (Heb 12:9-10).

Through holiness we have a precious escape from the desires of worldly pleasures and lusts, because without holiness in this life, a believer cannot see the Lord. Indeed, we will not be able to actually see God and relate to Him on a personal level in the kingdom, if we have not demonstrated true holiness in our life time. Should we involve ourselves in worldly ambitions (1 Tim 6:10), they will take away from our time for service in Christ’s ecclesia, as it will if we spend our precious time in watching worldly activities instead of studying and living the word of God (2 Tim 2:15). We must be careful in our speech: God hates a froward mouth (Prov 8:13). We must control our temper when provoked because bad temper results in anger which the Lord hates (Prov 15:17).

Our minds must be kept clean to think holy thoughts. Therefore, we must keep ourselves away from strong desires which can affect judgment in life. If we are wronged in any way, we should take it in prayer to our Father in heaven, relying on His help and not getting angry. All this is living a holy life in Christ.

We must remember that God controls our life. When making decisions, we must always say “If the Lord will” (James 4:13,15). Therefore avoid things that stimulate evil thoughts and desires, like magazines and books which are evil. Bad films and filthy activities take away from a life of holiness in this world (Phi 4:8; Titus 2:12).

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Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor 7:1)

*Bro Mayende Erisania Sifuna (Busia, Uganda)*

### **Has Man Pre-Eminence Over a Beast?**

Most people will argue that man definitely has pre-eminence over a beast, for when a man dies his soul goes to heaven whereas a beast does not have an alleged immortal soul and therefore does not die in the same way, they say. Before making up our minds on this point, let us turn to the word of God:

“For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth the beasts; even one thing befalleth them all: AS THE ONE DIETH, SO DIETH THE OTHER. Yea, they have all one breath, so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast; for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again” (Ecc 3:19,20).

Having stated the situation in very plain and straightforward terms, Solomon now repeats a question which must have been asked in his day: "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" (Ecc 3:21). Solomon does not answer his question for he has already given the answer in verse 20, when he said "ALL GO". We know that none of us has the power to retain 'the breath of life'. When God takes away the life-sustaining agency, man and beast both die. Solomon put it this way: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecc 12:7). If the words "the spirit shall return unto God" mean that the supposed immortal soul goes to heaven, then, since all living creatures have the same 'breath of life' or 'spirit', the souls of beasts and all creeping things must go to heaven too, for it is written 'ALL go to one place' and, "Man hath no pre-eminence above a beast".

However unpalatable this may be, it is at least in keeping with the curse put upon Adam, for he was told, "dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen 3:19). It is also in keeping with what Paul said, "For as in Adam ALL DIE:" (1 Cor 15:22). It also agrees with the following testimony from the Bible:

"For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" (Psalm 6:5).

"Let me not be ashamed, O Lord, for I have called upon thee: Let the wicked be ashamed and let them be silent in THE GRAVE" (Psalm 31:17).

"What profit is there in my blood, when I GO DOWN TO THE PIT? Shall the DUST praise thee? Shall it declare thy truth?" (Psalm 30:9).

"O spare me, that I may recover strength before I go hence, and BE NO MORE" (Psalm 39:13).

"What man is he that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the grave?" (Psalm 89:48).

"The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence" (Psalm 115:17).

"While I live I will praise the Lord: I will sing praise unto my God while I have any being. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth, in that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:2-4).

"For the living know that they shall die but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward, for the memory of them is forgotten" (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might: for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the graves whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

"For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth" (Is 38:18).

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).

The foregoing are a few of the very many passages that could be quoted to show that when a man dies, he goes to OBLIVION and not to another form of life. Yet the doctrine of the immortality of the soul is so ingrained in people that they tend to ignore such passages, without trying to show that they mean something else. Such people say that life is in the 'soul' without adducing any passage in scripture to prove it. On this point, the Bible says "For the life of the flesh is IN THE BLOOD" (Leviticus 17:11).

Many people may be disinclined to believe what we have said and quoted, because all the testimony so far has been taken from the Old Testament. We must not forget, however, that whether we quote from the Old or the New Testament, it is all the WORD OF GOD. If we deny the truth of those passages, then we shall deny the truth which God has caused to be written. If we cannot believe what the Bible says, then we have the alternatives of telling God that He is

wrong, or closing up the book altogether and taking no further notice of it. We must be fair to all opinions, so we shall now turn to the New Testament.

#### WHAT DID JESUS PREACH?

Jesus preached many things, but where the state of the dead was concerned, he preached THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD. In preaching this, he gave no suggestion or hint that the soul went to heaven at death. When Jesus came to the house where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived – for Lazarus was dead – Martha said “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day” John 11:24.

Jesus had just told her this (“Thy brother shall rise again” verse 23) but he made no mention of a soul which had gone to heaven, yet :Lazarus by that time had been dead for four days. If his soul had gone to heaven, surely Jesus would have done him a disfavour by bringing his soul back again to suffer all the tribulations of a mortal life. It was one of the major themes of Jesus’ teaching that he would raise the dead at the LAST DAY. In one particular chapter from John he is quoted as referring to it four times:

“Should raise it up again at the last day” John 6:39.

“I will raise him up at the last day” verse 40.

“I will raise him up at the last day” verse 44

“I will raise him up at the last day” verse 54.

The word ‘him’ is personal and refers to the believer. He is to be raised up. No matter how we may try to adjust those passages to fit the soul theory, we cannot escape the fact that the believer is to be raised up and the raising up is to be done at “the last day”. In no way whatsoever does it mean that the soul will be brought DOWN to be united with a raised body.



*The Jafari Family, Mwanza Refugee Camp, Malawi*

*Bro F G Nkomelah (Lilongwe, Malawi)*

#### **Answers to Students' Questions**

1. Since we are the descendants of Adam, why does the world have so many races (blacks, whites, coloureds etc)?

You are quite right to say we are all descended from Adam. The New Testament confirms this: “From one man he (God) made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth, and he determined the times set for them and the exact places they should live” (Acts 17: 26). Notice that it was the Creator’s intention that the human race should inhabit the ‘whole earth’. Living and climatic conditions vary throughout the world and we know that white skins cannot cope being exposed for long in hot sun. Conversely, black skins cope extremely well with exposure to sun because their skins have a built-in protection. And we know that people with darker skins have inhabited the tropical areas of the world. People with light skins have

inhabited the temperate areas, where the sunlight is much less intense and where cold winters are common.

God has not chosen to tell us how such a variety of races has come about, but my guess is that a wise Creator made human beings adaptable to their geographical environment. Once established in a certain area, then they would have children and descendants sharing common skin colours, bodily features etc. Until our own day, people did not move about much, once settled, and so there would be groups of similar people who multiplied and became a 'race'.

2. Why do we call 'Jesus of Nazareth', when he was born in Bethlehem of Judea?

Yes, Jesus was born in Bethlehem because of the Roman census requiring everyone to go to register in their ancestral town. This caused Joseph to go to Bethlehem and Jesus to be born there – see Luke 2: 1 – 4. But Jesus grew up and lived in Nazareth which was the home town of Mary and Joseph - see Matthew 2: 23; Mark 1; 9; Luke 1; 26; 2;39, 51; 4; 16; John 1; 45, 46.

Matt 2: 23 makes the point that God had foretold, through His prophets that Jesus would be called 'a Nazarene'. There is no place in the Old Testament that says that Messiah would be called a Nazarene. So what was the significance of Nazareth? Nazareth was a greatly despised town and so were its inhabitants (see John 1: 46 – perhaps equivalent to Cape Flats in SA today?). So although there is no mention of Nazareth in the OT, the prophet Isaiah says emphatically that the Messiah would be 'despised and rejected of men' (Is 53: 3).

3. Is this a myth or a fact that sex before marriage is a sin according to the Bible?

It is most emphatically a FACT that sex before marriage is a sin according to the Bible. In the Bible there is no such thing as casual sex – to God sex is serious. It is part of the package called 'marriage'. To indulge in sex before marriage (fornication) or outside marriage (adultery) is a desecration of a God-made institution. In the OT seducing an unmarried girl necessitated marrying and never being able to divorce her – Deuteronomy 22: 28 & 29. Adultery was punishable by death of both the adulterer and adulteress (Leviticus 20: 10). The NT similarly condemns sex outside marriage – see 1 Cor 6: 9 – 11 and Heb 13: 4 among many such references.

4. Is there any law in the Bible that forbids women to go to church wearing trousers?

No, there is no law in the Bible which tells us what we should wear when going to worship God. The Apostle Paul in his first epistle to Timothy 2: 9, 10, says he wants women to "dress modestly with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God". Peter in his first epistle - 1 Peter 3: 3 – says something similar, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes...but the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit". What is considered modest and decent dress for women (and men) will vary from country to country. For instance, in Pakistan, it is considered modest for women to wear trousers/pants. In some Arab countries it is considered acceptable for men to wear - what we would call - a skirt. The NT writers are concerned that Christ's disciples should not dress provocatively or indecently. and that they should do nothing to put people off believing the Gospel. Paul in his epistle to Titus makes three points in chapter 2. The behaviour of God's children should be such that:

1) no-one will be able to malign the word of God – v.5

2) those who oppose believers may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about

them – v.8

3) in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive – v.10.

Jochebed's Incredible Active Faith

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

I have heard very little comments on Jochebed's faith. In its quietness and simplicity, it demonstrated an amazing depth and sincerity that moved God himself, thereby bringing forth the most astounding results. It is indeed a tremendous example of what we could accomplish with very little resources of our own, if committed in prayer to Our Heavenly Father.

At the time the nation of Israel was going through the fires of affliction heaped upon them by one of the most heartless and cruel dictators in history. They were completely enveloped in hopelessness on a daily basis, because of the cruel edict of this tyrant that every new born baby boy must be cast into the river. How could they stand up to this monster, who was taking away their strength? It was at this time that Jochebed gave birth to her son. It should have been a time of rejoicing, but instead it was a time of distress, because she was flooded with expressions of fear, hopelessness and discouragement around her. She was a woman of faith because, unlike the others who only saw the power and strength of Pharaoh, she kept her focus on the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God Jacob, who had clearly demonstrated His almighty powers to them.

The Problem was, how could she prevail against this powerful ruler? What indeed could she do? where could she start, and how could she – a poor, insignificant woman, with little or no resources – overcome the edict of this dictator? She thought of the papyrus from which boats were made - barely what was available to her; she could make a sort of cradle with this, and seal it with pitch... Then what? Beside this, there was a blank wall, beyond which she could not see. Yes, even though Jochebed had her faith, the weakness of the flesh would have surfaced from time to time, when daily looking hopefully for a sign from God that her baby would be rescued, she saw nothing.

Her God was more powerful than the adversary, Pharaoh: This was her son, and she would do what she could to save him, even though what she had was woefully little, ridiculously inadequate, considering the crisis she faced. As the time drew near for her to make a decision, she worked with it – the bulrushes and the pitch - committing all to God. Finally, she prepared as best and as lovingly as she could, and committed the cradle of bulrushes containing her precious baby to the care of her Father. God, was certainly hearing the earnest prayers, and beholding the anguish of this desperate mother. Moreover, greatly touched by her simple act of faith, he was moved to “come down to deliver this baby”. Jochebed had done as much as she could with what she had, and had left the rest to Him.

In recognition of Jochebed's simple act of faith, our Heavenly Father used her down-to-earth ingenuity - that insignificant cradle - to raise out of it one of the most renowned leaders in history, even the conqueror that would eventually defeat that very tyrant, who so cruelly oppressed his people, finally destroying him in the sight of all the nations around. This is indeed a powerful example for our benefit, on what we could accomplish when we place our focus and faith in our LORD, rather than dwelling on our own meager strength and ability.

Our Present Challenge: We are faced with a huge problem – that of our brethren who, through no fault of their own, have had to take refuge in refugee camps, because of cruel politics. We are

aware of the undesirable living conditions of these places, and the defenselessness, hopelessness, and despair of their occupants. We, in this part of the world, only have to recall the horrid conditions of the shelters provided for the Katrina hurricane victims, to have an idea of the hardship and misery in which our brethren are living. Can we be comfortable living with this knowledge of the on-going suffering of our brethren, without making an effort to relieve them? Yes, I agree that it is a very complex situation as every one has noted, and I would go further to admit that it is beyond our capacity to handle it, humanly speaking. This is exactly the position that Jochebed faced. She did not, however, give in to the hopelessness of her limitation like the other people around her. She did what she could, with what she had, prayerfully, diligently, faithfully committing her efforts to the Almighty - and he did the rest. God does not leave us to struggle on our own.

When God commissioned Moses the daunting task of releasing his people from the clutches of Pharaoh, he told him, "Certainly I will be with thee;..." (Exodus 3: 12). When he summoned Cyrus, his anointed, to rebuild his house, he told him, "I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron" (Isaiah 45:2). It is the same God whom we serve to-day, and he will do the same for us if we commit this matter to Him, and start with what we have, for the sake of our brethren, who are his children too.

Like Jochebed, we can start with small steps and gradually develop this operation. God did not create the world in a day, neither did He deliver Israel in one day. He worked gradually, and we can follow his example. The important thing is to begin this operation with a plan and proceed in a diligent manner. We have many brethren who have management skills, and there are many who would be able to offer excellent ideas, We need a proactive, ongoing programme aimed directly at resettling those Brethren who are desirous of living independently on their own. Because this problem is the result of a chaotic world situation, its resolution should not be confined to one regional group, but should be the concern of the brotherhood worldwide. It is such a huge project that it requires the joint effort of all Christadelphian groups working together, and including other capable brethren, praying fervently to our Heavenly Father for His guidance and His power, as we cannot do it on our own. Even Cyrus, a king, could not do it on his own, and as God helped him, so He will help us, if we will put our shoulders to the task in an effort to bear the burdens that our refugee brethren are carrying. Ephesians 3: 20,21: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" Together, as we bear our brethren's burden,

*By Bro Emmanuel Mphambo (Johannesburg, South Africa)*

### **Scope for our Bible Schools**

We have attended Bible Schools in Guyana, the Caribbean and North America. Apart from the uplifting, edifying and enlightening talks, there are two other untapped aspects for which we should be thankful.

The first is the family care. Attendance at our schools ranges from babies to seniors, and provision is made to cater for everyone, spiritually and naturally. There are teen sessions

advertised simultaneously with adult classes and the needs of the younger scholars are met at the schools.

There was an article reporting on the 2006 Guyana Bible School, entitled "Grandparents in Guyana." We recall the mention of how a speaker's wife did a commendable job with the children at the Georgetown ecclesial Hall. Likewise, this year at the Kilcoy venue Sis. Diana volunteered on the first day to keep the twenty-five children happy while the adults were instructed in "The Only Thing That Counts" by Bro. Ted Hodge and "The Truth of the Fourth Beast" by yours truly. Afterwards Sis. Christine took over the children, realizing that Sis. Diana as a young sister should be in the main hall with the adult classes. Sis. Diana was greatly relieved (25 children are not easy to control) and the manner of her bonding with Bro. Ted reminded me of Mary in Bethany. (One of the most enjoyable moments at North American Schools, we found, was Children's Night and admiring the celebration of their week-long projects.)

The other aspect is outreach. With at least "100 lighthouses" (borrowing Bro. Nathan Badger's analogy) at any school anywhere, what a wonderful opportunity is afforded to witness effectively. We recall one year at the Midwest Bible School a special lecture was given one evening by Bro. Jim Styles, after attendees had canvassed nearby.

In Guyana, a preaching campaign often integrates into the school. Four years ago at the Kilcoy venue Bro. Ken Sommerville and Bro. Duncan Kenzie (the teachers) functioned as evangelists in the evening, and many would recall how encouraging it was. This year, again at the same venue, there were Bro. Ted and myself continuing with the support of some Bible School participants. One rainy evening was particularly memorable as the neighborhood family invited us in and provided seating accommodation for the meeting to enjoy Bro. Ted's class on "Mankind - Our Future."

Our Schools are a vital part of our lifestyle. Let us maintain their excellent quality, and extend their scope if and whenever possible to the most vulnerable – the young and the unenlightened.

*Comment: Readers' views are welcome with any suggestions that may improve Bible Schools, especially in Mission areas. As well as not placing the burden of caring for the children on those that should really be attending the meeting, would it not be possible to arrange the catering so that Sisters are not involved with it so that they, too, can also benefit from the meetings? My personal view is that those in their teens should be attending the meetings. MH.*

*Bro Clive Drepaul (New York, USA)*

### **Personal Testimony**

Now some time after my baptism and looking at myself, I find myself looking at something deep within me. I am discovering an "unhealthy fear of the Lord" within me. So afraid to do his will and do the right thing, to conform my life to His will and His standards while not allowing His love and grace to cover, and expecting others to conform to "MY" will or standards. An unacceptance of His gift if you will. To put it in a term, "legalism", too blind to see the freedom and liberty we have been given. I am being set free in this area and am experiencing a new joy and peace in my heart.

There must be certain things that are "yea" and "amen". If we just hold to the belief that "all truth is relative" then my truth is different than yours and no one can agree on anything. Yet, there are standards that we are expected to uphold. It may be different for each individual now as we are ALL in a different place in our growth and maturity in the things of God.

The world we live in is really no different than what it was back in Yahshua's day. All kinds of philosophy and ideas about things mudding up the waters, and mankind still trying to become gods in the process. In my opinion our dilemma is still the same. It all points to latent fears and unbelief in God's word. We protect ourselves by hiding behind legalism and self-imposed standards and try to force others to conform to our will. It is a vicious cycle that has perpetuated throughout the ages. The question is "are we going to believe the word of God or not?" Just because we have experiences does not make the word of God null and void. Yes, we do not know everything about the word, yes we will not all come to the full understandings of things until the Kingdom comes. But one thing we do know for certain is that it is our responsibility to regard one another more than our selves, to love our neighbour as ourselves. Phil 4:7-8 7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things".

So, I am learning that 'I am a sinner' I do not deserve His mercy and grace, but He has given it to me anyway. I cannot please Him by my outward works, or justify my Christianity by not doing certain things or eating certain meats, or partaking of certain symbols or traditions. But, the slippery slope is always beckoning to us, and therefore we all have a conscience given by God to help us here. We all will be judged according to the law written on OUR (personal) hearts (Rom 2:14-16). There are standards and things we all must find and conform our lives to. It is not my responsibility to make anyone live according to my standard. The standard is the Word of God. The Law of love is Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever the higher standard, 1 Cor 13. If we have not love we have nothing. I cannot compromise the law in my heart (this is my conscience before my Judge) however, for the sake of another, to win another to salvation I can, (I am learning to) because my standard is not God's standard. The question is "are we willing to die to self for the sake of another?" In a sense, lay down our life for another? Yahshua came to lead sinners to repentance. He ate with tax collectors and sinners. The downtrodden, dirty filthy refuse of humanity He died for. All I know is that 'my' righteousness has not exceeded that of the Scribes and Pharisees. If Yahshua did these things, should we not do the same? He said "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" Matt 5:48 .

Yet I am sure He did not sit there amongst these wretched people and point the haughty finger of judgement, making himself to be better than them. But, we do know that He did not sin. He sat with sinners but did not do their deeds. He knew where the line was drawn in the sand, He did not cross it. The same should be for us. There are standards, there are doctrines on which we must be staunch. Truth is not relative, but that should not become the god we serve.

*Bro. Scott Ketelsen (Vancouver Ecclesia, USA)*