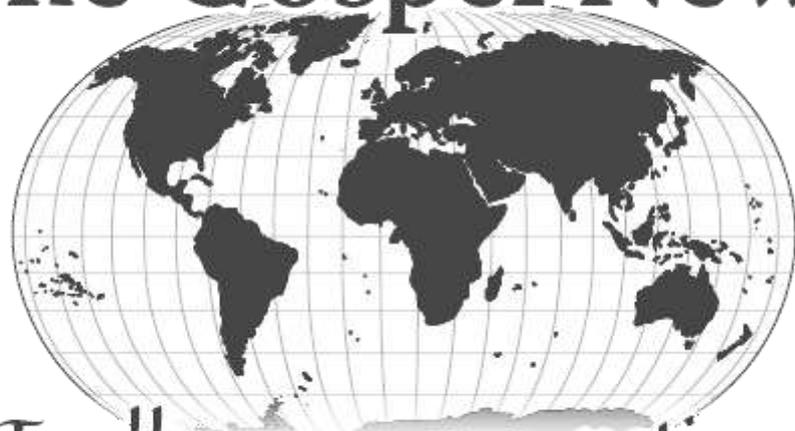


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



EDITORIAL: Joining The Dots In Life

It will be apparent to any regular Bible reader that there is a tremendous repetition within the Biblical narratives. Individuals tend to go through very similar experiences, and often the same words are used in the descriptions of the experience or their response to it. Some of these similarities are so specific and humanly unlikely to be replicated that one can only conclude that there was a higher power over-ruling their situations. It may be that the Angels work in human lives according to some kind of Divine pattern, and this accounts for the sense of repetition and *déjà vu*, both in our lives and in those of Bible characters. But it may also be because it is God's intention that we meditate upon the lives of His previous servants to the point where we see their experiences coming through, in principle, in our own lives; and we are urged on to a like victory as they attained. Consider the following of many possible examples of this repetition in Biblical narratives:

- The way Saul returns from pursuing David because of a rumour of invasion is so similar to Rabshakeh's retreat from Jerusalem after rumours of incursions (1 Sam. 23:27).
- As Samuel tarried longer than Saul expected, so Amasa "tarried longer than the set time which [David] had appointed him" (2 Sam. 20:5).
- The incidents involving Moses and Jacob meeting women at a well are evidently intended to be seen as reflecting some unseen Heavenly template.
- When Joshua was leading the Israelite army, he was given victory because Moses kept his arms outstretched in prayer. Later, circumstances repeated, so that Joshua had the opportunity to make the same effort for others as had been made for him. For Joshua had to keep his hand stretched out, until his men had destroyed all the men of Ai (Josh. 8:26). And throughout life, this occurs for us- a situation wherein we were shown grace repeats, in essence, so that we have an opportunity to show the same grace to others which we received.
- God created a great wind with which He brought Jonah and his fellows to their knees (Jonah 1:5). God later creates another great wind with which to teach Jonah something else (Jonah 4:8). Jonah ought to have perceived the same hand of the same God at work with him. Jonah's life "ebbed away" inside the fish (Jonah 2:7)- and a very similar word is used about his experience as he sat under the gourd (Jonah 4:8). In the fish, Jonah prayed that God would save his life, and was heard. But when he was made to feel the same again, he instead prayed God to take away his life. Perhaps this shows that even when we respond well to circumstances, those same circumstances may repeat in order to test us as to whether we will continue to make that right response.
- Joash did right before God whilst the priest Jehoiada was alive, and then apostasized; Uzziah did likewise, with Zechariah the priest (2 Chron. 24:2; 26:5). He didn't reflect upon the personal implications of Divine history. And we too must appreciate that there are Bible characters whose experiences are framed in terms directly relevant to us- for our learning. Interestingly, straight after Jehoiada died, the princes of the land came to Joash with a request, which he wrongly listened to. This has great similarities with the tragic mistake made by Rehoboam after Solomon died (2 Chron. 10:3,4 cp. 24:17). So Joash was given chance after chance to be directed back to previous examples and be instructed by them- but he went on in his own way.
- The genealogies of Genesis 11 reveal how some human lives repeat according to the same outline schema. Thus both Arphaxad and Shelah each lived 403 years after the births of the

eldest sons; Shelah, Peleg and Serug were each 30 when their first sons were born. Abraham and Shem both had sons at 100 years old (Gen. 11:10). And it is the very nature of Christian fellowship that God has arranged that our human lives likewise have elements of amazing similarity of pattern.

- The way Peter was given a vision and asked to eat what he had previously thought unclean has many similarities with Ezekiel going through a similar experience (Ez. 4:10-14 cp. Acts 10:14).

- David sent messengers to Nabal meaning well to him, and they were rudely rebuffed, resulting in his anger which only Abigail's grace and wisdom saved him from (1 Sam. 25). And yet the same situation repeated in its essence when he sent messengers to Hanun who were likewise misinterpreted and rebuffed (2 Sam. 10:3). Again, David got angry- but there was no Abigail to restrain him, and he did get into an impossible fight... from which by grace God delivered him. Could it not be that David failed to learn from his previous experience...?

- The signs done by Moses before Pharaoh have evident connection with the later plagues brought upon him- they were all "that you may know" (Ex. 7:17 etc.). The staff, stretched out right hand, snakes, the rod "swallowing" the serpent rods of Egypt (symbols of Pharaoh- Ez. 29:3-5; 32:2) just as the Egyptians were to be swallowed at the Red Sea (Ex. 15:12), leprosy / boils, water / blood all repeat. The signs were thus both an encouragement to believe as well as a warning of judgment to come. Pharaoh was presented with the possibility of either faith, or destruction. Note in passing that God's hardening of that man's heart didn't mean that He made no effort to save him nor appeal to him.

- The disciples' eyes were heavy and they fell asleep at the critical moment. But earlier, "having remained awake", the same disciples were blessed with a vision of the Lord's glory (Lk. 9:32 RVmg.). If they had remained awake in the garden, they would have seen the Lord being glorified by Angelic visitation. But they didn't perceive how the circumstances were repeating, and thus didn't find the strength and inspiration which was potentially prepared for them through the similarity of circumstance.

- Especially do we find the essence of the Red Sea deliverance repeated in life after life, situation after situation, in Israel's history. This happens to the extent that some of the Psalms can speak as if we were there present; and Paul stresses how that passage through water remains a type of the baptism of every believer to this day (1 Cor. 10:1). Take for example how just as Yahweh confounded Israel's enemies at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:24,25), so He did in Deborah's victory over Sisera (Jud. 4:15); and "not one was left" (Jud. 4:16), just as happened with the Egyptians (Ex. 14:28).

Relevance For Us

One can also recount such instances of repetition in the narratives of our own lives. Our experiences connect with those of Biblical characters- and thus the Biblical records become alive and intensely personal for each of us. Further, we see similarities in patterns and experiences between our lives and those of others contemporary with us. This is surely to enable the principle of 2 Cor. 1:4- that if we suffer anything, it is so that we can mediate comfort to those who suffer as we do. To go into our shells and not do this not only makes our own sufferings harder, but frustrates the very purpose of them. The repeating similarities between our lives and those of others also reveal to us that God at times arranges for us to suffer from our *alter ego*- persons who behave similarly to us, and who through those similarities cause us

suffering. In this way we are taught the error of our ways, both past and present. It seems that Jacob the deceiver suffered in this way from Laban the deceiver- in order to teach him and cause his spiritual growth. For example, as Jacob deceived his blind father relating to an important family matter, so Laban deceived Jacob in the darkness of the wedding night.

The Example Of Abraham

Abraham was progressively set up by God so that his spiritual growth would be an upward spiral. Initially, he was told to walk / go to a land which God would shew him (Gen. 12:1); when he got there, he was told to "arise", and "walk" through that land of Canaan (Gen. 13:17). And Abraham, albeit in a faltering kind of way, did just this. But this was to prepare him for the test of Gen. 22:3 in the command to offer Isaac. His obedience this time isn't at all faltering. He "arises" and 'goes' [s.w. "walk"] "unto the place of which God had told him" to offer Isaac (Gen. 22:3). This is exactly what he had been called to do right back in Ur- to arise and walk / go to a land / place which God would show him (Gen. 12:1). And so our obedience in one challenge of God leads us to obedience in others. One experience is designed to lead us to another. Nothing- absolutely nothing- in our lives is senseless chance. All- and this takes some believing- is part of a higher plan for our spiritual good, in our latter end. Time and again we see this in Abraham's life. He was taught that he really could be a blessing to others by the circumstances which God arranged relating to Lot being blessed / saved for his sake. Or take how Sarah murmured that it was impossible for her to have "pleasure" in childbearing (Gen. 18:12). She uses the word *ednah*, related to the word *Eden*. Yet in the events of Gen. 19, she sees how the land around Sodom that was once "like the garden of Eden" (Gen. 13:10) is made barren and sowed with salt so that nothing could grow there (Gen. 19:25; Dt. 29:23). She was being taught that God can give and take away fertility on a huge scale. Likewise in Gen. 20:17, Abraham's weakness leads Abimelech's wives to become barren; yet through the faith and prayer of an undoubtedly spiritually weak Abraham, their fertility is restored. Again, God was teaching Abraham through circumstances. It could also be reasoned from Gen. 20:6 that God weakened Abimelech's body so that he had no sexual desire for Sarah- and again, this was to teach Abraham the impotent old man that virility is a gift which God can give and take at ease. The wonderful thing is that all these lessons were taught to Abraham through the incident of lying about and betraying his wife, which shows the weakness of his faith in God's promises. The way God works with and through human weakness is awesome.

Thoughtful readers of Genesis must have wondered at the rubric "Now these are the generations of...". This phrase, the *toledoth* [Hebrew for "generations"] formula, is used to introduce both genealogies and also narratives. Why not say "Now this is the story / account / history of Joseph"? Why describe a narrative as a genealogy? Why preface genealogies and narrative histories as if they are one and the same? I suggest that the inspired writer of the Bible's opening book wished to establish the point that history gives birth to the future, history is pregnant, and not dry, dead and finished. And God's history especially demonstrates that the "generations" somehow repeat themselves over history, in that situations and character types recur over time in a Divinely planned manner.

The repetition of circumstance in our lives is not only to teach us, but to make sure that we learnt the lesson- for what teacher doesn't give pupils exercises to practice the theory they've learnt? The life of Joseph and his brothers is very much a case of situations repeating. It seems that Joseph, acting on God's behalf and as a type of Christ, manipulated circumstances so that his brothers would have *deja vu* experiences. Thus he sets things up to tempt them with freedom if they again betray their younger brother (Benjamin) and are thoughtless to their

father's pain. The united, frank and open response of the brothers (Gen. 44:13,16,17) showed how they had indeed learnt their lesson.

Another example of Joseph being tested by repeating circumstances was in the matter of playing God. In interpreting the dreams in prison, Joseph twice said that interpretations of dreams belong to God; "it is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer..." (Gen. 40:8; 41:16). Thus twice Joseph resisted the temptation to claim Divine power to himself. Some years later, however, I fear he failed a similar temptation, when he says to his brothers: "Such a man as I can indeed divine" (Gen. 44:15). He seems to be claiming for himself the power that earlier he had ascribed solely to God. But at the end of his life, when his brothers express their fear that Joseph will judge them harshly now that Jacob has died, Joseph assures them that he will not, as he is not going to play God: "Fear not, for am I in the place of God?" (Gen. 50:19). Significantly, these were the very words of Joseph's father to his mother in Gen. 30:2- showing how temptations and the essence of situations repeat across the generations and within the collective experience of groups of believers. We can discern what happened to Joseph going on in our own lives, if we will only take time to examine ourselves and the patterns of our experiences. A specific temptation or situation may, in essence, occur once, and we respond rightly; again it happens, and again we get it right; then again some years later, and we fail; and then some years later still, and we get it right. Constantly our understanding and obedience is being tested, developed, expanded, confirmed... by the Divinely controlled, providential structure of our lives and the situations and persons we encounter. Whether we travel the world each day meeting new people and apparently "new" situations all the time, or we sit in the same room confined by illness and with a limited pool of interaction... all the same, God is equally at work with us all, every moment.

Understood like this, God's word becomes an ongoing dialogue with us as the tapestry of our own lives unrolls. His word is, if you like, God's take on human history. He wants us to see how He interacts with us in our lives as He likewise has done in those of so many in the past. The more we reflect upon Biblical history, which is really the account of a few hundred lives which God interacted with over 4000 years, the more we will be able to make sense of the choices we face each hour. We will see the likely consequences, and we will also see the importance of motives, coming to appreciate that it's not always so much the choice we make, as the reasons for that choice which are crucial. And thereby we'll come to see how things in the lives of others will have different meanings, lessons, warnings and encouragements for each of us. Thus even within the Biblical record, the names of places (e.g. Bethel and Beersheba) and people (e.g. Ishmael and Isaac) are given different interpretations depending upon the point which the record is seeking to make.

Just as we will come to hunger for more intimacy with the Biblical characters, reading the records and meditating upon them with amazement at how they speak to our situations... so we will likewise come to more earnestly seek closeness with our brothers and sisters. No longer will "fellowship" be an on-paper agreement, or attendance at the same place of worship, where we hold a common doctrinal understanding and follow the same ethos. Fellowship with our fellow believers is only meaningful insofar as we get to know them, and they to know us.. backgrounds, experiences, paths of growth and failure, achieving those moments of "touche" between minds. So very often it has been observed that the encouragement we take away from meetings with other believers is not centred upon the talk we heard, but rather on the positive encouragement we picked up from conversation with others over coffee. Experience unites, whereas dry theology and theory alone tend to divide. For we as persons relate to persons, and

as such it seems to me that platform speaking and speakers shouldn't be over-rated by us. Rather should we see the need for real, inter-personal fellowship, making the effort to meet, be involved, be in loving and concerned contact, sharing our lives, failures and experiences... with our brothers and sisters.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from burundi

I have been absent in the country for a long time and when I went back I found many books and magazines in my box and I am very happy so I am writing to thank you for your great work around the world. I was planning to visit London while our President was making a trip there, but unfortunately the trip has been postponed. At that time I worked in the Cabinet of the President of the Republic but now I have been sent to the Cabinet of the Minister in charge of Good Governance. The war in Burundi is almost over but we still see some signs of unhappiness among people so I think God will show His hand to His people. I am still praying for you and your work and please do the same for us.



Sis. Elysee Nimpaganitse

In Burundi people are being killed every day by violent burglars and the situation is very bad in the social community. We read that such things will happen in Matthew ch. 24.

Bro. Costantin Mwagalwa



Cibitoke Bujumbura/Burundi Ecclesia Sunday School. Left Bro Costantin (Secretary) Centre Sis Bukuru Noela (Tutor) Right Bro David

news from cameroon

LIMBE

Life this way is so hard until we become weak in the things of this life, but strong as we walk toward the Kingdom. Thanks to God's grace we have comfort in His word and from our fellow-pilgrims like you. I am very grateful for your concern and uplifting words.

Bro Amban Rassendyll

We wish you a prosperous New Year filled with good health, love and happiness. For sometime I have not been receiving Gospel News regularly and am in need of this and the Bible Readers Calendar 2008, plus a KJV Bible. I have changed my address to P.O Box 71, Fontem Lebialem,

South West Province, Cameroon.
Bro Mbiaoh Anthony



Photo: Bro Jackson Bakumba



Bro Julius Asong (Kamba)



Bro Anthony Mbiaoh building the ecclesial hall at BENAKUMA, Cameroon

news from congo

KINSHASA

Sincere greetings from Kinshasa the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo. We here have got the opportunity of checking the Web site you have sent us and we have enjoyed the books in French language at ww.carelinks.net/French.html. We appreciate Brother Marcus sending us the books.

Bro. Mukambilwa Kims

MATADI

We would like to receive the books in French for our Ecclesia of Matadi. Recently I talked about the Devil to someone and I gave him the only book you sent us about this topic. If possible, please send us another one. I would like to thank you so much for your support spiritual, financial and material. May the God of Abraham bless you and fill you with His grace.

I would like to receive *Bible Basics* in French for our Ecclesia of Matadi.

Bro Hans Bruno Lutete

news from ethiopia

Thanks for the Tigrina Bibles. The Lord has been keeping me busy the last three weeks, I haven't had much time to do anything. I have been really poorly as well. I saw Brother Dawit on

Saturday. God Bless.

Sis. Kristina

news from ghana

CAPE COAST

Topics for 2008, God Willing: Matthew 20:1-19, "Labourers in the Vineyard" and, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?"

I will be very glad if we who are walking in God's vineyard will think about these two sentences . We all know that nowadays the world is moving fast with its attractions and with a very little slip we can become engrossed in them. We should be very happy with whatever we have or receive and stand firm in our faith and make prayer our daily bread. We are in hardship due to petrol increases on a quarterly basis. I hope that Ghana is not alone in this, but my prayer is that we should hold on to our faith. We are all fine and looking forward to welcoming our Lord's second coming, by the will of God. May our Almighty Father richly bless us all, especially in the wonderful work that is being done to preach the Truth and strengthen us to be ready for Jesus' coming.

Bro. Lawrence Nkrumah

MOSEASO

Our combined love and greetings to all in the Lord. God be thanked for ushering us into a New Year. I have received many copies of Gospel News. I know that any Ecclesial Recording Brother can receive regular free copies so please do not forget my name from your list. We are building a church and we are working hard to complete it within a short time. I would like to request ten copies of *Bible Basics* and one *Bible Companion* so that we can understand more from the Bible. We try to turn away from worldly behaviour and to keep watching continually for the Master, Jesus Christ Our church has grown to 23 who are baptised and 16 interested friends and we have a Sunday School of 18. Finally, we would like to receive anything you can support us with and we pray for all Christadelphian ecclesias in the Lord's Name.

Bro. Gilesnnes Adjei Bimpong

SHAMA

God says, "I am the Lord thy God and besides me there is no other God, and the true God; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and of Moses". He commanded Moses to bring His people from oppression, led them across the Red Sea, striking off their enemies behind by drowning, and led them through the wilderness. When we fall into tribulation or trouble then of course fear comes which can betray the faith of the person himself. God did wonders to show Pharaoh that after all the evil treatment meted to the Lord's people they still grew and multiplied and they were "grieved because of the children of Israel" (Ex. 1:12). Even Joseph's brethren who sold him for twenty pieces of silver later became sorry and lamented him. But if this had not occurred where would the saving hand have come from during the famine? God so loved His people Israel that Joseph had to pass that test, as Christ Jesus laid down his life for you and all his brethren and sisters through the GRACE He has for us.

I would be very grateful if spiritual books such as *Bible Basics* and *The 66 Books of the Bible* could be sent to us to be distributed to the brethren and sisters in the ecclesia; ten copies of each title please in English. We often attend meetings such as the Breaking of Bread on Sundays, Bible Class every Friday and have a Sunday School for the children. Remember us in

your prayers that our ecclesia here may grow in spirit and truth. Bro. Stephen and Sis. Wendy Sykes and Bro. John and Sis. Mary Hearn from England, visited us at Shama Junction.
Bro. Caiaphas Dagodzo

news from kenya

BULIMBO

We are experiencing short rains and people are harvesting ground-nuts and burning ripe corns. Already it seems that next year there will be famine because this year's harvest has not been that good.

I feel good when I receive replies from you but when you keep quiet, then I get discouraged. It's now three months that I have undergone temptations that have helped me to gain strength (I am blessed with a part-time job now.)

Sis Imelda Makokha

BUNGOMA

I am very grateful to hear that you have reprinted the Kiswahili Bible Basics. This is especially important in Kenya because the common language is Kiswahili. So if you can send me a copy, I would be very grateful.

In the Bible we find that many people ran away to Egypt to either secure their life or for famine but not to settle. Let us look at the example of our father, Abraham, after he settled in Canaan. There was a famine which forced him to leave that land and go to Egypt (Genesis 12:9-12). While he was there he lied to the king of Egypt in order to protect his wife.

A second example is Jacob's family who went to Egypt after Joseph, and enjoyed five good years. But afterwards, the new Pharaoh did not know Joseph (Genesis 42:1-6, 43:1,2). The people of Israel were made to do forced labour, to make bricks and build houses. Pharaoh became scared of the numbers of the Israelites and finally killed all the baby boys who were born (Exodus 1:8,11,12).

Another example is that of Jesus Christ. At the time of his birth, the Roman Empire was ruling and king Herod began searching in order to kill the new-born king, Jesus. But God sent an angel to Joseph, to tell him to escape to Egypt to avoid the child being killed (Matthew 2:7-16).

On all these three occasions, Egypt was a good place to escape trouble.

Bro Boniface Juma

We have been going through the books you gave us and we have found much pleasure in reading them.

In Kenya, much violence is being used in these political times.

On the other hand, job opportunities are becoming scarcer each day. At the same time, training colleges have been motivated to charge higher prices and only the rich can train.

My tribe has a saying that if a mad man walks naked, it is his kinsmen who feel ashamed, not himself. Therefore if I walk naked, you being my kinsmen in Christ, will feel ashamed.

Bro Laban Kisaka

Greetings in Jesus' name. Thank you for the books concerning the position of sisters in the fellowship, two dictionaries and *Glad Tidings*. We hope to benefit a lot from them as books of this kind are rarely found. It is now upon ourselves to clearly understand our position in God's fellowship and be contented, because it is not by man's favour but by God's grace. I have some questions for Sis. Cindy and others who are also experienced, so please, I kindly request you to allow me to communicate with them by letting me know how I can contact them direct.

Sis. Carolyn Wabwile

It is good to have the books you send to me. I really feel spiritually well because of what I am getting from them. More people are moving up and down like leaves in the wind because they don't have the Word of Life. In Kenya it is the Year of Campaign but people do not know which way to go and that has made me remain courageous. I also urge all Christians to follow the right course because one day God will change us from mortal to spiritual bodies. Otherwise, brother, I have converted many to God's Way. In fact I had six people who were preparing for interview but the problem is that I need revision study books and I urge you to assist me with these and other study books that you think may help the children of God.

I would like to inform you that the books you are sending us are actually helping us a great deal, they are the books we are using to teach people. For instance, converting somebody like Bro Leonard Wanjala into our faith was not an easy task, somebody having a higher degree in education than some of us and at the same time being a Pastor of a Church (one with more than four hundred believers). It took time before he abandoned his church and decided to be baptised again. Right now, he is a brother sharing the one hope with us. And it is the books you sent us that strengthened his faith.

Another example is Bro Justus Simiyu of Kaptama Ecclesia. He was also a pastor in PEFA church, He took two years before he finally agreed to be re-baptised. And it is because of the books you sent us.

So what if you stopped sending us the parcels? how should we convert more people? I know I have the ability to do it, but the books you send us always give proper guidance on how to make our pilgrimage to the Bible. For instance, now we need some more *Bible Companions* due to an increasing population. I know the work ahead of us is neither mine nor yours: it is the Lord's. And a person who will run up to the last moment is the one who will be rewarded. We still have a long journey to go and let us not lose hope. As the saying goes, "Prayer flies where eagles never flew"

So, brother, the books you have been sending us have been of great importance to the ecclesia. They have been helping us to tell our ideas to the Gentiles. As you know, a good salesman is somebody who can convince a bald-headed man to buy a comb, a blind person to buy a mirror and a toothless person to buy toothpaste – and, indeed, we have done it through the assistance of the books.

My people have a saying that "a water pot breaks at the door steps", meaning that something may move on just well and get damaged when it is about to arrive at its destination. Therefore as we are about to enter God's kingdom, let nothing disrupt us and pull us apart. So I am appealing to you to continue sending us those parcels and we are discussing an appropriate way to receive them.

Bro Laban Kisaka

CHWELE

I am thankful to God for His kindness and goodness to us in keeping us well and uniting us in our remembrance of our absent Master. I am very happy to have your letter and *Gospel News* and so happy to see worldwide news which gives us more encouragement. We are all on the race to the Kingdom. God has set His video camera taping our movements, characters and actions. Let us recall the parable of the talents in Matt.25:14-30. Jesus used this parable to demonstrate our faith and the way we can do the will of God by spreading the word and bringing Him many followers, as Jesus himself did. If we use our talents rather than sit and do nothing verse 23 will apply to us and we will be blessed in the Kingdom. As Ecc.11:1 says, "Cast your bread upon the waters for after many days you will find it again."



Sis. Florence and Bro. Isaac Wafula with their family and sheep

I am very impressed with a sister and her team for the action for us as Kibisi sisters. She cast the bread in 1999. As an ecclesia we decided to farm, set up a group and decided to rear sheep. In 2001 we bought a sheep; it was very small but in 2003 it produced twins. See the miracle of God as right now every sister has her own sheep. How happy I am with my family, Ecc.11:2,6, "Give a portion to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.... Sow your seed in the morning and at the evening let not your hands be idle for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that or whether both will do equally well."

Sis. Florence Wafula

It has been wonderful to get reading glasses, so I say much thanks for what has been done for me. I am seeing well, and I can read the Bible, something I have been longing to do for a long time. So I pray God to guide you in whatever you may do as we wait for our Master's return.

People around the globe are leading their lives in ways that do not please our God. Many times they try to solve problems without depending on the power of our Lord. And because the world is crying and faint, the world has been defiled and all the people in it. So we need behaviour change from bad to God, Isaiah 24:4. We should change and leave the old deeds because we need the truth, and the sooner we stick to it, the better, Acts 3:17-19.

All is done by God who, through Christ, changed us from enemies into His friends. Eventually He will make many others to be His friends, because the message will be for the whole human race, 2 Corinthians 5:18,19.

Bro Patrick Sawa

KATITO

As we came to the end of 2007, we noticed many clear signs of the end times as prophesied in the Mt. Olivet prophecy. Earthquakes in many diverse places, people living in fear (like Iranian bombs), pestilences, cyclones, famine and drought such as never was, nations rising against nations, the gospel going unto all nations as a witness to the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. May the Lord quicken the times to the return of Christ to set up the kingdom where justice, equality and fairness will reign. I would like to request a dictionary/thesaurus to help us in our English which is a second language in Kenya. My prayers are for many afar off afflicted with problems of every kind, diseases, bereavement, that sooner rather than later the Master will return and the problems become history.

KIBANDA

Well, I am very happy to have received the books requested ie Bible Basics in Kiswahili language and the Thesaurus/Dictionary. Thanks a lot and may our Heavenly Father bless you evermore. Please send me more materials, God willing. We now lack English Bibles and other materials eg story books, etc. Bro Samwell Masawa



At the inauguration of the Miwani Ecclesia Hall Left to right: Bre Lawrence K'owiti, Alex Ojwang Abuya, Nelson Otieno Anyals. Bro Lawrence K'owiti



Nyandenga Ecclesial Hall Kibanda Bre John Onani, Daniel Ogemba, Kornel Oliech



Bro Samwell Masawa, a member of Kababu Ecclesia, South Nyanza Area.

KIBERA

I hope that you are all well and holding fast to the doctrines of the gospel. Our prayer is to see a peaceful world without violence at all. Nevertheless, this is impossible with man. Only God can set up a peaceful kingdom. I pray that He may send His son soon to deliver mankind from this unworthy universe.

Our prayer is that no-one should perish, but all have everlasting life in Jesus our Lord. Our responsibility is to encourage all to believe (Hebrews 10:19-25). Let us take up that responsibility to encourage brothers and sisters as we see the day of the Lord is coming. Hebrews gives us a good exhortation, with a duty to see that we all encourage one another and meet together in fellowship in the Breaking of Bread. We must grow in faith and the hope that is built on the Rock, Jesus, and remain strong.

Let brothers and sisters all over serve with all our souls and hearts, and give holy service to our Father. Our hope that He who began a good work in us will soon in us will soon accomplish it (Philippians 1:6). He has kept aside something good for those who are the heirs of the promises (Hebrews 11:39-40).

Bro Gideon Mukeku

KINANGOP

This time I would reflect on God's commands from the time of creation or, rather, Genesis. From my study of the Bible I have come to see our God as the first Prophet, as He prophesied for creation when He used the words "Let there be ..." (Genesis 1:3 and so on). Also in Genesis 2:16,17, "And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden: but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'"

The reason why I take this prophecy is that it had not taken place, and it took time before it happened when the eating of the fruit itself brought the death of Adam and Eve and inaugurated the death of mankind.

Let us hold fast to the faith, no matter what situation we are in. Let us pull ourselves together with Paul's words, "What can separate us from the love of God?" Is it hunger, sickness, nakedness, poverty or riches? none of these can separate us, God knows us and He is aware of all that we are undergoing. "Pray continually". I have written this with a lot of thanks for sending me the dictionary and Kiswahilil Bible Basics. In fact my hobby is reading and letter-writing and this will do me great favour in passing the faith to my friends who cannot understand English. I don't know whether you already have a Kikuyu copy or if it is in process; let me know, for I can offer some help in writing it.

Bro Peter Njuguna

KISAMBAI

Our Life and Practices: Life – the breath God gave man (Genesis 2:7) has a great influence in our Christian life today. Our practices imply the same.

Titus 3:8, it is our role to believe and act accordingly for it is profitable towards life in Christ. It is a command that we must check our way of life eg 1 Peter 2 21. taking Christ as an example in our lives. "Do good for all" (Galatians 6:10).

We should not direct our lives to the love of the world because whoever loves the world is an enemy to our Father in heaven:

* Romans 12:2: "Do not follow the world"

* 1 John 2:15: "Whoever loves the world, loving God is not possible"

* James 4:4: "Parents you don't know being a friend of the world is being an enemy to God"

* Romans 8:7: "For bodily desires are evil to God (from worldly influence).

We Christadelphians should leave out the world's influences. We should practise:

1, Follow peace with everyone, wherever you are (Hebrews 12:14). This will enhance unity in the ecclesia and even in the nation. In the present world, the cursed earth, Genesis 3:7, many nations are waging war due to lack of unity and peace.

2, Agree with your adversary promptly, bearing in mind that you must love your enemy (Matthew 5:25,44; 1 Corinthians 6:7) for the sake of peace.

3, What binds us all: 'Love' (Matthew 22:39; Romans 12:9,10; 2 Peter 1:7).

Practising all of these makes a clear indication that we are truly preparing for the second coming of our Saviour – and we see the signs of the times all around us.

Bro Isaac Lugonzo

KITALE

May the Lord bless you in spreading His word, you should develop the ministry to enrich and encourage brethren and sisters to grow spiritually. I felt very excited when I saw my articles published in *Gospel News*.

Sis Lydiah Fuchaka



Sis Lydiah with the Sisters Class

KOBUJOI

I try to be brief in my writing because I feel I do not want to be a bore to our readers. A brief message to me is always more beneficial to the edifying of the soul than a lengthy piece.

Am keeping well here at Kobujoi. The weather is also fine, good sunshine and enough rainfall at the moment. We continue in our prayers for the soon return of our Lord and Saviour to get rid of the greed and hate we see cultivated in the minds of people.

Bro Geoffrey Chirchir

MAKHONGE

We wish to thank you for *Gospel News*, *Kiswahili Bible Basics*, *English Dictionaries*, *Glad Tidings* and the article about current affairs in the Middle East. God is in control of everything and so we feel safe in His arms.

Headlines in Kenya are full of political affairs after the 9th Parliament has been dissolved last month. The struggle lies between the Government party PNU, formed after NARC and the opposition ODM party. The participants are launching campaigns for the race to civic, parliamentary and presidential seats. The breaking news is that a certain Pentecostal Church leader, Pastor Pius Muiru, with his KPP party is looking for parliament and presidency. He rebukes other parties including the government for the high level of corruption in the country. He promises the civilians that they God-fearing MPs and President to get rid of all sorts of corruption. Does a Christian take part in politics? This is a question we are asking ourselves. Christians are good shepherds to look after the flock in churches but not engage in politics. God has promised to send Jesus back again to establish God's Kingdom on earth, where love, peace and joy with flourish, to be enjoyed by the elect. We ask for God's providence during these perilous times.

Before we conclude, we would like to share with you the idea of how we can improve on the preaching activities in this country, Kenya, and our ecclesial area in particular. Many brothers are endeavouring to translate lessons into the local language (Bukusu). There are still obstacles in our way.

We wish to have a radio cassette and some tapes to have the lessons taped in the local language for local natives to understand the Bible clearly. Non-Christadelphians are using foreign languages as an advantage to confuse many. We look forward to organising out-reaches in different areas, and enlighten other people. Thereafter, for those interested shall buy these tapes at affordable prices to for our fares, lunch and printing leaflets.

Please, kindly help us with this important missionary work. Thanks.

Bro Manasseh and Sis DoricusWamamili

Comment. An excellent idea.

MBITA

Gospel News is very interesting and helpful to my family. But it's too costly for me to buy stamps for sending to you. I would like to tell you that the word of God is our daily meal.



The photo shows my house in great need of repair. I look after several orphans as well as my family in this, but cannot afford to repair it as well as feed all – so I am in need of help to do this.

Bro Javed Oketch

NAIROBI

I am glad to read some of the four books sent to me and more so *Gospel News*, and other booklets. I am currently at Nairobi (since 2004) from my home ecclesia, Lema, in Central Province (Area).

Sis Eunice Ndeti

I always remember you in my prayers, and remember all the difficulties you encounter to ensure that all the four corners of the earth at least receive *Gospel News* and many other booklets.

All in all, everything we wish for is not what comes our way, otherwise we may not always thank God for anything and everything we receive.

Visiting brothers and sisters is one of the fundamental characteristics of the disciples of Jesus that we should learn. It encourages and strengthens everyone.

Kenya is growing strong spiritually and – particularly - the true faith of Christadelphia is now widespread despite its unique nature. We had a good Bible School and National Youth Camp.

Bro Gideon Mukeku

Jesus' coming is imminent as we see what is happening around the world as predicted by Jesus himself. We are living in the last days. Hosea 4:6 tells us that we should have knowledge about God if we expect to be in his Kingdom. James 3:13 tells us that after being equipped with knowledge we should show our works in the meekness of wisdom. 1 Pet.1:6,7 tells us that we should supplement our knowledge by faith and virtue. Please send me a dictionary and other relevant literature concerning the coming Kingdom.

Bro. Joseph K. Luseno

MIWANI

Miwani Ecclesia has nine members, five sisters and four brothers. We also have 25 Sunday School children and seventeen friends. We have recently leased half an acre of land worth Ksh2,500 (about £20). On this, Miwani sisters, widows and orphans' group will be involved in planting cassava, and there is also a tree nursery project. The main objective of these projects is to aid those who come from unfortunate homes and just loiter around Miwani. They may eventually turn out to become destitute if help is not available to them.

At the moment we have two baptised widows as members of Miwani Ecclesia, and five orphans as well as thirteen unfortunate children (who would otherwise be destitute), in the Sunday School.

Bro Peter Omony



Miwani Ecclesia at their Memorial Service in the rented hall.



Miwani, Cassava project.

MOMBASA



Mombasa Ecclesia taken after a Memorial Service in 2005, from left to right – Bro. Thomas Radido, Sis. Pamela Radido (wife of Bro. Thomas), Sis Hellen Akelo, Bro. Timothy Nguli, Sis. Lydia Radido and Bro. Edward Kunina.

NAKURU

Last year we had a Youth Camp in Nairobi, joined by youths from Tanzania and Uganda. I met Bro Tim Evans, the Tanzania Linkman. I also met Bro Philip Lawrence who assists Welfare issues, and the CBM has helped me to get specialized treatment for my chronic leg ulcer. I spent 14 days in hospital and now I am feeling well although still on medication. May the Almighty God bless those who strive to preach the glad tidings in various places in the world. I am still planning to settle in Australia.

Bro Samuel Watako



Nakuru Family

NDHIWA

I always feel great while remembering what the Lord did to me late 1994, September 26th, when I knew that I was a sinner, hence I got a true understanding of the Bible especially a quote from

Heb.2:3, “How shall we escape from God’s wrath if we neglect so great salvation which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard him.” However, this is a fact that should not be forgotten to put into practice; you find that one who has been baptised and a partaker of the Lord’s table is still continuing to be tempted by the selfish desires that are found in Gal.5:19-21 and even participating in having more than one wife and further growing of cash crops, e.g. Bhang (Marijuana), etc.

Generally, what I am trying to urge the “umbrella house” of the Lord, thus Christadelphian brethren, is that it will not be easy by so saying that we are going to inherit the new Kingdom to come; what each one of us needs is to confess and repent over sin. John 3:7-8. One might ask me what I am trying to bring home? Please let me assure you that, (1 Cor.13:1,13) I do love you in the Lord! I need you, too, brethren to taste what I tasted by the year mentioned above. My hope is always to continue growing in the faith. I am therefore requesting to be assisted with the following books.

Last but not least may I give thanks to C.A.T for the great favour and support we at Okumbo Ecclesia received.

Since our ecclesia was initiated we had been worshipping at a rented building but now we have managed to raise up a semi-permanent building which is now helpful for our ecclesial purposes.

Bro. Nike Juma

I was very happy to receive the literature and it is really helping me. The book “Why I Am Not a Pentecostal” gives me a strong foundation of faith.

Concerning the Sunday School materials, I would be very happy to have more.

On the same note, I thought to establish a Christadelphian library at our nearest centre where people can have the literature, and if possible be introduced to the course and understand the truth. It can also help me attend to some questions, since in our area there are many people who were doing the course but don’t see the meaning.

Bro Alan Ketozo

OGEMBO

Despite all problems I am trying to translate *What Is The Gospel?* into Kiswahili, Bukusu and Kamba languages. I will try to work carefully. May God bless!

Bro. Simeon Kituyi

SONGHOR

I am very pleased to hear that you and other brothers and sisters are in the hope waiting for Christ’s return. In Kenya, the harvest of food crops was good and we thank God for that.

You informed me through *Gospel News* that the new edition of Kiswahili Bible Basics is available. That is good news that there is an easy translation for us to read. So I request some copies.

Bro George Ndiege

SUNA

Thank you very much for your encouraging letter.

We have a new government and we pray that our Almighty Lord shields us.

There is, of course, worry since peace is not prevailing in some parts of the country, especially Mount Kenya region where several lives have perished.

Bro Moses E Maleya

Greetings in the Lord's name. The situation here is very worse. Every day bad reports are heard about the developments. Two people were killed through clashes and bro. Martin's house has been burnt with all house contents. Bro. Martin is residing at my place and we are sharing the small food I purchased days back. Bro. Martin's father had died and he was left with his mother and a brother. This has grown my family to 13 so we have a very great food shortage for this family. Also bro Nicholas met a group of violent clasher and was beaten and his bicycle was burnt at the road barriers they planted. He is now in the hospital.

Bro. Samwell Masawa

[Carelinks have sent aid to Kenya]

Bro. Samwell received assistance with thanks. I will let you know the progress. I am happy to have you all in brotherhood with all your compassion and empathy towards the political crisis here.

Bro. James Nyangute

SUNA MIGORI

Thank you for the reading materials which you have sent in constant supply. I am very much thankful for *Bible Basics for Moslems*.

Brethren, I have material problems that are really causing friction in my Christian life. I am married with three children and the kind of odd jobs I am doing cannot sustain my family. I am working as a lab man in a private clinic. Since the government introduced free medical services in government health institutions, sometimes we go a whole week without receiving even a single patient, because they can now opt for free services in government hospitals. My wife now sees me as the cause of all this depravity in the house. I am in a quagmire, brethren, and I am requesting you to lift me out of this filth.

I have a suggestion which is subject to objection. Because overseas brethren are more materially well off than we brethren here, why not start some income-generating project to be overseen by needy brethren here. I know that would require some feasibility study, with written proposals, but it is just a notion that I would like you to give some thought to. It is more of giving the hook than the fish.

The UK brethren have already supported us with their welfare and famine provisions. I am thankful for this.

Bro Joseph Onyango

The servants of the tenants of a rich estate-owner had gotten into heavy debts. Their master had willingly granted them one loan after another, so the money had been easily acquired – and quickly spent. Some effort was made to repay the loan, but because of their expensive habits, they constantly needed new loans. However, this did not seem to bother most of them.

One day, a poster outside the manager's office caught their eyes. It announced that anyone with a loan should pay before 10 o'clock in the master's office. That meant all the debts had to be settled. The announcement was discussed. Some just shrugged their shoulders and went away

and settled to the task of declaring they would humiliate themselves by admitting that they could not pay their debts. Others argued the owner would certainly not press them into paying at all. Still others maintained that it was probably a trap of some kind.

The morning hours were almost gone, when an elderly servant with his bill of debt in his hand resolutely knocked on the door. A few minutes later he came out, his face aglow. In his hands was the cleared bill; for the first time in his life he was free from debt.

Realising that the announcement was true, the indebted servants now thronged the entrance to the office, but as the clock struck 10 o'clock, the door was locked in their faces. No-one could now get in. The time of grace had expired. Shortly afterwards, one by one the indebted servants were cast into prison since they could not pay their master's demand for payment. (Is this story not likened to Jesus, and becoming free from sin?)

Let me tell you, brothers and sisters, something worse than prison awaits those who have not had their bills of debts cleared before God before the time of grace has expired: "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call on him while he is near" Is 56:6. I would like to break the good news concerning my studies. Bro Samwell Masawa has already connected me to a personal tutor, Bro Ivan Mabey in England. I have already sent some papers for marking. The lessons together with the New Year calendar are really nourishing my life spiritually as we wait for Jesus to come and establish God's kingdom

Bro Benjamin Munyeo Mwatu



Bro Mwatu with interested friends.



Newly baptised Brethren and Sisters at Tongaren

TONGAREN

You have done well to send me the Bible reading planner. The book is good for questions and answers on daily reading to help readers understand. Thank you very much for the booklets of Revision Studies which you sent to me. These will help us in our Tailoring School for Bible lessons.

Yesterday we received the printed booklets of Bukusu Hymns from Bro Trevor Hughes which we translated, it is the first hymn book to be printed. We started with 20 songs and, God willing, we shall translate more.

Last week we baptised eight members for Tongorek Ecclesia and one for Turbo Ecclesia in the Mabusu River Tongaren as the photo indicates. We wish them a nice journey as they start their walk towards the coming Kingdom, which will be established on earth in the future. May God

guide and bless them all.

Bro Sikolia Kapa

UKUNDA

When James recommended the brethren to anoint a sick brother with oil and pray over him with a view to his recovery, notice that he told them, "To call the elder of the church" (James 5:14,15). Presently, there may be official brethren bearing the title of 'elder', but they are not the order of men James had during his time when he wrote the words in question.

The elders of the church in James' days were not only elders in name and office, but elders, or super iors, in power, having the gifts of the Holy Spirit at their disposal. They were the divinely-appointed and divinely-endowed overseas of the ecclesia (Acts 20:17,28).

Bro Walter Wasike



Bro Walter Wasike

UKUNDA

Greetings in the love of God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, the future King of the world, as prophesied in Zechariah 14. It is my pleasure and love of God that I get every article you send me and that has kept my faith up. Thank you very much for the transcript of the public debate, "Are the Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit possessed today?" Let me say, as a believer who believed by faith, without seeing or feeling, first, we should know and understand Romans 14:17. Surely we heard the Word of God by being corrected, taught and instructed in righteousness (2 Tim.3:16-17), so that we (you and me) would be perfected unto good works. The opposing debater and those of the same beliefs, know that we were Gentiles in the flesh, Eph.2:11. Without Christ's shed blood, that is his death, which was buying us from our sin, we were nothing.

Bro. Edward Kunikina

news from malawi

BOLERO

Here in my district, we are able to gather together every Sunday, but we don't have enough local hymn books or Bibles for everyone to use during Memorial Services. So I write to ask if you can help my ecclesia, Bolero, with hymn books (Chichewa) and Bibles (Tumbuka).

Bro Lukanga Nyomiro



Bro Lukanga Nyomiro translating a leaflet into Tumbuka

I have repented now and I am striving to love God with my whole being. I must put God and His Son first in my service that God may bless me. In all that I do, I just be a faithful and wise servant, doing the Lord's will with all my heart, keeping my Saviour's commandments, which involve loving and caring for my brothers and sisters as though they were Christ himself.

Bro Luke Cha inga



Bro Luke Cha inga

CHIKWAWA

Thank you so much for sending me *Gospel News* and booklets which help my life to mature spiritually. These booklets about the Bible reveal God's kingdom promised to Abraham, David and Jesus which will be fulfilled (God willing) in our days.

Bro Diverson Folley

GONDA

Thank you for the parcel I received containing books on seed production and farming conservation which will improve our agriculture, which is the common way of getting our daily food. Thank for sending me *Introducing Bibles Basics*, & *Teach Me Thy Way*, which I had been requesting since 2004 so I am very happy indeed.



Christadelphian of Gonda Ecclesia near the Garden of Millet. From the left, Bre Fredson, Blandon, Folley, McDonald, Yohane, Robert. Two boys in front: Bro Msamaken (in uniform) with Bro Diverson Folley's sons. Front (girls from the right): Luwiza, Evelin, Grace (daughter of Bro Folley). Back (women from the right): Mrs McDonald, Mrs Yohane, Mrs Blanden.

I appreciate the signs of the times leaflets which help me and others to know the times, we are living in. It also helps us to be strong and of good courage (Joshua 1:6). Read Mark 13:9-13,

Revelation 2:10 says Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer and also Matthew 24:12, 13 says. "And because iniquity shall abound the love of the same shall wax cold. But he that shall endure... the same shall be saved".

Folley Robert

KASUNGU

I showed the two books you sent to one of the Government Medical Officers and I was told that they are very useful indeed, but I have no authority to give any medicine to anyone without authorization from the Government. At present, I have just been temporarily employed as a village Health worker in the Ministry of Health.

A medical office has advised me that I must compete with school leavers in order to qualify for permanent work in the Ministry. He said that I must therefore go for the Advanced GCE levels, as every year thousands of students are finishing their education and are competing for an established vacancy. So I have to use the chance that God has given me.

He chose the subjects that I must study if an opportunity allows: Biology and Human Biology, Physics. He said if I go for these subjects, then I can be employed permanently in the Ministry of Health.

So my request is to ask if there is a chance for me to study these two subjects so that I might secure my job? If I don't do this I will have no chance to continue my work with the Government..

Bro Harmony Ntchalachala

Your work has inspired many in Malawi through the information you send and Gospel News. I have a lot more testimonies from brethren who are converts from Muslim to Christianity, due to the simplicity of the gospel and the hope it offers.

Bro. Pickmore Swira

LIWONDE

Remember what the apostle Paul said "We entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain". For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you and helped you on the day of salvation".

Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:1,2). For all of us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, now is the day.

Bro Michael Chisanga



Bro Michael Chisanga and Friend

MVUWI

I would like to thank you so much for sending me some world news. Clearly as you support each event with a Bible verse, these are the signs of our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. I would like to continue having this kind of literature, and please continue sending *Gospel News*.

Bro Wiseman Munyoro

MZUZU

I am very sorry for taking so long without writing to you. This has been due to several circumstances. The major one was the sudden death of my very close Brother in Christ, Albert Nyirenda, who was in the Truth for barely three years. Albert was 64 years old and it was the sad duty of the four of us to put him to rest in the Lord. However, our mourning is not like that of others who have no hope. We know that our brother will rise from the dead when Jesus comes again.

Bro. Sylvester Tembo

NGABU

As I write this letter, I am at Chikwawa District Hospital to receive TB treatment for about six months. This is the last month and then they will allow me to go home. So, brother, I am asking you to send *Gospel News* and other books. And, please, I am asking you and your team over there in England to make healing prayer for this disease.

Bro Harlod Temboh

NKHATA BAY

Many thanks for keeping on sending me the magazines. By reading the articles by brethren and sisters, I feel that I become close to them. Brother, I am not in good health. I have been suffering from chest pains for 8–9 months. I cannot go to private hospitals because of finance. I visited a nearby clinic to see the nurse, but they only give me aspirin or sometimes panadol, but this won't stop my problem. I am also failing to meet with Bre at Chilumba because of this. I do know that one day God will solve my problem for Luke states, "Pray always and faint not."

Bro Joel Singini

RUMPHI

It is my greatest joy to know that Bible Basics is being produced in other languages including Chichewa. I am trying to improve my language and also to see again the great truth of which I am unsure that I am worthy.

Bro Joel Harawa

NAKALATA

We, as human beings, sometimes act as Jeremiah was answered, Jer.44:15-18, Lev.26:43. Has it been that we are living like the sons of Rechab who were following the justice of their parents, Jer.35:5-8. Here in Malawi we are in summer time when the trees shed their leaves. The sun is overhead the Capricorn Tropic which is a very harsh condition to work in as it is so hot. The name Nakalata means somebody who has a letter. He/she must be a receiver or a writer. 'Na', means 'a person' and Kalata means 'a letter'. The word comes from Chichewa, a common language for communication here in Malawi.

Bro R.W.Kalowa



Bro. R.W. Kalowa and his family

Thoughts of the Judgement Seat

I stood quite near the Judgement Seat, head bowed in bitter shame,
Within my head words echoed loud, 'I had myself to blame.'
I saw the King and standing there, beheld His Glorious face,
At His right hand in joy supreme, the saints saved by His grace,
Engulfed in grief, alone, afraid, would I now plead in vain?
The words re-echoed louder now, so real within my brain,
"Here was the One who'd gone before, the One I had longed to see".
Said angels serving near the throne, "The Master calleth Thee."
To give account – things done and said, the reason I was asked,
"Why I neglected things of God, and often passed them by."
I then recalled how oft I said, "Today I have no time,
I'll do it -yes, another day," and that had been my crime.
How could I answer full of guilt, but Jesus knew and said,
"No time to do the things of God? No time to bow your head?
"No time to kneel in daily prayer or wait for Him who heard?
No time to pause and meditate the riches of His word?
"No time to visit poor or sick? No time to write and give
The stranger in the gate a word of hope that he might live?
"Yet you had time for other tasks and time to exercise,
Your mental powers on other things and home to supervise.
"You'd plenty time to read and talk of things that mattered not,
But things that mattered most of God, you simply just forgot!"
That was enough, I heard no more, though words continued long.
My talent lay neglected there, to Him it did belong, But I'd forgotten it was His and put it on one side.
And now before the throne it lay, my face I tried to hide,
The saints remained there on His right, of once by sin bereft,
But I was now amongst the ones upon the Judge's left,
Those words were still within my brain, verdict on guilty crime,
No place, No hope, No righteous crown, for YOU I had no time.
A DREAM YOU SAY – yes, but how real, and what relief to wake,
To find I STILL HAD TIME TO SPEND before the Judgement break,
For he the Saviour, who was scorned, up Calvary's hill did climb,
WHAT SHALL I SAY WHEN HE SHALL ASK, 'HOW HAVE YOU SPENT YOUR TIME?'

Bro Lukanga Nyomiro (Rumphi, Malawi)

SINYALA

Please continue to send *Gospel News*. I have no hesitation in introducing to you Bro James Mphelo who is also interested in receiving *Gospel News*. I need more preaching materials, Truth's literature and *Glad Tidings* magazine.

Let us all work together towards unity. Please pray for me.

Bro Henderson M Sosola

THYOLO

Thank you for the encouragement you show to me - you never tire of giving it. Last year there were three brothers and three sisters from the UK. We were happy to hear such helpful words of

God.

Bro Smart Lombe



Photo: Bre Smart Lombe, Senior and Junior

news from mauritius

Thank you for *Gospel News* received regularly and the writings of brethren are of great importance for our minds. May God bless you and your team for the excellent work you are doing for the propagation of the seeds in all corners of the world.

Bro. Lilkan Ancharaz

news from mozambique

I am very happy to be a part of the worldwide community. I am thankful to our heavenly Father for giving me brethren and sisters for fellowship. One thing I have found which is rare in other Christian organisations and found within the Christadelphians is the willingness to read the Bible and pass the good news of the true bible message to others. We are a unique community.

Thank you very much for the *Gospel News* - keep up the good work you are doing. I enjoy reading it.

Bro Hebert Mahala



Bro Hebert Mahala

Since I returned from Mozambique 3 weeks ago I haven't been feeling well. And even though I wasn't feeling well on 10 June, I forced myself to go to Tanganda where most of our Ecclesia members meet for the breaking of bread. We also had an opportunity of breaking bread with Mutare Ecclesia. There we met several brothers including Bro Gilbert Tevere who was the founder of Rimbi Ecclesia. I was very encouraged by the commitment which my friend Bro Joshua Pakali gave to the Lord: He spent the whole night travelling from BeitBridge to Tanganda and the whole day on the word of God. I arrived there in the afternoon and he joined me in the interviews, but I could not finish the last interview. So Bro Joshua was helped by Bro Livison to carry on. I was supposed to give an exhortation that Sunday but due to my poor health, I could not. Joshua did it for me. The day had been a great day for us all, including witnessing 2 baptisms. I went to the doctor and he gave me an antibiotic for pneumonia.

Bro Moses Dhlakama

Further report

We rejoice in the baptism on August 6th of Chequimo Matiasse of Mossurize District (Espungabera) Mozambique. The baptism was witnessed by brothers and students from Mozambique as well as Bro. Steven and Sis. Ruth Moore from U.K. who were on a Bible Mission tour. There are other Bible students who have already completed the course and they need to be interviewed for baptism but cannot come to Zimbabwe for different reasons. God continues to open the door of faith to the Gentiles in that part of the world hence about 25 people are on the correspondence course and are living distances apart so travelling by foot is becoming difficult for me so I had to give them my personal bicycle so that we can use it for preaching. Again I am alone to cope with the number of students is now difficult and I have sent Evelyn to Harare to renew her visa so that she can accompany me. There is a very big difference in the sense that in that part of very big difference in the sense that in that part of that country you need to visit every student at his or her place to collect the lessons for marking and sometimes you arrive and are told that he/she is away so you have to come back again and it may be 15 to 20 km. If there are two of us this will help as one will be marking the lesson and another one will talk to the student.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

Thank you very much for the *Gospel News* and the *Bible Readers' Calendar*. Truly the *Gospel News* is a fellowship magazine where brothers and sisters from different countries meet. It contains encouraging news from brothers worldwide. Keep up the good work. Don't forget to send us other copies of *Gospel News* – we enjoy reading it.

Bro Arone and Sis Evermore Muchanga (Espungabera)

Bro Hebert Mahala



Photo: – From left to right – Bro. Herbert Mahala, newly baptised Bro. Chequimo Matiasse, Bro. Moses Dhlakama and a Bible student, Domingo Mashava, all of Mozambique.

news from nigeria

ABA

We started a radio gospel programme at the end of last year and it has been yielding positive results. Two people have been baptised as a result of it and we have many contacts who are keen to be baptised as I suppose. I wish to request *Bible Basics* in English, *Gospel News* and other literature for a newly baptised brother to help him understand what he was baptised into more fully.

Sis. Josephine O. Onwuchekwa

CROSS RIVER STATE

For many years now I have been a member of the Christadelphians. In the past I contributed in writing some articles published in the *Gospel News*. Unfortunately I lost contact due to the

burning of my relevant documents relating to the fellowship. This happened during a communal clash between my community and the neighbouring community in Benue State of Nigeria. However, I came across Brother Peter Keneng, who showed me a letter from you so I can make contact again with you. My absence from the fellowship for some time now is highly regretted. Many thanks for your understanding in this regard.

Bro. Gabriel O Hanse

ENUGU

I thank you for the eye glass you sent to us, it seems that you realised that many brethren were in such trouble. We also need at least one dictionary for newcomers in the Lord. All these things you are doing encourage them a lot. The Nigerian meetings are good and we are trying our best here in preaching. My sister wife has been seriously ill for a month with a bad attack of malaria. She goes to hospital for treatment but there is no improvement yet. Remember us in your prayers.

Bro Goddy Nwosu

IBADAN

I am working on translating *What Is The Gospel?* into Yoruba for our witness.

Bro. Gbenga



Picture taken after the baptisms at the Enugu (Nigeria) CYC

news from rwanda

CYANGUGU

I will try to translate *What Is The Gospel?* Into Lingala. I have limited access to computer, only at the internet cafe, but I will do my best.

Bro. Theophile

news from senegal

What I need now is the contact details of our brethren and Sisters in the Senegal area.. I will appreciate that you send me the *Gospel News* magazine etc. For the past two years now I have been in isolation, because I haven't been able to locate any of our brothers. I am happy that I have been able to communicate with you and I will be in constant communication to learn more. I was baptised 5th August 2001 at the Aba Ecclesia, Nigeria.

Tsidkenu Ojike Mark.

news from south africa

LESOTHO

I have been away from home for five months in Bophuthatswana in the Republic of South Africa to look for employment for there is no employment in my own country. I am sorry that I did not let you know my current address. I am in contact with brothers and sisters in South Africa, especially Bro. and Sis. Verster and also Bro. Leon and Sis. Joan Shuker.

Bro.Tsepo Bernard Lintsa

YEOVILLE

Yeoville ecclesia rejoiced at the baptisms of three new members. Yasmin Ali Jere, Gary Smith, and Tawanda Kamumvuri. Bro. Gary and Bro. Tawanda are from Zimbabwe and have been faithful students over the last year, and Sis. Yasmin is the fiancée of Bro. Francis. 'And the Lord is adding to the number those who are being saved.



Gary about to die



Bre.Tawanda & Gary & Sis Yasmin.

news from tanzania

KIGOMA

Many thanks for the magazines you sent me which are very interesting and to read the news from the brethren and sisters worldwide gives us courage. I read about the free dictionary/Thesaurus in the *Gospel News* and it is in my interest to have one. I was also interested and pleased that Bible Basics has been reprinted and stock is now available because we need it in our ecclesia to preach the true, Divine Word of God. I send my photo taken at the time of the practical at our school.

Bro. Amnobe Iyungu



Bro. Amnube lyungu watering crops at the training college.

MUSOMA

I am busy building a place to accommodate my family, it's not big but it's better than having nothing. The one whom I have the piece of land from accepted that he will give me some of the timber from his land for putting up a structure; now the iron sheets are a big problem. I know all these things are from God and He is my leader in whatever I am doing.

Sis. Monica Achieng

news from uganda

BUSWALE

Thank you for the work you are doing in the world. We must work hard to get eternal life and let us work together in the Name of Jesus. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. When brothers and sisters become angry it is a sin – James 1:19-21. Listen my dear brothers and sisters, God has chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the Kingdom of God, James 2:3-5. If we have died with Christ Jesus we will also live with him in the Kingdom, 2 Tim. 2:11-13. In the will of God let it be done. Let us work together to get eternal life from God. Blessed are you who are poor in the eyes of God. Read Luke 6:20-23 and Luke 4:43. We must preach the good news of the Kingdom in all the world.

Bro. Patrick Muboli

KIGANALO

Because of Jesus I am allowed to send you warm and lovely greetings in our Master's Name. Thank you very much for your letters which were all interesting and let us pray that you continue with the same spirit. We were with Sue two weeks ago enjoying organic agriculture study in Central Uganda but unfortunately I was affected by chest pain which resulted in vomiting of blood which made me feel very ill so that I could not enjoy other topics, but generally it was a very interesting course. As I came back to our ecclesia in Uganda we joined our group of seven members and began to practice some of the things we had learnt about, such as double digging and Mandala gardens. Do you know this type of garden?

Bro. Samuel Onyango

LUMINO

I always read the Gospel News that you send and get pleasure and encouragement also to share with the rest of our ecclesia. In Lumino ecclesia there are five baptised members, three brothers and two sisters, i.e. Bro. Godfrey Egessa, Bro. Frederick Ojambo, Bro. Peter Mugeni, Sis. Josephine Ajiambo and Sis. Florence Nahumach. We also have 8 students on correspondence and 12 Sunday School children. Our Sunday service starts at eight a.m. with Sunday School. From 9 a.m. - 12 noon Bible School reading and Breaking of Bread service. After lunch we have

Bible Study with the contacts up to 5 p.m. We also visit students on Wednesdays and Sundays every week for Bible Study

I would like to share with our brothers and sister in Christ about the topic – SPEAKING IN FAITH. Why do we need to speak in faith as believers and how do we need to speak in faith as believers? How are we feeding our hearts? How do we live the language of faith? The Bible tells us that by faith we understand and believe that the creation was formed at God's command, Gen.1:2-3,6,9,11,20 and Heb.11:1-3. God is our paymaster who expects us to speak in faith in order to get His plans and blessings. Ex.23:25, Isa.59:1-13, Jer.29:11. What we see here is a fact, that we should call on God, pray to Him, and seek Him through His word. If we keep on feeding our hearts with evil, we shall speak evil, but if we feed it with an abundance of the fear of the Lord, our tongue and mouth will determine our lives before, and at, our Lord's return for judgement. 2 Cor. 4:13. We need to be holy by speaking in faith "Godliness with contentment is a great gain" (1Tim Speaking in faith needs actions because faith without action is dead, James2:17,26), so we need to do as God commands us. In order to be successful we need to have faith in God by speaking in faith in whatever we do (2 Chr.20:20). Num.13:30 reminds us how Caleb encouraged the people before Moses to have faith (speaking in faith) in order to take possession of the land, so we need to speak in faith to overcome our difficulties. Acts.14:3 Let us speak boldly in our preaching. Let us live by faith that God will do the things we ask. 2 Cor.5:7. Let us speak and act in line with the Word of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Num.14:28.

Bro. Godfrey Egessa



Bro. Godfrey Egessa on an evening walk after visiting a student contact.

MBALE

We thank you for the messages that you send to us to keep us updated with different pieces of information across the world. These messages are very good reminders that empower some of us spiritually, hence giving us a clear way forward for our future as we await the return of Jesus Christ before we triumphantly march to meet God's glory in Jerusalem where we expect paradise. The big worry for nuclear weapons is a plan which is under the care of the Almighty God. There is no man on earth who is greater than God and so we keep praying that God defeats their plan and finds a solution. Our area has been hit by natural catastrophe characterised by famine as a result of landslides, hailstones and heavy rains throughout the years in review and this has caused a problem that the crops grown do not now give any yield.

Bro. Gilbert W. Mugoya

MBARARA

Thank you for the *Gospel News* – Oct/Dec.2007. I do thank God for the work you do to produce this magazine which is a great encouragement to us. May you continue to send me a copy.

Bro. James Tibesigwa

TAX PARK

It has been a long period since I last heard from you, almost a full year, as during the last six months I have been in South Africa and Iraq. I am now working in the Uganda Red Cross in the Disaster Department.

Bro. Mukasa Edward Katosi

news from zambia

CHINSALI

I thank God for helping me see this day.

I hope more people begin to believe in God and His son Jesus Christ and gain salvation, because I am well aware that the path they are taking does not lead to the true religion as found in the Bible. I am doing my best to share this with as many people as possible.

Bro. Edward Mutale



Photo: Right: Bro. Edward Mutale; with others brothers at Chifunsa Ecclesia.

CHIPATA

We thank you for publishing *Gospel News*. It makes us feel that we are in a family, sharing the same truth. We would be happy if you could also send in the coming year, 2008, to our six new members.

Bro. James Mbewe

FRINGILLA

I am requesting some literature so that I may have a good knowledge of things: *Bible Basics* in English and one in Bemba. I had some publications some time back, but unfortunately my small thatched house was gutted by fire a year ago and my literature was burnt. Let's follow all that we read in our daily readings and try to live a perfect life.

Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa

Thank you very much for all the work you are doing for God, and thank you for sending me the parcel of books which teach the word of God – '*What is the Gospel?*' and the lessons for French and Portuguese, with *Bible Basics* both in French and English. I have managed to produce a 2008 calendar which includes the Care Link website address. The work I am doing, God willing, should include the snaps showing the distribution of books sent to Congo.

Bro Francis Mbalanga

DUSTBIN DISCOVERY!

Someone in Zambia put some of our leaflets and *Gospel News* in the dustbin. We have had a letter from Banket saying, "I would like to be enlisted to receive your *Gospel News*. I have heard of you through loose pamphlets and *Gospel News* picked from the dustbin." Comment. I trust he will respond to the *Gospel* call through this providential find. He would not be the first to

come into the Truth this way, one of our early converts in the 1950s was a tramp who picked up our advert in a waste bin - he later brought others into the Truth MH

KABOMPO

All our brothers worldwide were at my home through *Gospel News*: it is God's wish that we live apart, but we are together in faith. I would like to inform you that our Brother Reauben Kambeqa of our ecclesia is back in fellowship, I personally thank God for his return; because this was a result of prayer.

Brothers, please continue to assist us with books, because our library needs have grown bigger, with a lot of people borrowing books.

Bro. Charles Muhupu

KAFUE

I thank you very much for the reading material which I received. Please continue sending me as many pamphlets as possible, especially *Gospel News* and those related to the coming Kingdom.

Bro. Peter Mwika

KALOMO

In the year 1984 I came across an article printed in our local newspaper, the Sunday Times, here in Zambia. I filled in the slip and posted it to the given address. I received the reply after only two weeks. I began the course in October 1984: I was baptised in July 1987 after a great battle with the lessons, since there wasn't a single brother or sister to help me in Livingstone town where I used to work. I received the brethren from U.K. in 1995 and 1996 who encouraged me not to give up. I received more literature and more visitors from the U.K. as well as from within Zambia. I thank my Lord God who had been sending help to me and my family through these brethren and sisters, letters, literature, etc. Had it not been for your love and kindness to shape me as I am now, I wouldn't know what type of Brother Harry I would be. May God bless you all and care for you every day of your lives.

The Christadelphian's hold proper doctrine, as far as I am concerned. I am now re-reading all the literature I have, including Bible Basics. I have no doubt that we preach the real Gospel: this makes me responsible for judgement. (John 15:22; Rom. 1:20-21; John 6:44-45; Deuteronomy 18:19). May I now appeal to every brother and sister to re-read once more the Bible and also *Bible Basics* step-by-step and think about your future. Read also James 4:17; Luke 12:47-48; Acts 17:30-31. Remember the Bible reminds us that by the knowledge of God's word we are made responsible to Him

In Revelation 22:12 the Scripture says: "I (Jesus) come quickly, and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." "When the chief shepherd (Jesus) shall appear, ye shall receipt a crown of glory." (1Peter 5:4; also 1:13). But Matt. 24:36 tells us that no-one knows the exact time of His coming. Yet I am reminded of the signs in Luke 21:27-32; Joel 2:31-32;

Ezek. 36:8; 1Thess. 4:16-17. At the harvest at Christ's return and judgement, all those who have laboured in the Gospel will rejoice together (John 4:35-36; Matt. 13:38,43). "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed

of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you” (Matt.25:31-34).

Bro. Harry Hambula

KANTANSHI

I can see beyond the sight of my eyes: I believe we are not on our own. I want to demonstrate that fact through an individual who accomplished great things, who looked back on his life and said, “I was not alone.” The evidence comes from the man Moses.

Let’s consider his recollections in the book of Deuteronomy 7:9: “He is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments”. “He is the rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice; a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He”. (Deut.32:4). I end simply by saying we know that the grace of Christ is greater than all our failures.

Bro. William Sakala

KASAMA

I should be glad if you could send me *Bible Basics* in the Bemba language, and assist me with a KJV 2000 Devotional Study Bible.

Bro. Joshua Mushili

It is really a pleasure and a spiritual revival to hear from you, especially through *Gospel News* and the pamphlets I regularly receive from you. I believe in some places there is a problem with alcoholism. We should be reminded that the Bible views the drunkard as undeserving of entering the Kingdom age, just as it views any unrepentant sinner. So, from whichever angle you look at the drunkard, they are the same. After all, salvation is strongly individual and strictly personal. We all know the Truth and those who have such problems know their position (1Thess.4.1-8).

The responsibility of the watchman is stated in Ezekiel and the resultant outcome made clear in relation to response. From Scriptural directive and revelation we know the state of mind that unrepentant believers have (Matt.12:43-45) and we know at least how some of these may react to the word preached to them a second time (Heb.6:1-6).

We must simply take the word to all, like brother Duncan has done in his booklet ‘*Living with Alcoholism.*’ Please, fellow believers, ask for this booklet. It is really helpful to whoever and wherever there appear to be problems of alcoholism.

Individuals should take the Bible as their instructor, and heed its advice. We should not want to be educated again on primary issues. How can a child begin school at six years in grade 1 and spend 15 years in the same grade? How can this child reach University level? Why do we not show maturity in faith by changing from our old self? Do we take the Lord’s advent as unsure? For if not, then we would live to please God that we may by His grace be given what He has promised.

Bro. Boniface and Sister Christine Simpanzye



Left: Bro. Joshua Mushili with, Bre. from Kazemba and Nchelenge Ecclesia.



Sis. Christine Simpanzye.

KITWE

I send you out as sheep, was Jesus' instruction to his disciples when he sent them among the Israelites who were scattered in the land among Gentiles (Matt.10:5-6). It was at the time when Israel was under Roman oppression. God's people mingled with Gentile culture; some of them had even lost the true worship of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and embraced idolatry. That is why Jesus told his disciples to be on their guard. Israel's leaders were corrupted and they misled people, therefore Jesus called them wolves. This warning applies not only to Jesus' disciples of the day, but to us who are Jesus' followers in this age. We have been commissioned by Jesus, after baptism, to go and preach the gospel.

We are facing today the same situation that Jesus' followers faced in time past among those who are called Christians, but they are not, as they do not abide with the true teaching of Jesus. They may call themselves Jesus' brethren but do not practice what Jesus says. They have turned from the word of God to man-made doctrine, putting aside God's teaching. To this sort of people Jesus is saying to us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. In fact we live in a world full of the kind of worship which can mislead us if we do not pay attention. Always let us be faithful to the Word we learnt before we were baptised. The Biblical teaching should be our code of conduct in our ecclesia and among non-believers, so that the world cannot swallow us up in its way of living. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with me. To him that overcomes I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (Rev.3:20-21). These words of encouragement should always abide in our minds, then we will walk in Jesus' steps.

I am very happy always when I receive my copy of Gospel News. Please continue sending it to me with any other material you are able. I am teaching French at Riverside Primary School. I find opportunity to share God's Word with my fellow teachers, hoping that Jesus will show some of them the direction to salvation.

Bro. Robert Mpundu Miwele



Bro. Robert Miwele (wearing glasses) with fellow teachers.



World Teachers' Day Celebration at Riverside School. Bro. Robert Miwele, second from right.

LIVINGSTONE

Last year we were very happy to be visited by Bro Tom from Canada and Bro Mitch and Sis Miriam Hardy from Australia. For two Sundays they broke bread with us. We asked them many questions, and they answered them well and cleared some misunderstandings we had. During weekdays we had Bible discussions with them. It is good to mix with Brothers and Sisters from other countries as it creates a feeling of togetherness in Christ.

Bro Likando Ilishebo

LUSAKA

It is said that knowledge is power but I believe that wisdom from God is life, therefore please let me know if I can have a copy of the book, Beyond Bible Basics. A sister encouraged me to have this book because it contains topics which are simplified for understanding and equipped with wisdom.

Bro. Jaxon Kalumba Jnr.

Thank you for the literature you sent me, in which I enjoyed reading some very interesting things and received encouragement of God's Kingdom and I hope you will continue supporting me until the end. I would love to know how I can obtain Glad Tidings magazines of the Kingdom of God because I am a person who shares God's word at school, at home with my friend and other young people and I hope by giving out these magazines to non-Christadelphians it will help them to know about us. My aim is to convert many to understand what I believe, and as now many friends are asking who we are, with the knowledge that I have attained I try to explain about my beliefs. Some are interested to learn more so I think that reading these magazines will help them to understand, with my help and that of other Christadelphians in Lusaka.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi

Thank you so much for the wonderful materials you keep sending me. I will always be grateful to God for you and the work you are doing. Our ecclesia is usually blessed with visitors from other parts of Zambia and it makes me feel so glad. God has increased our number with the baptism of Bro Harry and for me it is just one of those answered prayers which I do not take for granted.

Sis. Bevelyn Tembo

I was baptised on 21st July last year by Bro. Andrew Walker in Chipata but I am now staying in Lusaka. I completed senior secondary school last year and I am not yet at college because I am still looking for a sponsor. Since I was baptised I am really enjoying being a Christadelphian member because I know that I have found the true doctrine of the Word of God. I am also asking you to start sending me Gospel News which I will appreciate very much. Lastly I am encouraging all members and students to show true love to each other, as Jesus said.

Bro. Obren Chilinda

MAZABUKA

I feel encouraged and happy whenever I get your letters and I do not want to lose any of them but to keep for future reading, God willing. Thank you for your kind comments and appreciation of my article on the Sermon on the Mount. As a matter of fact what you and I are doing now is the most rewarding thing in life. Loving God is very simple in theory but sometimes very hard in practice. I say this because we all know what is good and right. We all know that we ought to be helped in prayers in our walk to the Kingdom, to be helpful to our fellow men, not to cheat, to be honest in our lives, but so often on the spur of the moment we forget; that is why we need prayers as you said to strengthen us in our faith.

Thank you also for giving me an update on world affairs insofar as food shortages is concerned. I am sorry to learn that parts of the UK are affected as well. Almost the same in Zambia; we had droughts in parts of Zambia last year and a few rains on some parts such as where I live in the southern part of Zambia. I can see that the price of food stuffs is going up. For example the price of 12.5kg. of flour for making bread has been raised from k38,000 (kwacha) to k50,000. We are indeed approaching a harder time than ever.

Did you know that the word BIBLE stands for:

B = BLESSED

I = INFORMATION

B= BRINGS

L= LIFE

E= ETERNAL..

Bro. Gideon Hankomone

MUFULIRA

We regularly receive Gospel News, and thank God for keeping us alive and helping us to communicate. Could you please send me 'The Key to Understanding the Bible'? It is a very good book to help those who stand and teach the Word of God to others.

Mufulira Ecclesia is good and I hope that many within our area will wish to join us: I have given some Bible Basics books to some people as I feel they are good preaching aids. We are in need of books as well as other inspiring material. I also need a Nyanja Bible.

I am farming and growing food because I try to give some to the poor people who are in need: a brother in Christ needs to be a strong, hard worker.

My brothers, present day events are clear evidence that Jesus Christ is coming very soon to restore the kingdom of Israel and to reign over all the earth. The days are escalating to the end and we should be looking always, because the coming King will judge the people with just judgement.



Bro. Charles Daka facing us on the tractor.

Jesus will come as a thief, because "no-one knows exactly the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man". Luke 12:40: "You must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him". 2 Peter 3:10 states... "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night". We need to be prepared and ready, watching and reminding ourselves of these Scriptures, especially when seeing the news of our current evil times.

Blessings are pronounced on those who are heedful of the signs of the times. "Blessed", says Jesus, "is he that watcheth". No-one can watch without light: if the heavens are dark the watchman must provide a light or he cannot watch.

The believer, or spiritual watchman, must take the sure word of prophecy, which is the only light capable of enlightening him in the surrounding gloom. This world is a dark place: if we

understand the Word of the Kingdom we shall shine as lights in the world.

Bro. Fred Mumba

MUFULIRA

I have got the success in persuading people to be baptized. I have only students in Zambia and Congo DRC and not a full ecclesia because here in Zambia I have to go to the government for register, so that they can give me a document to open an ecclesia.

Bro. Francis Mbalanga

MUSHOTA KAWAMBWA

I am very thankful for the last *Gospel News* received, may you continue with the same heart and may God guide and be with you. All the articles for 2007 were very interesting.

Bro. Titus Mwansa

MUZOKA

We are embarking on renovating the Ecclesia/library hall and Bro. Andrew Walker left money to buy a few things to start with – paint, thinners, roller brushes, screws, pad board and a few other things. We have not yet started doing anything as the owner said we should wait as they are likely to sell the plot plus the whole building premises. We will let you know about any development, otherwise the school has shifted to another site this term. Last month we were visited by a brother from Kalomo, Bro. Alfred Mututwa. The price of cement has increased threefold within two months which brought most work, as well as some projects to a stand-still as this also resulted in shortages on the market.

Bro. Wilfred M. Chibomba

NDOLA

Since I have been studying the book *Bible Basics* my life has been totally different – my understanding of God's word is plainer than it has ever been. The book is really comprehensive in depth and clearly written, so that I have an unquenchable thirst to know more. 'Amazing' is the only word I can think of at this time, because of the very important knowledge you have revealed to me, changing my life greatly. The book is outstanding and it is a pity I have waited 50 years to have this privilege of really enjoying and understanding the Bible. Please send me more of such good books, as you know I can benefit and will be enabled to advance my knowledge of God's word.

As we know that the end of this age is very near, we must be on our guard. We have to be watching and prepared to be received by our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is the hope we share. He will be King of kings. "He is Lord of lords and King of kings and with him will be his called, and faithful and chosen followers" (Rev. 17:14). We have this message of prophecy in the Bible. We read it and believe it so that a herald may run with it, to deliver the message and give it to those to whom he has been sent.

"The revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks at the end and will not prove false; though it linger, wait for it. It will certainly come and will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

"Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons ... but my people do not know the requirements of the Lord" (Jeremiah 8:7 NIV). With these words the prophet Jeremiah pronounced God's judgement against the apostate people of Judah, who had left the Lord their

God and turned to worship foreign gods. (Jer.7:18-31). You can see how these people left the truth and provoked God to anger by making sacrifices to the gods of the nations around them.

Why did Jeremiah choose the stork as an object lesson for the unfaithful Jews? The stork was a familiar sight to the Israelites, as it migrates through Bible lands. The white stork, for example, remains paired, male and female for life, unlike the other birds mentioned in Jer.8:7. They maintain their loyalty to each other. At one time when I was in primary school, we learnt from our teacher about the stork during nature study. I remember very well the topic, although it is now about 50 years ago. We were learning about the migratory birds, which winter in warmer regions and return year after year to their country of origin, often to the same nest that they have used before. We even see the stork here in Africa during summer time. The stork's instinctive behaviour shows this quality of loyalty in other remarkable ways. Both male and female share in incubating the eggs and feeding their young; storks are exceptional as parents. If one partner dies, the remaining one will incubate the eggs alone for 3-4 days without leaving the nest for food. They leave for only a short time to find food when it is necessary to leave the young. Instinctively, the storks show faithfulness to their lifelong mate and tender care for their young. Thus storks served well as a powerful lesson to the unfaithful and wayward Israelites. Read Jer.44:17-18; Isa.57:6; Deut.31:16-17 and 1Kings 14:9.

To many people today, loyalty and faithfulness are quaint ideas – admirable but not practical. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that it is only the one who obeys his commands who really loves him, and the Father will love that person, and Christ will show himself to him. (John 14:21). This practical Christianity, the foundation of Christian teaching, is no longer regarded as essential. The emphasis is now almost entirely on the way of life to be led by those who would assume the title of 'Christian.' This modern approach, however, is not one which has the Bible's support and because of this it is completely unacceptable. For a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, true Christianity does not rest on the opinions of men and women, with regard to either doctrine or way of life. The Bible alone is the authority, and all who claim to be followers of Christ must be tested by the standards it defines. The proliferation of divorce, abandonment, embezzlement and other forms of deceit, demonstrate that loyalty is no longer valued. In contrast, the Bible teaches that loyalty which is motivated by love and kindness is highly valued. Paul urges the true followers of Jesus to "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph.4:24 NIV). The new personality which we are asked to "put on" helps us to be loyal, but we can also learn the practical lesson from the stork.

Bro. Green Mumbelunga

I was very happy to hear what you are doing with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have been receiving *Gospel News* regularly and should be grateful if you would continue to send it to me. You have helped many brethren to know each other and many places. Articles produced in *Gospel News* are helpful to us as Christians.

Bro. Abraham Changwe

Here in Ndola we are all doing fine. Thank you very much for the great work you are doing – may the loving Almighty Father, through our Lord Jesus, bless you in abundance.

The *Gospel News* articles are helping me very much to understand the Word of God, and most of all they are showing clearly that the time is very near for our Lord's second coming.

The threat in President Fidel Castro's statement that "America's nuclear monopoly will lead to the third world war, in which we shall fight using atomic bombs", is not to be taken lightly. A

victim of Japan's atomic bomb of 1945 may have a more complex picture of the war to come, and can clearly understand why the Lord Jesus said, "If those days were not shortened, no-one would be saved". However, most people are not seeing this, and those who are in these places may think it will be just as it has always been happening, and will pass. But let this day not take us by surprise. Let us prepare ourselves for His coming.

Bro. Ernest Musonda

NDOLA

I had the chance to visit one of our brethren in the Lord in Mwinilunga, in the North Western Province, Bro. James Kalhinga, and now I am back and I was happy as the Lord's hand was with me there and back.

Bro. Harris N. Mulongesha

SOLWEZI

Thank you for sending me the last issue of *Gospel News*: I really appreciate points like those about baptism, the letters, articles and photos. It is very important to keep in contact with you.

I send my love to you and all fellow-labourers in the glorious Hope of the Gospel.

Bro. Joseph Kapimpa

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

When God is directing your life you will have no time for trivialities. This does not mean that you should treat small things as unimportant, but it does imply that you must conform to the guidelines of love, patience, kindness, forgiveness, goodness and self-control that are God-given and Divinely inspired. Then you will view every happening in your life in the light of this broader context. In the spiritual life there is no room for pettiness or narrowness of outlook. To hold a grudge against a person, to refuse to forgive, to find pleasure and satisfaction in the downfall of another, are a few of the symptoms that reveal an immature spirit that is reflected in a narrow, mean and shallow attitude that can have no part in God's plan for your life.

If you are sincerely striving to live by the will of God something of the greatness of our Divine Father will be captured in your spirit and be reflected in your outlook and attitude. You will be able to differentiate between what is important and unimportant and develop the perception that will enable you to appreciate the small things of life without allowing them to deviate you from the big. As you live to the glory of God, even the apparently small things, take on a special significance.

Bro. David Banda Yelulani

BEITBRIDGE

A man's steps are directed by the LORD. In his heart a man plans his course but the LORD determines his steps. The things I ask God, O Lord, do not refuse me before I sleep. Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me my daily bread, the spirit of truth. I believe there is a proper time and procedure for every matter though my

misery weighs heavily upon me and I know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose. The universe, the sky, the sun, moon and stars and the clouds and rain, the earth, creation, form and movement, declare God's glory; and I despise myself and repent. I enjoy sowing the seeds of truth and as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is the Lord's Word.

Despite being in isolation I should think, God willing, in due course, with some contacts getting serious to know the Truth, an ecclesia will be established. Some of the contacts are on the Bible course and are sounding very interested, and it has become a way of life for them that, during the day when they are on their own, they talk together, and discuss their studies. When I am at home, they join me and we spend our time together with the Word of the Lord, and I try my best to answer their questions from Scripture, as it is written.



Baptism of Bro. Witness Majechain May 2003 in Lake Kariba

My prayer is to see the contacts blossom and be baptised in the spirit of Truth, like my Brother Witness Majecha's baptism; was to my joy he has sanctified his wife, baptised in 2006, while his children also are growing up in the Truth. Since Brother Witness Majecha's baptism in 2003 in Lake Kariba; the Kariba ecclesia has been blessed by God adding brothers and sisters.

Times are evil of course; the good news is that I am welcome to speak the Truth in spite of opposition in some places. With the help of God an ecclesia will be established here in the course of time. Here I miss fellowship with my brothers and sisters desperately, and leave all in the hands of God – may He bless them all.

Bro. Joshua Pakali

CHIBOWE (near Rimbi)

Let God ease your burden, "You answered me when I called to you, with your strength you strengthen me" (Psalm 138:3).

How do you cope in a crisis situation? When urgent action is required and you reach the point of despair because of your feeling of inadequacy, what do you do, and how do you deal with the situation? There are those who struggle blindly on, relying on their own resources. Very often their efforts are to no avail and they fail miserably. There are others who feel that the whole situation is beyond them and, overwhelmed by the circumstance, they sink into a slough of hopeless desperation. As a follower of Christ you have the assurance that the living Lord is with you in every facet of your life. In good times and in bad times he is your constant companion, guide and mentor. No matter where you are and whatever the circumstance may be, Jesus is at your side awaiting your cry for help. In your difficulties turn to Christ and let him direct and strengthen you. You will experience the lifting of the burden of worry as the Lord takes over and lightens your load.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1,2).

Where do you seek help? Is upward the last place you look? Do you search out relatives, friends, neighbours, anyone who can help you – anyone but God? When those helping hands fail you, do you become discouraged and depressed? God did not mean it to be that way (Psalm 121:1,2). My help comes from the One who made this earth, from the One who made the heavens: where else could there be help so great? Since you have the best help available, why look around for inadequate substitutes? In God you have more help than you could ever need, so just seek Him and ask for it and it will be given you.

Sis. Chioniso Sainah

CHISHUMBA

I am writing to let you know that I am still alive and kicking and marching forward in the Truth at Chishumba ecclesia, and I still need to receive *Gospel News* regularly.

It is time to make our choice final – to follow Christ with all our heart, soul and mind – or go to eternal death. Bro. Thompson Changata

CHISHUMBA

Moses was speaking to the whole assembly of the Israelites in Deuteronomy 30:11-20 when he made to them the offer of life or death. He says in verse 19: “I call heaven and earth this day to be witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life so that you and your children may live”. He goes on to say in verse 20: “And that you may love the Lord your God, listen and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life”. Moses told them to choose and Joshua told them the same in Joshua 24:1-27. Verse 15: “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourself this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord”. Here Joshua chose to serve the Lord.

The Teacher says in Proverbs 8:10 “Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold”. Lot in Genesis 13:11 chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan. We read in Luke 10 of Martha’s complaint to the Lord Jesus about her sister Mary leaving all the work to her.. In verse 42 the Lord Jesus said, “But only one thing is needed: Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her”.

As in Deuteronomy 30:11-20 and Joshua 24:1-27 God has today given us the offer of life or death through His son, the author of life. What is our choice? “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord”, that is what we have chosen.

Bro. Norman and Sis. Grace Kamutikaoma

CHIVI

The Israelites had been protected from the different plagues, but the greatest mercy ever shown the Israelite people came in their crossing the Red Sea. It has been calculated that the passage was twelve kilo meters across; imagine what a crossing that was for two or three million people!

God’s people would have been in Canaan in about eleven days had they been obedient. Well over a million deaths took place in the wilderness; all who were above twenty years of age at the time they left Egypt. What a cemetery the wilderness became. We learn from the New Testament that this was because of unbelief (Hebrews 3:17-19) it was not until forty years had passed that those who were left entered the promised land. Because of unbelief today, many

will not enter the Kingdom to come – those who don't have faith in the sacrifice of Jesus. The Israelites with the pillar of fire to give them light did not have to stop at any time because they couldn't see the way. They didn't have to stop because of danger. Had Israel been obedient, the Lord would have driven seven nations out of the land of Canaan in a matter of days. Think how happy the Israelites would have been – but they wanted to go back to Egypt. We must learn lessons from their experiences.

Bro. Isaac Ngara Vheremu

GWANDA

I was admitted to hospital last month, and am now taking T.B. tablets. I was not well when Brother and Sister Moore were in Bulawayo when I went there. I was taken to hospital by ambulance and I was in a serious condition. I thank God for His mercy, because I didn't even know whether I would come through the illness. But by God's power and blessing I am now at home, though I have a problem walking: I cannot walk more than 500m, as my feet are painful. I pray for the Lord's help.

Sis Sibongile Moyo

HARARE

Let us go back towards the end of the Lord Jesus' life. He is with his disciples in the upper room. Here is his final accomplishment of his duty on earth.

I will quote the incident from the two Gospels (KJV) (Mark 14:22-24) "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and break it, and gave to them (his disciples), and said, Take, eat: this is my body". And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." Yet he was there in the flesh.

What did this mean? What was its significance? By this act the Lord Jesus Christ pledged himself before God, before angels and before mankind, that he would not stop short of dying for the world. He showed that he was faithful "even unto death." Just as he had been faithful in life, he determined to complete God's plan for his sacrificial death in his mind, will and being. He was showing his disciples and the world as a whole that he was going one step further: he was going to be faithful "even unto death."

When we take a look at the Gospel of Matthew it says: "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it" (Matt.26:27), and when they took the cup, they drank to that pledge as well. They were made partakers in the same pledge as their Master, and likewise pledged themselves. "My blood of the New Testament." From that time onwards the Lord's followers have been taking the cup and pledging themselves.

And when we read from early writers like Hippolytus of Rome (2nd Century), he tells us that five of the disciples were crucified, just as Jesus was; others died by the spear and sword, and three died natural deaths, but after enduring torture. So it meant for them just what it meant for their Lord, "My blood of the new testament." This further shows us the degree of faithfulness to which they pledged themselves that night, with, of course, the exception of Judas Iscariot.

When we read the Apostle Paul's letters we discover; "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4). They were expected to resist "even unto death". Again in the book of Revelation, to the church in Smyrna the Lord Jesus commanded; 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev.2:10).

Brothers and Sisters, always remember that when breaking bread and taking the Lord's cup, you are pledging yourselves " – "Even unto death."

Bro. Ernest Leboho

Our new hall has its own box address: CBM, PO Box 8180, Harare. We put our hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment (1 Tim.6:17). Maybe God has a plan for us as he did for the Israelites when they left Egypt.

Thank you for your support of uplifting us to know more about the Word of God. When we read our Bible daily we gain more experience, and by this we know how God wishes us to live. Even during these days of world problems we, as Christ's followers, know the end of every matter. Christ shall come – there is the end of every matter.

The Bible tells us (2 Chronicles 15:2-7), where the prophet speaks to Asa: "The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek him he will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach them and without the law. But in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel and sought him, and he was found by them. In those days it was not safe to travel, for all the inhabitants of the lands were in great turmoil. One nation was being crushed by another and one city by another because God was troubling them with every kind of distress. But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded". This message applies also to us as we walk towards God's Kingdom – we experience many problems, but we must be strong in our faith. We read of wars in the daily news; food problems in most parts of the world; health problems world-wide. Who beside God can solve these things? Let's draw near to Jesus now; the signs of his coming are evident, although those still in darkness cannot see them.

Bro. Israel Mutunduwe

KADOMA

We are now living in rural areas but still using the same address.

Bro. Lovemore and Sis. Noma Tungaza

It is said, 'birds of a feather flock together'. How does this statement affect us as Christians? Let us listen and learn a great deal from the words of Hymn 268:

"Brethren let us walk together, in the bonds of love and peace"

Let us help each other on the way/road

Then let each esteem his brother better than himself to be

Happy are we when in this we all agree."

These words are so inspiring that they erase ideas of selfishness and selfish ambition. "Two are better than one; when one falls, the other will lift him up." "Those who live selfishly will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21 and verses 22-26 to cap it all).

Hymn 268, then, is a great read and exhortation if we care to listen to it and follow its instructions, see Philippians 2:1-5, verse 4 in particular, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others" – Hymn 268. We hope the coming of Christ can no longer be delayed to right all the wrongs in the world we live in.

Messages do fly between people, some through mail and some through tele- and cell-phones and the ever-advancing technologies which have given birth to the internet. And the greatest message it carries is not given the publicity it deserves. What is that greatest message? Of course I mean the Bible message which is only available through the greatest book of all time – the BIBLE ITSELF. If only every man and woman would use and follow this book, then the world we live in would never be as it is. It would be a better place to live. Let us then be frantic in our efforts to pass on messages from the Bible, compared with which the aforementioned man-made gadgets do not last. Thank you for Gospel News, I enjoy it very much and it is a means of learning, and further expanding our knowledge horizon since it carries the ideas of so many brothers and sisters. When I was reading some of the articles, I came across the free dictionary/thesaurus which you are giving. I would be most grateful if I could receive it also; it will also benefit my wife and children. My sons are doing the Christadelphian Sunday School course and I feel they would love, and benefit from the dictionary.

Being in isolation, I would appreciate it if you could send me more material for preaching – info that you have not sent me before. I thank you in advance and hope the request will meet your usual support.

It is so encouraging to us younger ones when we have such dedicated elders in the Lord's vineyard like you. May you continue to be such and do not hesitate to send more literature which we always receive with gratitude. I have just been mourning my father, who passed away in Mozambique. We tried in vain to repatriate the body to Zimbabwe but did not manage due to non-co-operation on the part of his employer. He was finally buried in Mozambique. We did not manage to go as I do not have a passport.

I am missing brothers and sisters at the Chegutu meeting since we are now in isolation in Kadoma where we are trying to preach the gospel, God willing we hope to start up a new ecclesia.

Bro. Itai P. Tembo

Comment: We send our loving sympathy in the falling asleep of your father, God be with you all.MH

KARIBA

God is very wonderful in that He created the heavens and the earth. On the first day He formed the light so that there was separation between light and darkness. Water followed, and the dry land – the waters were gathered together and called seas. He also, from the earth, caused vegetation to grow, plants yielding seed and fruit trees bearing fruit with its own seed. He created evening and morning. He also created living creatures and finally He made man (Gen. 1:1-26).

God first created all the sources needful for man, whom He created last: He balanced His creation so that every component would benefit from the others. As His children, God wants us to make even and true balances, for if we make false balances we will be open to punishment. Proverbs 11.1: "But a just weight is his delight". We should 'weigh' ourselves by the scale of the Bible to see if we have the acceptable 'weight', or way of life, required by the Lord (Proverbs 16:11; 20:10). When we are baptised we are not immediately granted salvation, but we should be able to avoid temptations which come our way. We know that Jesus, after his baptism, was full of the Spirit and he was led into the wilderness to be tried. In all his temptations Jesus relied

on the Scriptures, saying “It is written ...” Matthew 4:4-10) This confirms that our Bible is the scale by which we can balance our actions to please God.

We must make right decisions or sacrifices so that we have the correct balance as we walk in God’s ways, always weighing our actions against the guidance of Scripture.

Bro. Emmanuel Mhondiwa

Thank you for sending me information to remind me what I should look for – betterment of my life, and signs of the times. This is the time like those of Noah, when men are busy only with the things of this present life; getting more money and materials that lead to pride. The poor and hungry are making underhand deals seeking to improve their conditions. Others are preaching in our Shona language ‘Mari is Mwari’ meaning ‘God is Money.’ The lack of Truth is blinding both the old and young because of life’s problems. Jesus warned in Matthew 24:11-12, “Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold”.

Bro. David Mhondiwa

KARIBA

Bringing laud and praise to God is something that needs to be on a much higher level. First of all this requires gratitude. We could not praise God if we were not truly thankful. Secondly we must adore God – we must laud and praise Him in adoration of His omnipotence, magnitude and majesty. Thirdly if we wish to show esteem for Him, we must also profess this praise around others – we cannot always only praise God in private. That is not the praise of God.

The Psalmist often speaks of praise. I think in particular of the following verse, “Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits”. How quickly we forget everything the Lord has done for us. I am reminded of the people of Israel. They beheld tremendous miracles, had walked through the Red Sea, had witnessed the defeat of the Egyptians and a few days later they had already forgotten all of this. They complained that there was not enough to drink, not enough to eat. Suddenly all the difficulties, suffering, oppression, care and sorrow they had endured in Egypt was as though it had never happened. They had forgotten about all the miracles they had experienced. We human beings are very forgetful. For this reason let us always think about the good that God has done to us and praise Him – let us count our many blessings – let us endeavour to maintain this fundamental tone of thankfulness and be thankful praisers of God.

Bro. Witness Majecha

KWE KWE

Jesus of Nazareth, the true Messiah, whose hands and feet were pierced, was brought like a lamb to the slaughter, and was a man of sorrows. He shall come the second time in the clouds of heaven and with the trump of the archangel; he will stand upon the Mount of Olives. He shall be King over all the earth. The groaning and lamentations of creation shall cease and songs of praise and thanksgiving shall be heard. When Jesus comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels, the dead believers will be raised. Universal peace will ultimately prevail. This is the day which all believers should long and hope for – “And then shall they see the son of man coming in the clouds with power and great glory”. The long-continued rule of evil will be broken. Christ will reign for ever and ever (Rev.1:7; 1Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 11:15).

Bro. Melusi Ndlovu

MATABISA

Our small ecclesia in Zimbabwe is growing spiritually, and the Sunday School especially is doing well. We are still spearheading for the number to increase. We will continue to preach the word and do our best to continue. We are already distributing reading materials to readers, students and schoolchildren with reliable information concerning the Kingdom of God. Please continue supplying us with relevant material.

Bro. David Ngwenya

MT. DARWIN

Keep on watching for the time has come for our Lord Jesus to appear. How do we know? By the signs of the times, death, so many sicknesses and false religions. Let's be wise builders, not foolish (Luke 6:48-49). We must be like the seed which fell on good soil and produced crops (Luke 8:8). No-one knows the day or hour when the Son of Man is coming, so we must be alert and not be led astray, or like others who sleep. We must watch and be self-controlled (1Thess.5:6-8).

Thank you for *Gospel News* which encourages me to uphold the Truth. Sorry it has been a long time since you heard from me. The problem is that my health is not so good, because I have lost the sight in my right eye and it is very painful. So I can now only use my left eye. When it is windy I don't go outside the room because it will be impossible for me to see or raise my head. So I'm asking for some shades. But what I know is that God will do something for me, because He is the best helper.

Sis. Esther Chigiji

MUTARE

Thank you so much for sending me *Gospel News* with the article which I wrote. Thank you too for the other literature you enclosed.

Bro. Gilbert Tevere

MVURWI

Thank you for your help with the word of God, which you give us regularly. Please keep it up. I want to tell brothers and sisters to keep on praying. "Every word that men shall speak they shall give account of in the day of judgement". Jesus will come to every one of us. There will be signs in the last days in the sun and the moon. This generation shall not pass away till Jesus comes, then the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Some of the virgins took insufficient oil for their lamps – let us not sleep as others. We watch the signs for the second coming and we pray for Jesus to return. Take heed to yourselves.

Bro. Nobert Kachasu

RIMBI

In God there are no poor but there are great riches. In God real treasure lies not in what can be seen but what cannot be seen. Jesus told us to put our treasure in heaven not on earth where there are rust and robbers; so let us put our treasure in what cannot be seen. I pray that God can help all brothers and sisters to know the way to pass through so that when Christ rules with his might we shall say, "Oh! See the Son of God".

Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

RUWA

Thank you very much for the Bible you sent me. I am now happy enjoying my daily Bible readings again. Yes, Sis. Ruth and Bro. Steve Moore came to Harare on 10th August 2007 and wanted to meet me on 11th August but I did not get the information about them in time as I received the letter about ten days later when they had already returned home. I am a good shoe repairer (a cobbler) which helps me when I have enough tools and materials, but after the fire destroyed my house I lost everything. I have just started to buy bits and pieces that I may gain my skill again although it may take me some time to be fully equipped.

Bro. Maxwell Mlakah



Centre Sister Esther Chigiji

TRIANGLE

I was happy to receive the updates about Israel, I am now the newly appointed Secretary for Triangle Ecclesia. Many thanks to you for the NIV Bible with references and a dictionary. God bless C.A.T. Please keep sending me *Gospel News*. The brothers and sisters in Triangle are thankful and in full support of the missionary work you do for us Zimbabweans. Brother, the world is full of problems – the Lord cannot come soon enough.

Bro. Kuvarega Mavuvo

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from armenia

YEREVAN

I was baptized nine years ago by brother Duncan and would love to meet him again at a Bible School. I feel very isolated here and miss him very much. Please find a way for me to meet up.

Bro. Sargis

news from belarus

BARANOVICHI

I have the offer to work in Poland, maybe I will take up the offer as things are so hard here and the pay we receive is so tiny.

Sis. Larisa

ROGACHEV

By all means I will try to come to the Bible School, although I am undergoing treatment and really need your prayers that all will work out.

Sis. Danita



Sister Danita [far left] at the Bible School.

SMALYANY

One thing that has changed my life is the practice of praying before meals. It gives a rhythm to life and keeps me in touch with God during the day.

Sis. Nina

VITEBSK Obl.

It's impossible for me to use my wheelchair in the snow and mud, so I am indoors all the time, I have the possibility only to pray for you all and try to let God's word influence my mind.

Bro. Valerij

news from croatia

We are doing very well, working, working and trying to pay all our bills and fulfilling all duties and obligations. Very often we think and dream how we would like travelling in Latvia in the next spring and visit other brothers. If we will find cheap plane tickets we will come to spent some days with you.

Sis. Ela and Bro. Darko

news from estonia

TALLINN

I thank you for well organized Bible School in Jurmala, Latvia which I was pleased to attend. I have already passed all examinations and am ready again to go to work at sea! Thank you for all. God bless.

Bro. Mark.

news from france

I wish all blessings upon your noble work of teaching the true Gospel and baptizing people as Jesus commanded. It has been a pleasure for me to be in touch with our Iranian brothers in Turkey.

Bro. Ali

news from georgia

SUHUMI

I have been reading from the book of Isaiah about the day of judgment, and it is very sobering. We will all meet there and by God's grace we will eternally live together. I marvel at the news of baptisms everywhere, I wish there could be more here, and I pray for all.

Bro. Guram

news from italy

ROME

I am encouraging others for baptism. Thanks for all the good things you have done for me especially paying the rent for my house this month. Sister Asmaite is in good condition here.

Bro. Naizghi



Bro. Naizghi fellowshiping with UK brothers and sisters from the CBM in Verona;



Sister Cindy baptising Sister Asmaite near Rome

news from kazakhstan

We're delighted to announce the baptism of NINA, our first sister in Karaganda. May the Lord bless her and use her in His service.

KOKSHETAU

I was so sorry to miss the recent visit of brother Duncan here. We can't openly meet as we are still a forbidden religion here. I terribly miss my daughter and granddaughter who now live in Germany but I am glad for them that they have a better life and prospects.

Sis. Svetlana

I would really so like to come to the Winter Bible School. Here things are hard for us and yet God and Jesus are the most important for me and I want to be with their people.

Sis. Galina

I dream very much of being able to come to a Bible School. There are just so many, many obstacles at this time for us here. I really await that very minute, when we shall all be united together when Christ comes.

Bro. Yuri

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Bro. Yuri

news from latvia

We're delighted to announce the baptisms of AIJA, KATYA, NADEZHDA and METRA. May the Lord bless them and use them in His service.

AIZKRAUKLE

After years of receiving letters and encouraging messages from others, I realize I have not done all I could to encourage others and so I am trying now to be more positive to others, knowing that the Kingdom of God is before us.

Sis. Irena

TUKUMS

I see the hand of God in the changing of the seasons and I feel closer to Him because of these thoughts. My dream is to attend the Bible School with my son and I pray it will be possible.

Sis. Vaira

news from moldova

I with my mother so look forward to the Bible School in Poltava, by all means we will overcome all problems to get there, God willing.

Sis Olga



Sister Olga with her mother at the Bible School

news from morocco

We are some brothers from Morocco in Ouedzem city. We are baptized with brother Samir who gave us all the spiritual things. We thank God that we can contact you and hope that you can come to baptize some others.

With love in Jesus,

Your brothers

Tijani, Tarik, Mounir and Sara

news from poland

We're delighted to announce the baptism of MARCIN, our first brother in the Gdansk area. May the Lord bless him and use him in His service.

RADOM

I wish to thank you for the handbook "Speaking about Jesus" which arrived some time ago. I am really impressed. I think it is a very good handbook (and I have seen lots of English teaching materials). I am going to use it to teach my daughter. I think it is the right level for her. Also, it was nice to see that you mentioned our dear brother Valek in acknowledgments. By the way, did you know that he left Poland some months ago and went to live back in Belarus? But I do hope he will soon be back, I was really missing him at the latest conference in Wrocław. In several hours I am leaving for Germany, God willing, to take part in the Lörrach Bible School and I am taking both of my children with me.

Bro. Jacek

WALBRZYCH

I was very happy to travel to Gdansk to meet our new brother. I returned home safely with joy, thanks to God.

Bro. Krzysztof

news from russia

Brother Alexei H reports the baptisms of more brothers and sisters in Kazan. May the Lord be with them and guide them to the Kingdom.

ARMAVIR

My mother and I send you all our greetings. I think much of God and try to love Him.

Bro. Dima

KAZAN

I am writing this having just seen our brothers depart for the Bible School in Ukraine. I am sad I can't come, but I know the travelling is beyond me, and I will wait eagerly for all news from brothers Igor, Andrej and Viktor who will represent us there. I'm very glad that Brother Igor Prozorov is able to go to it. I pray for you all.

Sis. Ludmila K

EFREMOV

We are so happy that now we can live near to each other so we have someone to break bread with and encourage us, as we are surrounded by Russian Orthodox society in this town.

Brothers Boris and Oleg



Brothers Oleg [left] and Boris at Bible School recently

IZHEVSK

I am so very disappointed not to be able to come to Poltava this year. I have changed my job, that's the problem. I really so miss you all and the great fellowship there.

Bro. Andrej

KAZAN

I am so looking forward to attending the Bible School. Thanks to all who make it possible!

Bro. Viktor

I continue witnessing to the Baptist church here where I used to belong before I came to the Truth. Some of them are listening and I recently baptized two people of my former brothers there.

Bro. Alexei

We here are all very sad for you in Latvia who had your hard work vandalized at the home you are building. May God comfort you and encourage you not to give up.

Sis. Lidija

I received our Russian magazine *Zvezda* and I read every word in it. I was encouraged to read how active are our brothers and sisters in Latvia. It will be great if this magazine can be issued more and more frequently.

Bro. Ramil

NIZHNY TAGIL

I was very happy to receive the latest books from Brother Duncan and am happy to start reading them; although my work here gives me little free time I am determined to read them to the end. I have decided to stay living here and will always welcome a visit.

Bro. Leonid

PECHORA

Here as you know I am quite alone, the nearest brother lives hundreds of kilometres from me. So I am planning to come down to the Bible School although it will take me several days travel. Please pray I have health to do so.

Bro. Valerij

PETROZAVODSK

I feel the nearness of you spiritually although I am far from you. I sincerely pray for you every day.

Bro. Kostya

ROSTOV

I am in touch with various contacts you have sent me. I hope one especially will be baptized soon. I look forward to the Bible School!

Bro. Andrej

We are praying here for the health of brother Andrej's mother. He asks us all to pray for her. May God bless you till we meet again at Bible School.

Bro. Sergej

SHADRINSK

I really appreciated the latest books of brother Duncan, now I am not working I have more time to read. Thank you for being a light in the dark world.

Bro Pavel

VINOGRADOVKA

From here in Far Eastern Russia I have no chance to get to Bible Schools, and my health is too weak to travel far. I am grateful to sister Ludmila Kuritsyina who writes to me so often, even though her health is also weak. We are together in our hope of resurrection.

Sis Galina

news from serbia

BELGRADE

Here the Orthodox church is getting stronger, and people mix nationalism with belonging to the state church, and I find it hard to get people to listen. I admire those who are able to make converts from such people!

Bro. Vladislav

news from turkey

We are very grateful and appreciative for sending that money for us and very happy that we can see you again.

Ali and Masoud [ex-Iran]

You know my problem with military service and it still continues. You probably heard about the problems for Christians here. Please pray for me, and may God bless you.

Bro. Ferhat

Thank you for sending Zvezda magazine, it is good to see the other Russian-speaking brothers and sisters in contact all over the world. I am praying to find a good husband in the Lord, please pray with me.

Sis. Anna

news from ukraine

We're delighted to announce the baptisms of MAXIM and ANNA. May the Lord bless them and use them in His service.

KAHOVKA

We are planning on coming to the Bible School and we hope mother will be baptized there this time!

Sis. Tanya

We really can't get to the Bible School, but each time we get a letter or phone call from Duncan and Cindy it gives us new life for a while. We read each day from the Bible and we find encouragement from knowing you too are reading the same chapters.

Br. Vasily & Sis. Elena

I hope to bring my daughter Nastya to the Bible School. She has already learnt to sit quietly during our Bible meetings.

Sis. Marina

News from the Americas

news from guyana

As always I look forward to receiving *Gospel News* and I think it is Providence that both *Gospel News* Oct-Dec and the October *Tidings* have articles on forgiveness. Both articles mentioned the difficulties we encounter in forgiving, but knowing we should and with God's help can, as is mentioned in Phil. 4:13. But we have to remember that if the Lord does not forgive us our trespasses we will surely not be in the Kingdom and we are surely in the last days' as all that is prophesied is unfolding before our eyes. So let us keep watching and praying for our redemption surely draweth nigh. Could you please send me some literature so that I can distribute, as it is a way of preaching. Thank you and may we continue to watch and pray as we are surely in these last day; even in Guyana we are seeing the days of Lot and Noah.

Sis. Janet Williams

Gospel News helps me so much in my walk to the Kingdom, by that I mean that some of the articles written are really uplifting and encouraging. For example the one on "The Lord's Prayer" in last Oct-Dec, written by Bro. Isaac Cox was very helpful to me. The paragraph on "Forgive us our debts as we forgive others" when he said we should say to the Father "I cannot do this alone, but I am willing to forgive them through my mouth and tongue. I don't want to hold on to this hurt and anger any more – I release it to you." Those words were really helpful.

Sis. Anna Lou Barnwell

I read *Gospel News* from cover to cover; it is wonderful to see the areas around the world where light stands are to be found. We pray for the return of the Master to grant us everlasting peace.

Sis. Enid D'Anjou

news from haiti

Here is my message for the end of this year and the beginning of the coming year 2008. Our life is like a burning candle thus as long as the candle burns it comes to it end, so is our life.

Therefore, every minute of our life we need to come closer and closer to the perfection and apply our hearts to the wisdom, love, holiness, , righteousness... so that we might be the kind of people that God wants us to be. So, may our glorious God, through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, direct our steps to His Kingdom. And may His Kingdom come soon to put and end to this present world of war, famine, illness, disaster , ... etc.

Bro Kenson Fortune

So I am interested in assisting with translating *What Is The Gospel?* text from English into my native language which is "Creole". Now I am waiting for your response and all additional information. God bless.

Bro. Kenson

news from jamaica

Please keep my name on the mailing list as I want to receive the *Gospel News* and I am glad to hear from you all. I attend the White Horses Church in the parish of St. Thomas and we are still keeping the light burning. We have the daily readings and attend the breaking of bread service.

Sis. Joan Samuels

News from Asia

news from china

Here are some pictures of the people I baptized in that mountainous area. I used my term stipend from university to pay for the taxi to take me to them. They are illiterate, Brother Ni Fu makes a living from hunting weasels as you can see.

Bro. Donald



Sister Li is, I think, our oldest sister in China.

news from nepal

I have received the Bible Basics books and been distributing them among our brothers and sisters. Thanks for your great efforts and dedication in proclaiming the Kingdom. May God continue to support you with the source of knowledge and wisdom.

Bro. Raj

I have given out the booklets to the young people you informed me of. It is a pleasure to do God's work.

Bro. Santosh

News from Oceania

news from fiji

Life here in Fiji is slow in the aftermath of the third coup, which was one year ago. We are glad to have been missed by Cyclone Daman, although some smaller islands were severely hit. We thank the Lord for His guidance and love throughout 2007's very trying year and thank you and your team for the hard work.

Bro. Dharmend and Sis. Susan Kumar

Be Careful

Christ says to us, "Be Careful". Do not be cheated of your eternal life by the cares and worries of the present. First things must come first. Time must be reserved for reading, meditation, prayer and attendance at the meetings, service in the Truth: above all, time must be allowed for daily selfinspection, the development of character, and seeking God's righteousness.

The Regathering of Israel

The return of the Jews to the land of their forefathers has been an exciting fulfilment of Bible prophecy during the last 100 years of the world's unpredictable history. As soon as the British army drove the Turks out of Palestine during the Great War of 1914 to 1918, the great movement of 'the return' began in earnest. The Balfour Declaration, favouring the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine, set the tone for a recognition that this was the solution for dealing with the thousands of homeless Jews all over Europe and beyond.

At first the Arabs were happy to sell plots of sand and scrub to anxious Jews who foresaw the opportunity to build where they could live in their towns (e.g. as seen in the pictures of Tel Aviv opposite). But as immigrants multiplied the mood changed. Fearful that their Arab majority might one day be turned into a minority, pressure was brought to bear on the British government to restrict the numbers of Jewish immigrants. This was because the British were at that time administering the Mandate.

This did not suit the Zionist organisation and for many years the British army and navy were engaged in dealing with 'illegal immigrants'. The situation became so troublesome that by 1947 the British Government decided to terminate the mandate. No sooner had the last British soldier left Palestine than war broke out between the Arabs and the Jews which lasted for a year. The fighting came to an end when Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel.

This was a great landmark in the return of the Jewish people to their ancient heritage. The Jews consolidated those parts that they had conquered but it was not to be a peaceful continuous co-existence. In 1967 Colonel Nasser ordered the United Nations Peacekeeping Force out of the border area between Israel and Egypt. This was a portent that another war was about to begin. This turned out to be non-stop fighting lasting six days. The Jews gained more territory including East Jerusalem thus gaining control of the whole city.

Forty more years have passed since this Six-Day war. They have been turbulent years. Even so, remarkable progress has been made in all fields of activity. The number of Jewish immigrants has now passed the 5,000,000 mark leaving some 9,000,000 Jews still scattered around the world.

The Biblical prophecy concerning Israel's regathering now being fulfilled is Zech. 12:2. This reads:

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people round about".

This sense of fear is due to the present demand by the Palestinian Authority for Jerusalem to be made its capital. They are supported in this demand by virtually every other country in the world. It is unlikely that Israel will agree to this, in which case she will have to fight to retain Jerusalem as its capital. The prophecy predicts that this will indeed be the case:

"When they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem".

Most Israelis are expecting this to happen and some are to be commended for making this a matter of prayer. Sympathetic nominal Christian groups and Messianic Jews are prominent in this kind of activity. Even orthodox Jews have been known to defy bans by their own leaders on attending such Christian events. For five years one religious group has been organising a 'Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem'. A Robert Steans, one such leader, declared, 'Jerusalem is in trouble no matter what side you view the conflict from and we need to come together and pray.' The speakers included Danny Ayalon, a former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.

It is interesting to notice how various nominal Christian groups are supporting the nation of Israel in a general way. The International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem, organises parades to express solidarity with the Jews. Evangelism in Israel is taken as a serious threat by the rabbinical authorities that are alarmed by the growing number of Messianic Jews in Israel and abroad. Many ultra-orthodox Jews fear the real motive of Christian Zionist's organisations like the Embassy is to convert the Jews to Christianity, but this is probably a mistake. Nevertheless this mass movement is quite remarkable.

Life is not easy for Jews in Israel these days. This is evident from the fact that in 2006 Israelis were moving out of Israel faster than those coming in, 3 to 1. Another problem is that the birth rate among Arabs living in Israel is much higher than among the Jews. The government recognises the small majority among the Jewish population is diminishing. In view of this the Immigration and Absorption Ministry launched a new campaign for 2008 to repatriate 15,000 Israelis living abroad and bring in 20,000 new immigrants. It is offering cash incentives and tax breaks to encourage Israelis to come back*.

(* Israel Today, Jerusalem, November 2007).

What about Spiritual Israel?

While the re-gathering of God's scattered nation may have slowed down, the calling of Gentiles to increase the numbers of Spiritual Israel has not. The preaching of the True Gospel by our Brethren and Sisters is in progress and increasing all the while. Hundreds of Bible students are sending in their course answers and some of these will bear fruit in wanting to be baptised. This is a time-consuming process but shows no sign of declining. (For this reason, perhaps, we may have to exercise patience in waiting for that much-desired event to happen – the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Glory). So let's keep up our preaching efforts to both Jews and Gentiles.



Historic photograph of settlers on the site of Tel Aviv in 1908. Below, the modern city of Tel Aviv today.

“The cities shall be inhabited and the wastes shall be builded” Ezekiel 36:10



Bro. Ralph Green (Torquay, UK)

Preaching to Israelis

Commencing in 1987 a number of special efforts were organised by CAT in East London to bring the Truth to the notice of its Jewish community. Several booklets were produced in English and Hebrew. Efforts were also held in Israel. Then in 1997 thanks to the generosity of some Brethren and Sisters - six half-page newspaper adverts were placed in Russian Israeli newspapers, specifically targeting Russian Jews returning to Israel. The adverts resulted in considerable interest and the Hebrew and Russian editions of Bible Basics played an important part in instructing people in the first principles of our faith. A number of Russian-speaking Jews were baptised and to this day the majority of Brethren and Sisters in Israel are Russian Jews.

The photo shows Duncan baptising in the River Jordan, at the spot reputed to be where John the Baptist baptised, with Bro Tim Dickinson offering the hand of fellowship.



Marcus Heaster

Refugee Matters: Are We Fulfilling God's Purpose

This can be a rather difficult question for us individually, as we sometimes are not sure what our role is. Jeremiah 1:5, also refers to us all, according to Ephesians 1:4, hence even before our baptism, God had already known and appointed us for a specific role, and He is committed to continuing His work with us to fulfill His purpose in us. Our call and our baptism are the ongoing process of this operation initiated before we were born. Jeremiah, at the time of his call, saw himself as just a child, but God pointed out to him that he (God) had already worked out his role, which he must then begin. God assured the fearful Jeremiah that He was with him, and would rescue him, and this was because this was His work, not Jeremiah's. God then demonstrated to Jeremiah how He would proceed, by reaching out his hand and touching his mouth, thereby confirming his appointment over the nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. In vs. 11, God enquired of Jeremiah what he had seen, and at his reply, He assured him that he had seen correctly the branch of the almond tree, as He, God, was watching to see that His word is fulfilled. This clearly indicates that God had not just left Jeremiah to carry on, on his own. What Jeremiah had seen was a symbol of God's attention and purposed action.

In our weakness we see the huge terrifying mountains of that which we are commissioned, overlooking the fact that it is God who is continuing HIS WORK, HIS PURPOSE, using us as His messengers to carry out His orders – Philippians 2:13, “For it is God who works in you, to will and to act according to His good purpose”. We are to make ourselves instruments for noble purposes, being holy or separate, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work (2 Timothy 2:21). This is where God will direct and use us.

There are many who are using the talents given by Our Heavenly Father, and so glorifying Him. There is lots more to be done, and at this time I must bring to remembrance, as usual, our brethren, many of whom are suffering in those refugee camps. We cannot claim that we are unaware of the plight of these poor brethren. Let us put ourselves in their place, and think how we would manage, and the assistance we would need from our brethren. I am afraid that there are many who are of the opinion that these brethren, because of their poverty, have become so immune to this kind of existence that they would not be affected, but this is a big mistake. Many are quite sensitive to their situation, but can do nothing about it, and some are driven to extremes – I often think of Proverbs 30: 7 – 9 in this type of situation. Because God knows the conditions of the individual hearts, He tells us to love our neighbours as we do ourselves. When the King returns in all his glory and sits on his throne, it is the cause of these very people, these who are overlooked, that he will address, in his judgment. Again in Ps. 72, the King of Kings in all his majesty on his royal throne will give particular attention to these. See vs. 2, 4, 12 to 14.

We are eagerly awaiting the coming of our King of Righteousness, to reign with him as kings and priests: should we not, as we know his main focus and drive in this area, give full attention to his suffering ones knowing that, in so doing, we are doing it to him? In this difficult situation let us give this matter our prayers, asking God for His strength, His guidance and direction and His help. We cannot wait until Jesus comes to swing into action with him, because his judgment mentioned above will be on what we do while waiting for him at this present time.

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

The essence of the emblems

“As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he comes” (I Cor. 11: 23)

We think of Christ whenever we approach the bread and wine. We think of the great love he had for us in giving his life to bring us to his Father’s kingdom. We also think of his words and works that are set as a pattern for us - as children intent upon becoming citizens of his kingdom - to follow, all throughout our pilgrimage to that Land. We think of his body, his blood and their meaning.

The bread we eat

“The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” I Cor. 10:16.

Christ’s body is special in that he never gave in to the power of sin though he was equally the seed of mortal Adam. We, too, show that we are part of that by eating of his body (John.6:51), which is symbolized in the bread. We do this in remembrance of him (Lk.22:19).

The wine we drink

As we know from the law in the Old Testament, blood was the major prerequisite for men to approach God (Lev. 17:11). Thus, without the shedding of the blood of an animal man could not approach God, e.g., for forgiveness. But for the great love God has for the world, seeing that the blood of an animal was not enough to save man from sin, He decided to give His only begotten son who willingly sacrificed his precious blood for our sins – to reconcile us to God. So, we have the cup of the New Testament in Christ’s blood (Lk.22: 20). The Old Testament in the blood of animals has been replaced by the New Testament of the blood of Jesus, the old Covenant being replaced by the superior new covenant.

As we drink of the wine, the symbol of Christ’s blood, we come-inunion with Christ and remember his love which has made it possible for us to approach God so freely in prayer. We are not only expected to partake of the emblems by eating and drinking, but to remember the importance of them by appreciating the love of Christ and strive to walk in his footsteps. As we partake of the emblems, we remember Christ in all he did and said.

Love

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John. 15:13). Seeing this great love in our reflection on the emblems means we should strive also to exercise love to our brethren. Let each esteem other better than himself (Phil. 2:3). We should love even our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that despitefully use us and pray for them that persecute us (Matt. 5:44). Despite our worldly difference, we are united in this great love as children of Abraham. This unity comes from the cup we share.

Encouragement

Whenever we come to the Lord’s table, we are encouraged in our journey to the kingdom. After the daily chaos of life, we come to think of that blessed day when we shall drink in newness with him. We are also encouraged in seeing others on the same way, comforting one another, making the journey less strenuous by sharing our loads as the yoke of Christ.

Though Jesus knew the evil intention of Judas Iscariot, he still gave him the opportunity to consider his thoughts by allowing him to partake in the Lord’s supper (Lk.22: 21). Despite the

differences the apostles had on leadership, they stayed together and comforted one another and we read of them fellowshiping together (Acts. 2:42). As we journey with one hope in Christ, we should always learn to support one another, encouraging one another not to give up despite our differences. The way is difficult, so let us exhort one another.

Preaching

One of the great lessons we draw from the emblems is the free invitation Christ gave us to partake of his joy through his preaching. Preaching is an act of love. Christ had much love for us in showing and teaching us about God and the way to the coming kingdom. We should see this act of love in the emblems and realize that we are expected by Christ to show this same love to others, inviting them to the joyful hope we have. And in doing this we already have the pattern Christ left for us. When Jesus preached, he did not think of making a feast where people would come with the prime motive of eating and drinking – though some did come because of the miraculous feeding of 4,000 and more, (Matt. 15:38). Rather, he preferred the wilderness where there is nothing worth lusting after (Matt. 15:33).

We, too, should see this in our preaching work. We should not let food and drink or money prevent us from doing the work of God; we should not place these things as prime motives for our preaching work. It is a sad thing for Christ to see that his work is stopped because of our greed and selfishness for material things, for “man shall not live by bread alone” (Matt. 4:4), and “seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). When we preach, we present the love of Christ to the world and not materialism, we present the future joy and happiness of his kingdom and not present riches that corrupt. If we truly appreciate the love of Christ and the joy of the coming kingdom, then we should consider ourselves selfish if we can’t preach this good news, inviting others as we have been invited through his blood, into the joy of his kingdom.

Witness

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid” (Matt.5: 14). This is the positive witness of the ecclesia. Christ should not be hidden. Knowing or unknowingly, we are being observed by others who for one reason might want to prove our faith. Remembering Christ in the emblems also serves as witnessing to him in the world, standing as his true followers whose glory is reflected in their lives for onlookers to see, hear and believe.

When unbelievers celebrate the death of their lost ones, they broadcast how nice the deceased was and feast in memory of them. Much more should we as those whose Redeemer lives and is exalted on high. We ought to show to the world that he is worth praising because he is alive and the only hope for this hopeless world; and so he said, “Ye are witnesses of these things” (Lk. 24:48).

Relief from the burden of sin and death

We are supposed to approach the emblems with a bright conscience. Because we are fallible, we should search our hearts (I Cor. 11:28) and knowing the meaning of the blood of Christ, ask heartily for our sins to be pardoned and with faith, joy in that our sins have been forgiven. We know the warning (I Cor. 11:27) of partaking of the emblems with a clouded heart.

We are comforted when we partake of the emblems and remember the saving blood of Jesus, joy in that he has forgiven us and accepted us at his table. This is exhorting us to flee from sin seeing that we have come in contact with him who has no sin and our sins have been washed

away by his blood. Also, we do show the Lord's death till he comes (I Cor. 11:26), "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body ... knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus (II Cor. 4:10, 14). Though we are faced with the reality of sin and the inevitable presence of death, we are comforted to see through faith in the emblem that we shall drink of the fruit of the vine in newness with Christ in his kingdom (Matt 26:29). This, and more, we do in his absence and thus remember him until we behold the brightness of his face, soon, in his Kingdom.

Bro Amban Rassendyll (Limbe, Camroon)

Warning

I fear much for professing Christians. I see no sign of fighting in them, much less of victory. They are at peace with Christ's enemies. They have no quarrel with sin. I warn you, this is not Christianity.

I often fear much for those who hear the gospel regularly. I fear lest you become so familiar with the sound of its doctrines, that insensibly you become dead to its power. I fear lest your religion should sink down into vague talk about your own weakness and corruption, and a few sentimental expressions about Christ, while real, practical fighting on Christ's side is altogether neglected. Oh! Beware of this state of mind.

J C Ryle

Sin

A. What is Sin

John says: "Sin is lawlessness (ignoring the law)" (1 John 3:4). Again he says: "All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17). Every nation has laws. When a person does not obey these laws, he has done wrong. God has laws which we are to obey. These laws are in the Bible. When we do not obey God's laws, we sin. All grown up people have sinned: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

We must always look out for sin. Sin is deceitful. "But exhort one another daily while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13). God hates sin. Let us, therefore, not be deceived by it.

B. The Cause of Sin

All things in life have a cause. We sleep because we are tired. We eat because we are hungry. No matter what we do in life, there is a cause for it. This is also true with sin. Desiring something we should not have may lead to sin: "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fullgrown up, brings forth death" (James 1:14,15).

The cause of sin is lust (desire). If we do away with these wrong desires, then we will not sin.

C. Different Ways We Sin

There are two ways that we can sin:

1. By doing what we are not supposed to do, eg a child once told by his father not to swim, but the child went down and swam. The son did not obey the father. God has told us what not to do: “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness (thinking and practising immoral things), idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissension’s, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those **who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God**” (Galatians 5:19-21). “When we do these things we have sinned. We have done that which God told us not to do”.

2. We sin by not doing that which we are supposed to do, eg once a mother tells her daughter to wash the dishes. The daughter does not wash the dishes; she did wrong. She does not do what the mother has told her to do. God has told us what to do to be pleasing to Him. When we do not do what God tells us to do, then we are guilty of sin, eg God has told us to worship Him: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching” (Hebrew 10:25). When we do not worship God as instructed, we sin. If we read the New Testament, there are many commands that God has given us to do. If we do not do them, then we are guilty of sin.

D. The Results of Sin

The girl who didn’t wash the dishes when she was told to, was to be punished because she needed to learn to do what she is told to do. If not punished, the next time she is told to do something, she will not do it. God will also punish those who do not obey Him. We must receive any punishment from God because God has provided a way for us to be forgiven for our sins. Jesus Christ is our way to God: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:6). Since Jesus is the **Way**, we must obey him. Here is what he says about salvation: “He who believes and is baptised will be saved: but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

We must believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God. We must repent of our sins. Then we must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. If we do this, we will be obeying God.

Bro Christopher T Biza (Zaka, Zimbabwe)

The Way of Life

One day in an African country, a man from the USA came to a remote village. On his way to a friend, he came to a road with two ways. He met a young boy and asked him the way to the valley, and the boy showed him the way to meet his friend.

We know that after baptism we come to a new way. We find God’s truth, which means that we have to walk in the way of Christ. We must love God with our whole being (Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 12:30). How can we do this? By reading the Bible, thinking of Christ and meeting believers.

That shows that we are with God and not the world (Philippians 4:8). If we are a friend of the world, we turn away from God.

What is the way of life? One day Nicodemus went to Jesus to ask him about God's kingdom. Jesus said that he is the way, the truth and life (John 3:20,21;14:6). We must live the truth day and night.

We sing Hymn 153, Lord, I have promised to serve thee to the end, and we must have a good spirit. In the Old and New Testaments, the word 'spirit' has varied meanings: consciousness, power. When applied to the heart of man, it can mean thinking, feelings and desires. In the New Testament, living in the spirit is a great theme (1 John 5:6-8). What is the way to do good? It is a life that is opposite to the world. Holiness will mould our spirit to live according to God (Romans 15:15), in the same way as it helped Christ to grow in favour with God and man.

In our daily life we must question ourselves:

- 1. Is the life we lead the way of Christ?*
- 2. Is it spiritual?*
- 3. Do I think of Christ all the time?*
- 4. Do I read the Bible?*

By these we create a spiritual life.

A spirit way of life changes our image of life into being Christ-like (2 Corinthians 3:17-19). Reading the Bible must not be just a hobby, but the truth must rule over our way of life. We must have spiritual growth in ourselves. Our heart must change from a heart of stone into a heart of flesh by loving and understanding the bible (Ephesians 3:6-18).

The Bible tells us that God's words are spirit. As we do the daily readings, we must systematically let the word enter our heart. **BY DOING THIS WE WILL HAVE THE WEAPONS FOR OUR WARFARE.** Paul gave us words of wisdom (2 Corinthians 10:2-6). What is our warfare? It is the greatest war of all: between flesh and spirit. It began when Adam disobeyed God (Genesis 3:15). Adam broke fellowship with God, but Jesus restores it (John 3:16). Our own warfare began when we were baptised. How do we obtain weapons to conquer the flesh? Paul told the Ephesian brothers to be strong in Christ (Ephesians 6:10-18) and the Psalmist tells us that we must have the word of God hidden in our hearts (Psalm 119:11).

Christ conquered his temptations in the desert by knowing the power of the word. Let us know our Bible which is the lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105).

Bro Dzingai Sumburera (Rimbi, Zimbabwe)

God's Servants Must be Clean

God is clean and holy. He expects His worshippers to remain clean spiritually, morally, mentally and physically (1 Peter 1:16). It takes real effort to stay clean in God's eyes. We live in an unclean world. We also have a struggle against our own tendencies to do wrong. But we must not give up.

Spiritual Cleanness: If we want to serve God, we cannot hold on to any of the teachings or customs of false religion. We must get out of false religion and not support it in any way (2 Cor

6:14-18). Once we have learned the truth about God, we must be careful not to be misled by people who teach falsehood.

Moral Cleanness: God wants His worshippers to behave as true Christians at all times (1 Peter 2:12). He sees everything we do, even in secret (Heb 4:13). We should avoid sexual immorality and other unclean practices of this world.

Mental Cleanness: If we fill our minds with clean, pure thoughts, our conduct will also be clean (Phil 4:8), but if we dwell on unclean things it will result in wicked deeds (Matt 15:18-20). We should avoid forms of entertainment that could soil our minds. We can fill our minds with clean thoughts by studying God's Word.

Physical Cleanness: Because they represent God, Christians should keep their bodies and clothing clean. Keeping physically clean contributes to good health. A Christian's home should be neat and clean both inside and outside. It should stand out in the community as a good example.

Clean Speech: God's servants must always speak the truth. Liars will not enter God's Kingdom (Eph 4:25). Christians do not use bad language. They do not listen to or tell dirty jokes or unclean stories. Because of their clean speech they stand out as different at work or at school and in the neighbourhood (Eph 4:29, 31; 5:3).

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Sermon of the Month

Paul said, "When I came to you, my brothers, to speak of God's secret truth, I did not use big words and great learning. For while I was with you, I made up my mind to forget everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross". This must also be our desire in life. "Christ did not send me to baptise. He sent me to speak of the good news" (1 Corinthians 1:17). And if Paul had used big-sounding words, it would have taken away from the power of the cross.

Preaching about the cross looked foolish to those who would die in sin. But if we look at it carefully, the cross is the power to save from sin. The Bible, brothers and sisters, says plainly that God will destroy the wisdom of wise people. He will put away the learning of those who think they know a lot. God has made the wisdom of this world foolish (1 Corinthians 1:18-20).

Paul warns us not to be proud of ourselves, because we must speak the good news. "I have been told to do it. It would be bad for me if I did not speak of the cross" (1 Corinthians 9:16).

People are changed every day when Christadelphian doctrine is preached around the world. It does not matter that it was Paul himself who preached the good news. The most important thing was the actual message. People need to know about the crucified Christ and it is that message that can change many lives.

People who are lost in sin need to hear the message. Even the believers in the Christadelphian faith need to be reminded again and again about the death of Jesus on the cross. There is nothing which can save us from our sins other than the blood of Jesus Christ. As I said, we must keep on learning about the crucified Christ that he poured out his blood for our sins. This is the good news that will save you and me – and nothing else will.

It is sad that man has made other messages which seem more important. Without the death of Jesus on the cross, all other messages are of no use to us. We are called to go and make followers of all nations (Matthew 28:19). We must do the work that God has ordered us to do. This is seen in action today in the one and only faith of the Christadelphians when they make visits to various parts of the world to preach the good news and baptise people in the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. We must not let other messages outside the truth seem more important to us.

We must help one another. We must care for the sick, we must visit those in hospital. We must sing praise to God. We must all join together in peace, and love our neighbours. But none of this must be allowed to stop us telling the good news about Jesus and his death on the cross to others and that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin (Hebrews 9:22).

Remember Paul says, "As we said before, I will say it again: if any man is preaching another good news to you which is not the one you received, let him be punished for it" (Galatians 1:9). When we preach, I am sure that you will agree with me, that the message of the crucified Christ can divide people. The same thing happened when Paul preached in the first century. He found out that there were three groups of people.

In every new town or village or remote area that Paul visited, he first told the Jews, God's chosen people. He went to the synagogue where he talked to the Jews. They were waiting for a Messiah who they believed would be a political king who would stamp out Rome's rule and bring Israel to her former glory. They believed that Jesus would be a king who would fight all their enemies and then rule the world. They were looking for one who would be like king David.

They therefore did not believe Paul. Only the worst kind of lawbreakers were crucified on the cross at that time. As it was written: "If a man has to be put to death for a wrong thing and his body is hung on a tree (or cross), his body must not be left there overnight. It must be put in the ground on the same day, because a dead body brings God's curse or punishment on the land" (Deuteronomy 21:22,23). This is evidence enough to show that the Jews were not looking for a crucified Messiah.

There are people who are like that today. They go to church every week, give money and try to live good lives. But they do not believe that God can forgive their sins, since God is holy, just and good. How can He pass over sins? But we must accept that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Paul also preached to the Greeks. Not just the people who lived in Greece, a powerful nation at the time Paul lived. The Greeks were offended to hear the story of Jesus. It seemed to be foolish and made no sense to them. These people tried to obtain knowledge, wisdom and education. They were the kind of people who tried to find the reason for everything. They would not believe that God would one day send His own son to earth to be killed. They could not believe that God loved men so much that He allowed Jesus to die on the cross for their sins.

Some people are too religious to come to God through the cross, they are the Jews or like the Jews, and some think they know better, like Greeks. But the cross which stops them from finding God is the only way to God. It is like a bridge built over a chasm to allow people who have sinned to cross over and come back to Jesus and to God.

The third group of people are not too religious to accept the good news, not too wise to believe it, but willing to trust in Jesus, and to believe that he died on the cross for their wrong-doings, and to be born into God's family, by baptism.

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is by your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Romans 10:9,10).

Bro Gideon Hankomone (Mazabuka, Zambia)

Is Prayer Enough for Sinners to be Saved?

It is common nowadays to hear the message that permits sinners just to pray, for them to be saved. Founders of several new meetings have told their members that only prayer is needed for them to be cleansed. But is this so in scripture?

“You can be saved right now by inviting Jesus as Lord and Saviour into your heart and saying to Jesus, ‘I confess my sins and turn away from them. I surrender my life to you, confessing you as Lord and Saviour; come into my mind and be with me right now. Forgive and cleanse me. Amen.’ This is an example of what they teach.

We are in the new covenant period, which means that something apart from prayer is necessary for sinners to be saved. It is important that all who come to Christ accept his authority, since he really is Lord and Saviour as the other communities say. But as the early Christians preached, it is necessary to for sinners too be baptised.

If we go to the Old Testament, David is an example when he confessed his sinfulness and pleaded with God to give him a clean heart. God immediately removed the sins of David and gave him an honest and pure heart (2 Samuel 12:13). Today we can still rely on this same faithful merciful God. Like David we can lift our hearts in praise for overflowing mercy. But remember that David was part of a special agreement or covenant with God. God had made this covenant with the whole nation of Israel, and Israel was the only nation given a promise about prayer and forgiveness (Deuteronomy 4:7; 2 Chronicles 6:36-39; Nehemiah 9:28). David had entered this covenant by birth and circumcision.

Jesus also belonged to this covenant people, but something new was happening. When he died on the cross a new covenant was being brought in. This had been indicated by John the Baptist and Jesus when they taught that the Jews should not depend on being children of Abraham (Matthew 3:9). Jesus told Nicodemus, one of the leaders in the nation, that his fleshly birth was not sufficient for him to enter the Kingdom of God, and that in addition he needed to be born again.

This confused Nicodemus as he was thinking he had to enter his mother again! But Jesus did not mean literal birth and he explained to Nicodemus, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God” (John 3:5). Notice that Jesus does not tell Nicodemus simply to pray a prayer such as Psalm 51 because the kingdom is near (Matthew 3:2; 4:17).

Now Jesus has established a new covenant with new conditions and new measures for entering it. You can remember that no-one in the Old Testament period was told to be born of water and spirit. Something new is required for the Jews to enter the new covenant. He tells how John began commanding them to be baptised if they wanted their sins to be cleansed, to be baptised in water (Matthew 3:5,6). Many people, including some of the Pharisees and Sadducees, went

down to the River Jordan to be baptised and Jesus himself followed them: a thing that pleased God. After this Jesus' disciples baptised more than John (John 4:13,26). These events confused the Jewish leaders. They, including Nicodemus, needed to learn that being Jews gave them no special places in the Kingdom of God. A new spiritual birth is needed, of water and spirit. Note the force of the repeated words of Jesus "**No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless**". Because it appears several times, it indicates the essential truth. What person of faith can reject the role of water? Who could, in this emphatic context, choose to say a sinner needs prayer alone?

To sum up, the command to sinners is "be baptised". "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

Bro Gift Baile (Mulanje, Malawi)

For Nothing is Impossible with God

"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). These words sound very simple but have deep meaning. Often, many things happen in our fleshly lives which interfere with our walk to the kingdom. Examples are friends and relatives who desert us; money becomes a problem, the family's health bill skyrockets and prayers seem not to be answered. These are just a few of the things that can make us slacken or even pull out of the race to the kingdom.

These words remind me of a bird, the dipper. The bird's diet is a variety of water insects, including beetles and dragonflies, most of them found underwater. The dipper either deliberately walks into the water or dives, then continues to walk over the bottom seeking food. This seems impossible from the human perspective, but it does happen under the infinite power of God. The dipper's continual wing movements force its body down, and it can also swim effectively without webbed feet.

This bird is able to 'fly' through the torrent of water in order to reach the safe haven of its nest which is usually built in a crevice in a rock or bank or sometimes behind a waterfall. Impossible sounding!

When in distress, let us think of the dipper and the words of king David when he was distressed, Psalm 42:7,8, and the words of Jonah, 2:2,3,6,7 for strength. Let us also remember the experience of Paul, 2 Corinthians 11:25-29. Scripturally, swift flowing water often represents trouble and adversity and what does Paul say to this? "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." Continue to 2 Corinthians 1:5-7.

In conclusion: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28). And finally, "Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21).

Bro Itai Tembo (Kadoma, Zimbabwe)

A Lesson from King Solomon

King Solomon listed 27 achievements in his life saying: 'I denied myself nothing of all my eyes desired. I did not refuse my heart any joy meaning physical pleasure' (Ecclesiastes 2:10). This means that he completely ignored the word of God by acquiring wealth, similar to so-called business today if that absorbs you so totally that there is less time for the word of God.

King Solomon repeatedly used the expression 'Everything is vanity' and this refers to what is of no lasting value. Solomon, after living his life in vain, conceded that a man is a fool who thinks that he can achieve fulfilment in life by amassing material possessions, because he always wants more (Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; 6:1-9). And he later described himself when he said: 'A poor youth who is wise is better than an old king who is foolish and no longer pays attention to warnings' (Ecclesiastes 4:13).

Therefore I find this book to be a confession of the worthlessness of all the earthly treasures and the impossibility of finding satisfaction apart from God. Solomon spent a life-time searching for satisfaction through wealth, women and possessions, and later recognised that man's true contentment lies only in full obedience to God. His conclusion was: "Remember your creator because you are his property in the days of your youth while the evil days are still in the future, and the years have not arrived that will cause you to say, 'I have no delight in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chimoio, Mozambique)

The Covenant with Israel

When God has chosen people to belong to Him, He has usually made a special covenant with them. A covenant is a binding agreement that ties one person to another. It is sometimes called a contract. It helps people to know where they stand with each other. They are either in the covenant or out of it. For example, a man and woman enter their marriage covenant at the time of their wedding. For those in the covenant there is great assurance. They can be sure of the partnership and its terms. Knowing what each should give and receive, they can go forward in life with far more of a sense of direction and certainty.

One of the most famous covenants God made was with Abraham (Genesis 17). When Abraham's children, the Israelites, had grown large enough to become a nation, God sent Moses to them. When God brought them out of Egypt, He made His special covenant with the whole nation (1 Kings 8:9,21). The ten commandments were an important part of this covenant: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel'. Moses ... wrote on tablets the words of the covenant – the ten commandments" (Exodus 34:27,28).

Many people have misunderstood this covenant. They thought it was meant for all people. But God Himself spoke of it as a contract between Him and the Israelites (Exodus 34:27; Leviticus 20:23-26; 26:46; Malachi 14:4). Many have thought that it would continue even after Christ. Yet even the old covenant pointed ahead to a great change: the old covenant would be replaced by a new covenant: " 'The time is coming' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with

the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt” (Jeremiah 31:31,32).

Bro Jackson Nyakambiri (Harare, Zimbabwe)

The Resurrection

The Resurrection is of fundamental importance in Christianity, both historically and doctrinally. “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” (1 Cor 15:14-18). I have chosen this word with 12 letters, which may carry different meanings for some of us:

R *Repentance* is a change of mind accompanied with regret and sorrow for something done, Matthew 27:3.

E *Earthquake* is a convulsion of the earth common in volcanic parts of the world.

S *Sacrifice* was an offering made to God on His altar by the hand of an appointed, lawful minister; there were several kinds of sacrifice in the Old Testament, they represented the death of Jesus Christ and accordingly, by his actual death, he abolished them all (1 Cor 5:7; Heb 10: 8-10).

U *Unleavened Bread* was made without yeast and eaten at passover, which commemorated Israel’s deliverance from Egypt.

R *Righteousness* is justice, holiness and essential perfection in God’s character, Job 36:3; Isaiah 51:5-8. “I get my knowledge from afar, I will ascribe justice to my Maker.”

R *Right hand* is significant of power especially the Almighty power of God, Exodus 15:6.

E *Earnest* is part of a servant’s wages paid at the time of hiring to ratify the engagement, 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5. ‘Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.’

C *Covenant* is the promised agreement God made with Abraham that he would possess the land of Israel in person for ever with his descendants.

T *Tempt* is to make a trial of, and usually to present an inducement to their own evil inclinations, James 1:14,15.

I *Immortality*: Christ brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 2 Timothy 1:10.

O *Olivet*: so many memorials of the most solemn and important events occurred on this hill. The Saviour often climbed it on his journeys to and from Jerusalem, Matthew 24:3.

N *Nurse*: you cannot separate nurse from hospitality. The story of Rebekah shows this, when she was attended through life by her faithful and honoured nurse, Deborah. The oak under which she was buried was called the oak of weeping, Genesis 24:59; 35:8.

Bro Moses S Komanya (Kidatu, Tanzania)

Spiritual Protection

Our loving God protects us from spiritual harm by equipping us with what we need in order to endure trials and to safeguard our relationship with Him. God works to preserve our life not just for a few short years but for eternity. Consider some of God's provisions that can protect us spiritually.

God is the hearer of prayer (Psalm 65:2). When life's pressures seem overwhelming, pouring out our heart to Him can bring us much relief. He may not miraculously remove our trials, but in response to our heartfelt prayers, He can grant us the wisdom to deal with them (James 1:5,6). The certain knowledge that God is in control and nothing can happen to us outside His control infuses us with power beyond what is normal to endure until God removes all painful problems in the Kingdom, so near at hand (2 Corinthians 4:7).

At times, God's protective power may be expressed through our fellow worshippers. God has drawn His people into a world-wide fellowship of brethren and sisters (1 Peter 2:17; John 6:44). In the warmth of that brotherhood we see living testimony to the power of God to influence people for good. That spirit produces fruit in us – beautiful, precious qualities including love, kindness and goodness (Galatians 5:22,23). Hence, when we are in distress and a fellow believer is moved to offer helpful counsel, or share much needed words of encouragement, we can thank God for such expressions of His protective care. He is certainly a shield to all those taking refuge in Him (Psalm 18:30). We understand that He does not use His power to protect us from all calamity now. He does, however, always use His protective power to ensure the outworking of His purpose. In the long run His doings are in the best interests of His people.

If we draw close to Him and remain in His love, God will give us an eternity of perfect life. With that prospect in mind we may indeed view any suffering in this world as momentary and light (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Determination

“Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me” (Ruth 1:16,17).

These are the words of someone who was firm in determination or purpose. Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, was quite unable to change Ruth's mind from her decision. We may realise she had deep love for her mother-in-law who had been denied the care of her husband and two sons by death.

Death in so many cases brings confusion and misunderstandings. But in the case of Ruth it was different. Herself, a Gentile, and Naomi, a Jew, were close together despite the ordeal of death. It is said of Ruth that she clung to her mother-in-law.

We are not wrong to number Ruth alongside men of faith. She had a strong faith in the invisible. She had hope where there seemed to be no hope at all. Earlier on, Naomi had been quick to

point this out to both daughters-in-law: “Return home, my daughters. Why should you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters. I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me – even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons – would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters” (Ruth 1:11-13).

Job was another man who was fully determined in serving God no matter what happened to him. His wife tried to dissuade him from having trust in God. But what did Job say to her: “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” (Job 2:10).

The lesson for us is that in everything, whether good or bad, God is in full control. Although Ruth and Job seemed to have a dark future, yet in the end their lives were full of happiness.

Bro Sylvester Tembo (Muzuzu, Malawi)

Comfort in Dangerous Situations

Trouble is the purifying process and there is no joy without trouble. No-one will experience happiness without facing trouble first, although trouble can be of many kinds. Sometimes trouble makes people worse and people can even commit suicide while having a lot of money in a bank account.

The world is becoming more cruel day by day. Many governments spend a lot of money on weapons for ‘defence’. Young men and women spend a lot of time killing, violating and torturing. The aged go to many funerals. Living in fear and crying is not the best way of solving problems. Put your trust in God and He will do His part: “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in his temple” (Psalm 27:1-4).

There should be no reason for asking God to bring peace to this globe because we are in the last days and problems are bound to come and face us. Now is not the time to ask for riches but instead to ask to dwell in the house of God. Those who are living are those who will see death, and the dead know not anything. Death will face us in different ways as we see our friends and relatives die beside us. This has to be so because now we are not immortal and everyone is dying at the pre-arranged time. We cannot die before we have finished our time on this planet: “One dieth in his full strength being wholly at ease and quiet. And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul and never eateth with pleasure. They shall lie down in the dust and worms shall cover them” (Job,23,25,26). “Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou has appointed his bounds that he cannot pass” (Job 14:5).

If we see our friends and relatives die, it is because they have finished their mortal life, even if we see a number die in a short time, killed by terrorists or soldiers. God has arranged everything: “Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?” (Lamentations

3:37). So we should be ready at any time, and never fear anything that comes to us, no matter how dangerous it may be. If we really obey the truth, then the truth will really make us free.

“If I wait, the grave is mine house. I have made my bed in the darkness. I have said to corruption, ‘Thou art my father’, and to the worm, ‘Thou art my mother and my sister’. And where is now my hope? As for my hope, who shall see it? They shall go down to the bars of the pit when our rest together is in the dust’ (Job 17:13-16).

But does death really end it all? Does our hope end in death? Obviously, no! The grave is just a waiting place for believers: “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my death, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall behold and not another, though my reins be consumed within me” (Job 19:25-27). So, my dear brethren and sisters, let us all take comfort by reading the scriptures (Psalm 91).

Sis Susan Ntchalachala (Kasungu, Malawi)

Reports From Eastern Europe

Brother Norman Durk has just visited the brothers and sisters in the Baltics and gave a dynamic series of classes on Romans at the Bible weekend. It was a great thrill to see around 45 brothers and sisters attend, and to witness two baptisms: AIJA, who has been studying the Bible Basics course for 2 years with Sister Cindy Heaster; and JEKATERINA, who has been attending the Riga ecclesia for some time.

Norman did a great job at conveying through translation his great love for the brotherhood. He also shared with us pictures of his lifetime's mission work in southern Africa, including news of the centre being developed at Candu.

We're delighted to report that our outreach to hearing impaired people in the Russian speaking world is continuing. On Saturday, many hours were spent discussing the Bible readings with four deaf brothers and sisters; and on Sunday we were delighted to baptize NADEZDA, who is hearing impaired and unable to speak very much. We're so encouraged by the response to this outreach, and by how much our deaf brothers and sisters read and study and try to share with others. Please pray for these initiatives and for those deaf brothers and sisters, as they are often deceived of their wages, and work for about 2 US\$ / hour. In the photo you can see Sis Nadezda [2nd from left] giving her confession of faith to brothers and sisters of the Riga ecclesia



Photos: Scarves from Australian sisters being distributed to Latvian sisters

Care in Latvia

Recently Brother Eric McKee paid a surprise visit to Latvia and was able to help in the building work on the home we're reconstructing. We desperately need more workers... so here's his report, which we hope will be an inspiration to anyone able to help out!

Greetings in Christ's Name! I have returned from my brief, but wonderful trip to Latvia and thought I would write a few of my thoughts and impressions. First, I have heard from many of you and thank you so much for encouraging me with your words and prayers. Sister Joanne Rivard wrote to me and let me know she had prayed that God would use her words (after her trip to Latvia) to motivate someone else to action. Thankfully Sis. Joanne, I can at least attest that your prayer was answered on me! Therefore, my prayer is now that someone else may find the encouragement to step forward to be an active working tool for work supporting the brotherhood and spreading the gospel, wherever needs may be.

Thanks be to God that we are never asked to make decisions based upon worldly wisdom of whether things make total sense or not. What we are asked to do, we learn as a child of God, is to "trust in the Lord with all your heart". So there I found myself several days later sitting in a car with Bro. Duncan at the airport in Riga, Latvia – trusting in God, because this was a cold, wet, bleak land that I could not identify with at all. My trip began with a prayer by Bro. Duncan. After picking up his wife, Sis. Cindy, we headed to the "home" – an approximately 400 year old building about 2 hours to the North. I learned that the brotherhood out there prayerfully hopes to hold their Bible schools at that location and/or perhaps to even have lodging for some of the elderly brethren, or both. They had hoped to use it for Bible School this year but vandalism held back the project.

Having planned this trip all out (like a good western entrepreneur), the greatest need during my trip was going to be having the stamina for the physical work required around the home... or so I thought. Thus I started. I stayed at the home and began working on various projects. I worked from the time I woke to sometimes after midnight. My health and strength kept up. There was so much that needed doing, it became obvious that these two hands would only make a dent. One morning I woke up and had stomach cramps which lasted all day, but fervent prayer was answered and I never got sick. I never slipped on the ice and had no threats to my safety. I didn't starve either. I did bring home some type of stomach/intestinal "bug", but the symptoms didn't hit me until after I returned home from Latvia (Thanks be to God for that!).

With regards to the projects I got much accomplished, or so it felt like. I was able to work on a little concrete project, a little plastering, some brick work around one of the fireplaces, help maximize the efficiencies of the fireplaces and do some electrical work. I should mention the one thing that I told Bro. Duncan I probably shouldn't dabble in is the electrical. However, thanks to an excellent lesson (20-30 minutes or so) in basic wiring 101 over a cell phone by my dear Bro. Dave from the UK (He's the retired Professional Electrical Engineer who designed the original electrical plan for this home), and with me writing notes furiously by flashlight in the 2nd story window box, I was able to take his instructions and accomplish quite a bit of electrical work (for me that is) as well – with no shocking news to relay afterwards at all. My two hands though were not enough to get all the work done. There's plenty left to do.

Also interesting to me were all the many things which happened on this trip that I didn't expect. Mainly I got to know another family of the flock of Christ and I did it without speaking hardly any Latvian, and two others (I had never met Bro. Duncan and Sis. Cindy either). When I decided to

go do this trip, I went to give - not to receive. However, this family of believers opened their home to me and taught me a new level of Giving. They gave to me with such abundance. They cooked wonderful meals and the 11 year old daughter, Anna, even baked me two cakes. Most of what I learned from the family was around lunches and dinners – each of us pouring over Latvian/English language books and using a lot of sign language and drawing pictures. I was amazed that we were able to converse quite well about our families, the struggles of life for believers in both Latvia and America, the hope of Christ and his return, my home ecclesia, and the struggles of raising all of our children in the truth in this world today. At one point, Sis. Liga looked me in the eye and announced to me that her family would keep my family in her prayers and told me that my family needed to pray for her family. She wanted to make sure I understood. I did. Each meal (and each cake), she asked for me to pray for them, though no one could understand me. Especially, little David (their youngest son of 2.5 years old) who once sat on my knee (while I prayed) and repeated after me making a cute soft bubbling sound because that's what English sounded like to him. I experienced far more on this trip than would be practical to write but suffice it to say that the end of my stay with the family was emotional, but wonderful. Since my return to the States, Bro. Raimonds and Sis. Liga have been in my family's prayers daily. My wife has begun to write to Sis. Liga through Sis. Cindy who has offered to translate the letters.

It's hard to live in a country where we have so, so much and then to – just for a little bit – experience the very poor (in possessions only) opening their hearts to you. Their hospitality was nothing short of a demonstration and example of Christ's love.

Regrettably, there was no time for me to meet some of the other brethren scattered throughout the region and it was a hard pull for me to leave so soon. I spent the last evening in the warm home of Bro. Duncan and Sis. Cindy's and still full of emotions for the brethren out there, I know I once again prayed myself to sleep. I spent much time talking with God and Christ on this trip.

Now that I have returned to the "West", many have asked what this and the other families in that area need. My thoughtful answer is that the most obvious thing your brethren need out there is active personal missionary support. A recent Carelinks has asked for monetary support to help bring families to the upcoming Bible school and we all intuitively know that funding is necessary to help support missionary efforts. But it does seem to me that finding brethren able to take that leap of faith and make a commitment to go over and support the brethren in this region would even be more helpful.

I am well aware that brothers and sisters from abroad certainly help with donations to the brethren out here (and they all seem so grateful). However, living with a family for even this short time, I began to glimpse new kinds of trials, especially the extreme isolation that these brethren experience. Yet despite being alone, poor, hungry and cold, many seem to the cling on to the hope of Christ with vigor. When you read the Carelinks newsletters you get just a small taste of how many of these brethren are virtually in isolation and how many are elderly or don't have reliable transportation. Just coordinating meetings or getting to the Riga ecclesia seems a huge chore, much less supporting the needs of the elderly and getting around to minister to those who can't get out easily. God willing, it seems as if I was a small link in the chain, but the Latvian brethren certainly need more laborers in the Vineyard.

Hopefully my experience might help to minimize any doubts you or others may have about going ahead and just trying it. Get that plane ticket (call Carelinks' first of course so they can pass the exciting news around that you're coming and can build an itinerary for you). Certainly, young

couples or retired couples with grown children who could spare a little bit more time than a week or two would be so welcome. I guarantee you'll be busy. As I wrote initially, the list of "buts" and "why it doesn't make sense to go's" are always going to seem more persuasive if we listen to them. So pray for Godly wisdom when you are considering these directions. I would guess most all missionary efforts are out of our own personal comfort zone. Please know that I share my short experiences and thoughts with you here for your edification only - to no glory of my own. Consider how our service pales to those many brethren of old. For me, I had to prayerfully put into perspective my "obstacles" vs. those the brethren in Latvia face daily to get my obstacles to fade quickly. I thank God for his strength and willingness to allow me to go over. Now, my prayer is that it may be God's will for me to be able to return again, but this time with my wife, so that our family can perhaps be better able to support those wonderful brethren in Latvia and elsewhere. God's will be done.



Eric bricking the fireplace- it needs finishing!



Santa colouring in her picture of Ruth

We've also been busy distributing Winter heating assistance in various parts of Eastern Europe. Linda and Nathaniel Jamieson of Australia have been helping us in this.



Photos: Linda and Nathaniel with newly purchased firewood, and waiting at the end of a snowy track for a brother to come on bicycle and pick them up

Wood is the common fuel in much of Eastern Europe. But it's not as simple as just putting wood on a fire. The wood needs to be cut to a size that will fit in the burner, using a saw or axe, and also dried [or else it won't give much heat or burn properly]. This is challenging work for the sick, elderly, isolated and single mothers. So we've been distributing ready cut and dried firewood where possible.

Our work with our deaf brothers and sisters continues. We visited with brother Vladimir and his two children, who walked and bicycled as best they could from their unreachable location to the nearest road where we met them and gave them some support- including chocolates for New Year. Their isolation is quite incredible but the daily reading of the word using the Bible Companion has become the mainstay of their lives. In the photo you can see Vladimir and his

children with their bicycles at our meet up point

Bro. Eric McKee, Virginia USA

PROGRESS IN AMERICA (1)

Recently Carelinks co-workers have been visiting various internet contacts throughout the USA who've been in touch for some time. All up, we rejoice that we now have another eight brothers and sisters: JAMES, VALERIA, MONIQUE, WILLIAM, DALE, TIFFANY, MARK & DEBI. Next mail we'll give a few more profiles, but here's the account from Br & Sis Scott Ketelsen of recent baptisms in Tacoma WA. Mark and Debi were long time contacts from the Bible Basics website. This past week has shown that people in the Western world are interested in the Gospel; it's also shown that following up contacts on the internet takes a lot of work, and that personal contact is so important in bringing people towards baptism:



Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ!

What a sweet and wonderful time of fellowship and blessing! This night Jan 13, 08 Lisa and I and Brother Charlie [Klennert] had the honor and privilege to partake in Debi and Marks commitment to new life in the hope of Israel through baptism.

They arrived at our home at 5:30 and we went over the Scriptures regarding baptism found in the "Introducing Bible Basics" book. Brother Mark and Sister Debi willingly confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and understood the types and pictures of our hope in the resurrection. We proceeded to the hotel for baptism and what a wonderful and joyful heart they displayed. Debi was almost giddy in her excitement and brother Mark was overwhelmed by the whole thing. Attached are the pictures

Afterward we went back to our home for fellowship and munchies. See pics. We proceed to break bread and reveal the types on baptism in the emblems. The bread and the wine reminded us of our baptism. Our death burial and resurrection which typifies Christ. The giving of our lives for each other and the blood poured out for others in our sacrifice of love for the sake of someone else. We sang a song and prayed.

The joy in Debi's face and the tears in Mark's eyes was testimony of the Lord presence in their lives and we were truly honored to be part of this wonderful occasion.

Thank you for your continued prayer for Debi and Mark.

*In Christ Jesus,
Scott, Lisa and Charlie*

Fieldworker Reports From Eastern Europe

Greetings from Latvia!

My name is Brother Scott visiting Europe from America for the next few weeks. I arrived in Latvia on Jan. 16 in preparation for the Winter Bible School in the Ukraine the last week of January. Prior to leaving for the Ukraine, I have had the honor and privilege to observe the goings on here in Latvia regarding Carelinks Ministries. I am humbled to see the selfless and giving sacrifice of Duncan and Cindy Heaster to these people.

Our first order of business was to visit a lady named Metra in a nearby village about two hours along icy lanes from Riga. Cindy had been corresponding with her by mail for quite some time, doing the Bible lessons from Bible Basics. She had expressed an interest in water baptism. She expressed her utter joy in knowing who Jesus really is and how we can identify with him in baptism. With utter glee and excitement the woman practically jumped in to the tub. She had waited so long to be baptized and is now assured in her heart convictions for the coming Kingdom and the soon return of Jesus. We broke bread and remembered the Lord's sacrifice.

Being alone in her beliefs and somewhat isolated she was so grateful that we came all the way out there to just to see her. She placed what little food she had in front of us and explained her medical situation. It seems that with the limited care available in her small town she required a more professional and thorough examination of her medical condition. Cindy arranged a date and time to for Metra to come to Riga and see a specialist. Metra is very poor and cannot afford the doctor visits on her own. Her medical bill will be picked up by the Carelinks Ministry. In America we have it so good. I have seen with my own eyes the amazing love pouring out here in Latvia. Please be in prayer for Metra and consider supporting this ministry for people like Metra. In the photo you can see Cindy discussing Sis Metra's medical diagnosis with her



Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. NKJV On Jan. 19th and 20th Duncan and I flew to Poland to baptize a brother living in a town about 100k from Gdansk, Poland. Upon arrival at the Gdansk airport we were met by Brother Krzysztof whom Duncan & Cindy baptized in 2004. Brother Krzysztof spent 10 hours on a train travelling to Gdansk. Not only to see us, but to meet this fellow named Marcin whom we were going to baptize. Krzysztof is a great preacher of the Truth. He spends his time witnessing and handing out Bible Basics and Logos magazines from Australia to all he meets. Being a former Jehovah's Witness he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ in fearless devotion to the cause of Christ. We drove to meet Marcin and at around 10 pm in front of a hotel we introduced ourselves. Marcin had been studying "Bible Basics" and came to the knowledge of truth. He had been in eager expectation for baptism. Being a Jew in a very strong Catholic town it is very hard for him to find good work or even anyone to fellowship with. Brother Krzysztof and Marcin hit it off as best friends and fellow countrymen sharing their same belief in sound Biblical doctrine. Marcin's baptism was a long six years waiting. His enthusiasm to be baptized bubbled over in joy and faith. He truly was sincere and willing to express his gratitude that we came all the way over to see him and to encourage him in his faith. In fact it was his faith that encouraged us. When morning came we arose and broke bread. Please be in prayer for Bro. Marcin and Bro. Krzysztof. These brethren in Poland are in isolation. The dominant Catholic influence continually shuns them as heretics.

Upon leaving there, Duncan and I drove to another small town. Duncan had been in communication with Jerzy by letter for some time. We found his apartment but he wasn't at home, so we left a note for him and drove off to the airport. He then called us on the cell phone and urged us to come meet him, so we wheeled around and did. We found him to be a very sincere elderly man who wants to do what is right before God. He and a friend of his have left the Catholic church and are carefully studying our doctrines from Bible Basics. They wish to be baptized but later. In any case we had little time, so we raced back to the airport after a very intense meeting with them. We are in hopes that these folks in Poland will eventually form a small Ecclesia.

It is amazing to me the power of the Gospel. People all over the world are coming to a decision in Christ. Decisions for baptisms and the need for doctrinal studies are great. There is so much work that needs to be done over here it cannot be overstated. I encourage you; rather beseech you in the name of Jesus. Please consider coming over here and helping in anyway you can. Whether it be physically or financially. God is raising up a light in the darkness, He is setting captives free. What wonderful things that are happening in Eastern Europe.

Scott Ketelsen

Bible School in Ukraine, January 2008

We're really grateful to all who donated towards this Bible School. Individual thank you mails should be on the way to those who sponsored individuals. The following report is from one of the speakers, brother Pradeep Kana from the Yeoville ecclesia in South Africa.

The Bible School was held in the snowy city of Poltava, Ukraine. Brethren and sisters attended the school from Russia, Belarus, Latvia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, England, United States of America, and South Africa, as well as Ukraine. The wonderful hand of God brought all these people together in one place.



All who attended joyfully experienced the love, fellowship, spiritual encouragement, care and concern. It was an amazing experience to see brethren and sisters from near and far coming together to share around the word of God. Some journeyed for up to four days to attend the school. This showed to me the zeal and love that they have for each other and their desire for fellowship around the word of God. This is the only time some brethren and sisters have for fellowship with others of like faith and this annual school is what they plan and wait for all year long. Truly amazing the faith these people express. So many travelled so far just to meet and fellowship. What an amazing thing. We were so lifted up by their faith and desire for the things of God.

The spiritual encouragement was led by Brother Scott Ketelsen, from Tacoma, Washington State in the United States, Bro Duncan Heaster of Riga, and myself, Bro. Pradeep Kana from South Africa. (Photo: Brother Pradeep telling us about the Yeovil Bible Education Centre in South Africa).

The topics were based on Israel, the Bible (fulfilled prophecy, history, archaeology, authenticity, etc.), the character of Abraham, prophesy and the elements of the fruit of the spirit. The

spiritual food was well accepted and all have a lot to meditate and start applying in our daily lives.

We distributed Russian Bibles. Some brethren received complete Russian Bibles. There were many who did not have one with large enough print for them to comfortably read, and some who needed a new one, and we were able to provide these. Others had friends they had been witnessing to who did not have a Bible and there were some for them too.



Photos: Scott distributing Bibles; sister Lena gratefully receiving her new Bible and starting Bible marking; Brother Pavel from Siberia with his new spectacles; distribution of spectacles brought by Brother Scott from the USA

There was another joyful event that they all appreciated. As many cannot afford to get medical attention, we distributed some reader eyeglasses of various strengths so they can read their Bibles easier. They were so happy to receive them, and also some large print Russian editions of the Bible Companion. Some of them were in tears of joy. We also gave some help to various poverty stricken brothers and sisters in relation to Winter heating needs and enabling them to have operations they need.



Photos: Sister Sofia and her brother in the flesh, brother Boris, have no other existing relatives apart from each other. They are delighted to be together in the hope of the Kingdom. We presented them each with large print Bibles and spectacles

We were also greatly rejoicing at the baptisms of NINA, ANNA and MAXIM. Each of them were relatives of existing sisters.



Photo: Sister Nina [left] is the sister of our sister Raisa [centre], who lives in Russia; she came all the way from Kazakhstan to be baptized- 4 days journey for an elderly lady alone. The two sisters were so happy to be in each others' company; and they became friends with old sister Sofia from Ukraine [right]



Photos [left]: Sister Anna (right) with her sister, Sis. Larisa, who belongs to the Ipswich UK ecclesia but joined us for the Bible School and witnessed her sister's baptism ; Sister Anna with a greeting card made by Bro Pradeep's Sunday School class at the Yeoville ecclesia in Johannesburg, South Africa. We truly do have a unique international fellowship in Christ

The annual program of poetry, prayer, and the play followed the baptism. Sister Danita from Belarus, although very sick, made a special effort to attend, and had written the play for us to perform. The morning was very fulfilling spiritually and was followed by the breaking of bread service.

The brethren and sisters were also uplifted by the music and guitar playing by Bro. Scott. We all sang together, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God", which became the theme song of the school. It was harmoniously sung in both Russian and English. By the time we got to the end of the week they had the song memorized. It sounded like angels singing praising God in different languages but the same tune.

It was very encouraging to attend a fellowship with a people who were humble and appreciative of all that was done for them. They were so thankful for the opportunity to attend. Carelinks paid for the cost of the School and used the funds frugally to achieve a lot. Some of the brothers and sisters live in extreme poverty situations. It was touching to see sister Sofia and other old sisters walking on the slippery ice with walking stick, and gave a new angle on the prayer to "Keep us from falling". She travelled so far by various buses and trains, despite angina attacks, it was a miracle really that she didn't have a fall, wasn't robbed and arrived in one piece. God is doing such a great work here in the Ukraine and Eastern Europe. The gospel is being preached to the nations here. We were in tears to depart from one another. Such a sweet bond and family feel was about the conference. Being mutual encouraged in our faith we departed in the hopes for next year's Winter Bible School. God willing.

The Garden of Eden

The account of humanity began in the garden of Eden. After God created the first man He gave him the garden as a generous gift. God caused every tree to grow out of the ground in that garden (Genesis 2:9) and He put the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The garden was watered by a river that flowed through it (Genesis 2:10) and God put the man in the garden to care for it and work it (2:15). In other words, Adam was to protect and nurture the garden as a vocation. In this garden Adam and Eve were to enjoy a paradise, free of pain and agonising labour. By creating Eden, God intended that the first humans were to live in perfect harmony in a perfect world.

Eden, though, was much more than a paradise for Adam and Eve to enjoy. The garden of Eden was a sacred place that made perfect relationships possible. It was here in the garden that God created Eve from Adam's body (Genesis 2:21), and it was here that God spoke intimately and directly with His children (3:8). They could eat of the tree of life – a tree whose fruit could give them eternal life. As far as we can determine, Adam and Eve could have lived eternally in the garden if they had not sinned. The garden, then, was a place very different from our world today. There was no sorrow, no strife, no death and no separation from God.

God gave Adam and Eve one simple command to remember as they lived in Eden. They were never to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which stood in the middle of the garden. The literal serpent, which in the ancient Near East represented chaos and death, tempted Adam and Eve to eat from the tree (Genesis 3:1-7). Even though Adam was there with Eve at the temptation, he was silent Eve seems to have done all the speaking with the serpent. In the end, they both gave way to the serpent's deceitful words and disobeyed God. They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (3:6). The silence of Adam and the naïve innocence of Eve brought sin into the world and ruined their paradise.

It is important to note the results of the first sin: God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23,24). He cursed the serpent (3:14) and the ground (3:17). Eve would bear children with great pain (3:16) and Adam would work the land with agonising labour (3:18,19). No longer would the earth be as the garden of Eden. In fact, the earth would be a daily reminder to humanity that they had lost Eden.

After Adam and Eve left the garden, their children became either nomads who wandered the land, farmers who faced the woes of nature, or city dwellers who longed for lush gardens. Never again would men and women enjoy the bliss and innocence that the lush garden brought to their lives.

Though the first humans were expelled from the garden of Eden, their children have never been able to forget Eden. Nor have they been able to return. The writers of the Bible allude to the garden throughout scripture (Song of Solomon 4:12-15; Isaiah 51:3; Ezekiel 28:13). In later passages, the garden of Eden symbolises peace and prosperity. Many of these passages speak of humanity's desire to return to the garden.

When we think about the garden of Eden, we should keep the book of Revelation in focus. The story of the Bible begins in a garden but ends in a beautiful new city called the New Jerusalem, where the righteous will dwell forever. There are a few hints in the book of Revelation that refer back to the garden of Eden. Revelation 22:2 tells us that a river flows through the middle of the city; on each side of the river will be the tree of life.

The account in Genesis began tragically with man and woman being expelled from the garden and the tree of life. But it is in the last chapter of Revelation that the dreams and aspirations of humanity are fulfilled. Humanity is no longer cut off from the tree of life, so they can live eternally.

However, each of us yearns for the 'Garden of Eden' and so it should be, for God created the garden as a paradise that resonates with the longing in our hearts. But He has something far greater waiting for us as Christians. Like Abraham, we are to look for that city which "has real foundation – the city planned and built by God" (Hebrew 11:10).

Bro Mbiaoh Anthony (Kumba, Cameroon)

Jonah, the Runaway Prophet

“The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai: Go to the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me” (Jonah 1:1). The Assyrians were a cruel people and their capital city Nineveh, in particular was an evil place in which to live. Jonah was commissioned by God to go to Nineveh and preach against this city, to expose its wickedness and to declare its condemnation, unless they repented. This was by no means an easy task for Jonah to have to do, and it is still difficult to speak of sin and judgement today – but it must be done.

When we come to Jonah’s response, chapter 1:3, it is as astonishing as it is tragic. Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. We need to remember this was the action of a servant of the Lord. Jonah was already exercising a ministry as the Lord’s prophet in Israel. Remember these words: “He (Jeroboam II) was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah (the Dead Sea) in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher” (2 Kings 14:25). Jonah was a mature believer, one whom God had used to speak to the nation and had seen that word fulfilled; yet we find him running away from the Lord. Jonah knew no one could really run away from God. Psalm 139 makes it very plain that God is present everywhere.

How do we account for this behaviour? Well, first we have to say it was an act of open rebellion on the part of Jonah, rebellion against God Himself. Jonah knew what he was doing. This was not a sin he committed by accident or without realising what he was doing. This was flagrant disobedience and for which there was no excuse. Jonah should have known better. He displeased the Lord; he marred his own testimony, was a bad example to others and really should not have done this at all. But before we get too severe against Jonah, we need to look at our own hearts, for which none of us has always perfectly done everything the Lord asked of us. How often we know we should speak to others about the Lord and their sinfulness, but it is all too easy to talk about every other subject under the sun except this one. How we need the Lord to be merciful to us and to help us to obey Him better.

We see again that even the servants of God are but men, and weak men at that. This teaches us to arouse our trust in the Lord and not in flesh and blood. God alone is the only 100% reliable one. What is so sad about Jonah’s response is that he went to the sea port of Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, which was as far as he could go in those days in almost the opposite direction to Nineveh. Tarshish was in what we know today as South-Western Spain, and was a Phoenician outpost on the very edge of civilisation. Underlying his behaviour is what characterised the religious leaders of the time when Jesus himself walked this earth. They considered every one else to be ‘Gentile dogs’ and had no room whatsoever for the possibility that God might have mercy on anyone other than themselves. It was a very narrow-minded view of the grace of God and very unbiblical, because He (God) had already promised to Abraham that through his seed **all** the nations of the world would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4, Gentiles as well as Jews).

Sadly, Jonah had fallen into the trap which it is still easy to fall into, and that is to think God has no interest in anyone else but ourselves, or our church, or our tribe, or our country. It is a very wrong position to take, but Jonah had fallen into the trap because he did not want the Lord to be merciful to the people of Nineveh. This was the real reason for his disobedience as becomes clear (4:2). It was not his fear of the Assyrians or the severity of his message that influenced him,

but that God might be gracious to these Gentiles was what he could not accept. He had a hard heart that lacked any of the compassion that characterises the heart of God. Jonah here was resigning his job as prophet. He was refusing to serve the Lord and by going to Tarshish he was trying to make it impossible to serve the Lord as prophet in Nineveh. To take such a deliberate action is to take oneself out of the service of God and to deprive oneself of His blessing. Such behaviour can only have a bleak outcome. How terrible a thing sin is, especially when it is found in the life of a believer, as Jonah was.

The challenges of these opening statements about Jonah are:

* Are we concerned to know what the will of God is? The amount of time we spend studying the Bible or hearing it explained will indicate the true answer.

* Do we share the heart of God and have a real love for lost men and women in every part of the world? Our willingness to pray for them and speak to them will prove the condition of our heart.

* Are our lives submitted to what God tells us to do, or are we living in open rebellion to His word? Only those who delight in the law of the Lord are fully blessed according to Psalm 1. Remember Jesus said that loving God means keeping His commandments. True obedience actually brings us the joy of the Lord, whereas disobedience deprives us of it. Take great care not to misinterpret favourable circumstances in your disobedience as a sign that you are doing the right things. Jonah found an available ship at the right time and going to the right place, but he was still not doing the right thing. Let us learn from Jonah's mistake, and let us follow the Lord with all our hearts.

Bro Maybin Bwalya (Kabwe, Zambia)

Sustainable Organic



A Tanzanian brother demonstrates the usual hand-milking of a cow which provides protein for the family. Below three months after transplanting tomatoes, using natural fertilizer from the cow. (I apologize for having mislaid the name of our brother who sent me these photo's.) Recently some brethren and sisters attended a course on 'Sustainable Organic Farming' in Uganda a copy of their notes is available from CAT.



Marcus Heaster

The Influence of the Cross

Christ's crucifixion on the cross paved the way for us to share an eternal inheritance with him, for he died for us. Christ redeemed us so that the blessings of Abraham might come to us (Galatians 3:13-14). The cross can be described in several ways. It can describe profoundly how we should totally deny sin and always strive to obey our Lord's commandments until he comes (Matthew 16:24). In so doing, we are figuratively crucifying the world (sin) on the cross.

Paul, self-confessed chief sinner, boasted in his new freedom in Jesus Christ who freed him from the law of sin and death. Christ nailed it on the cross. Paul lost confidence in the flesh which yields corruption and he became its enemy, (Galatians 6:14).

Anyone hanged on the cross had been condemned to death, but death had no power to hold Christ in the grave for ever because he was righteous. Christ's crucifixion was prophesied in Numbers 21:4-9; he would be lifted up on the cross, and everyone bitten by the serpent (sin), who looks up to him would have the opportunity of being saved. Some men like Nicodemus believed that Jesus really was the son of God. The crucifixion was a grand climax, which brought us to be reconciled with God. The cross of Christ is the power of God for those who are being saved because they bear the marks of Jesus Christ and lead a life of self-denial.

Beloved brothers and sisters let us identify ourselves with Paul's description in his new life in a world that perishes in ignorance and foolishness. Let the cross of Christ exert a really powerful influence for change in our lives.

Bro Jaxon Kalumba (Lusaka, Zambia)

Eight Benefits of Sincere Bible Study

A benefit is something helpful to you. I've chosen eight of the many benefits we receive from Bible study and use the letters of BENEFITS to help us remember them:

Bread for the Soul

Enjoyment

Nearness of God

Encouragement

Foundation

Inspiration

Truth

Security

B – The Bible is the food that keeps our spiritual lives going. As we read it daily we receive health and strength for our bodies physically and spiritually. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth" (Matthew 4:4).

E – We obtain real enjoyment from reading the Bible. We also feel joy in reading the good news of God's love for us, and even His instructions bring us joy because we know they are for our good (Psalms 119:111).

N – We feel the nearness of God when we read His word. He is there and speaks to us personally. This is one of the greatest benefits we can ever imagine.

E – God’s word is full of encouragement for us. He shows examples of His loving care and promises to continue to take care of us.

F – A foundation is something built on Jesus. He said that his word is a safe foundation for what we believe and how we live. Those who don’t believe and study the Bible are like a house without a foundation.

I – Through His word, God inspires faith in His salvation, hope for the future, and love for others. Inspiration is an influence that leads us to good ideas and actions.

T – The truth we find in the Bible answers our questions, giving us the meaning and purpose of life. It frees us from ignorance and error (John 8:32).

S – Security not only means safety but also means provision for the future. We find real security in God’s word as it guides us to safety in Christ and in the coming Kingdom. It is our ‘sword and shield’ – our only weapon against sin, if we study it eagerly and regularly.

Bro Lawrence K’Owiti (Katito, Kenya)

No Other Gods

The first of the Ten Commandments given at Mount Sinai was this: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). When we understand who the Lord is, it is easy to see what is wrong with other gods. No one else can compare with God. He made everything. (Isaiah 44:24). He does not depend on anyone else. Yes, there are some beings that have power, but all their power simply points to the far, far greater power of the true God who made them. If God gave them power, He can also take it away from them. He who gave them life can just as easily end it. Before Him, they are powerless.

The apostle Paul helped people to leave their useless gods. He wrote letters to those who believed his message. Here is what Paul said about idols: “We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one” (1 Corinthians 8:4): “You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:9): “Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods (Galatians 4:8): “I am He; I am the first and I am the last; apart from Me, there is no god ... I am the LORD (YHWH) who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by Himself” (Isaiah 44:24).

Bro Jackson Nyakambire (Harare, Zimbabwe)

Does One Need to go to Church When Baptised?

Answers given to questions at the Bible Education Centre, South Africa

Firstly, it is useful just to think of the word 'church' which in Scripture mean the members. Unfortunately today, a lot of people think of the word as meaning the building in which Christians meet. For this reason the Christadelphian community chose the word 'ecclesia', derived from the Greek word meaning simply an assembly or a group of people meeting together (though in Greek the word has no intrinsic Christian meaning), in order to emphasise that the focus of Christianity is essentially on 'people' rather than on 'buildings' or particular places.

You are right in saying that we join with the ecclesia (i.e. fellow believers) to take bread and wine and to have fellowship. It is significant that the early church in Acts 2: 42, devoted themselves to "the apostles' teaching, *and to the fellowship*, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Notice that 'fellowship' is put before 'breaking of bread'. This verse is followed by 'every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...' You will note the 'togetherness' of it all. It is not possible for us to meet every day as they did at the beginning of the early church (our jobs, distance and travelling and family responsibilities etc. hinder us from doing that). So a central meeting place and a definite day and time are a good way for us all to get together and remember our Lord. Whilst it is true that we can meet at each other's homes, this I think would restrict our contact with each other – there would be a temptation to just meet either with only those we like or only those who live near us.

Christian fellowship (Greek 'koinonia') implies a sharing. This idea is particularly brought out in Paul's use of the 'body' as an analogy for the 'body of Christ'. See 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 30. Of particular importance in this context is verse 25 '...there should be no division in the body, but that *its parts should have equal concern for each other*'. We therefore have to be involved with each other. This does not mean we have to be bosom pals with every brother and sister and live in each other's pockets but that we should have a deep and sincere concern for each other's welfare (both material and spiritual) – remember each brother and sister is someone for whom Christ died. Also remember, we are God's witnesses charged with preaching His salvation to the world. Whilst we have to do this on a personal level, we also have to witness as a church, on the collective level – a group of people working together can achieve much more than many individuals working in isolation.

We actually need each other. Someone used the analogy of coals burning brightly together in a fire. Take one away and separate it from the rest and it loses its brightness and eventually goes cold and dead. Put it back into the fire and it regains its glow and its heat and makes the whole fire bigger and more effective.

The writer to the Hebrews knew the value of fellowship when he said 'Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together'.

Regarding your question of disfellowshipping after 7 consecutive weeks' absence – there is no scriptural precedent for this. This is a man-made rule. There are all sorts of reasons why someone does not attend the ecclesia for some time and these need to be examined to see what the ecclesia can do to help, if there are problems. However, someone who has been baptised and truly 'discerns the Lord's body' will want to remember what the Lord Jesus did for us and in the company of those who likewise gratefully acknowledge His sacrifice.

God Provided for Elijah

Isn't it always the same? When the sun shines and it's very hot we long for it to cool off, we wouldn't even mind some rain and would be quite happy if the temperature was a little lower. When it's wet and cold though, we would rather the sun was shining and would love for it to be warm. The weather can never be just right for us. Imagine if mankind could interfere with the weather. This issue is all about the weather.

The prophet Elijah told king Ahab that there was going to be a drought for the next few years, there would be neither dew nor rain; God told Elijah, "get away from here and head towards the east, hide by the brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan, you can drink from the brook and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." Elijah did what God had told him, he went and stayed by the brook Cherith, the ravens brought him bread and he drank water from the brook. After a while, though, the brook dried up, as there had been no rain.

God told Elijah, "Arise and go to Zarephath and stay there, I have asked a widow there to provide for you." So Elijah went to Zarephath and as he arrived at the gate to the city there was a widow collecting sticks. He asked her "please bring me a little water to drink." The widow went off to fetch it. Elijah called after her "please bring me a little bread as well." Then the widow said to him, "I have no more bread, only a handful of flour in a pot and a little oil in a jug. I have just gathered some wood and I am going to prepare something for my son and me to eat, then we will die". Elijah said to her "Do not fear, go and do as you have said but first of all make a small cake for me, then you can bake something for your son and yourself. God has promised you that the flour in the pot will not be used up, and the jug of oil will not be empty until the Lord permits it to rain again." She did as Elijah had asked of her and Elijah, the widow and her son had enough to eat every day. There was always flour in the pot and the jug of oil was never empty – just as God had promised by the way. After three years of drought Elijah prayed to God seven times in a row, then dark clouds appeared in the sky and there was heavy rain. At the time of the prophet Elijah God did not let it rain for a long time and the people suffered from a drought, only when God decreed did it rain again. As the Lord God provided food and drink for Elijah, He will provide for us too. God can perform miracles and I pray that the Lord God will be with you all.

Sis Deophister Kazembe (Ndola, Zambia)

Finding Rest from the Word of God

If you listened to the Word of the Lord and obey it you will find rest, for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. Today if you will hear His voice do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert where your fathers tested me, tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation, I said, they are a people whose heart goes astray and they have not known my ways, so I declared on oath in my anger, they shall never enter my rest (Heb ch3).

Paul's letter to the Hebrews (3:13) "But encourage one another daily as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened to sin's deceitfulness." (Ps. 119:52) "I remember your ancient laws, O Lord, and I find comfort in them", and in John 14:15 it says, "If you

love me you will obey what I command.” Also in Psalms 81:8-10, “Hear, O my people and I will warn you if you would but listen to me, O Israel. You shall have no foreign god among you – you shall not bow down to an alien god. I am the Lord your God who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.” And in v13-14 “If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.” In v 16 “the Lord said to the Israelite but you would be fed with the finest of wheat, with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.” In Isaiah 33:24, it says, “No one living in Zion will say I am ill and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven.” Ex. 15:26 “And said, if you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians for I am the Lord, who heals you”.

If you and I have not listened to the word of the Lord our God, the consequence will be as follows: we shall not see the new Jerusalem, 1.Cor.10:6-11, “Now those things occurred, as examples to keep us from setting our heart on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written; The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry. We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did - and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord as some of them did - and were killed by the destroying angel. Those things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.” Brothers and Sisters let us listen to the voice of the Lord and obey it, then we shall see the rest. Our time is only once and never returns, so let us make the best of it while we have it. How to make the best of it? That is the question on which so many make shipwreck. I pray that the Lord will be with you all as we look forward to the coming Kingdom, God willing.

Bro. Harris Mulongesha (Ndola, Zambia)

Revenging and Resisting Evil

The one body of which Christ is the head, is commanded by him not to revenge themselves, not to take any other sword than the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17), not to resist evil, if smitten upon one cheek to turn the other, and many other precepts of which his own conduct when in the hands of his enemies was an unmistakable illustration (Matthew 5:39-41; Romans 12:17; Luke 23:34). In view of these commandments, war and desolation are no part of Christadelphian duty but the Christadelphian’s war is well stated in the letter of Paul to Corinthians (2Corinthians 10:3,4)

Bro Walter Wasike, (Ukunda, Kenya)

Pillars in the Bible

Solomon built two pillars and erected them in the porch of the temple. The pillar to the south he named it Jakin and the one to the north, Boaz, meaning ‘He shall establish’ and ‘In it is strength’, respectively. These pillars were a constant reminder to everyone who looked to the temple, that

God would be their strength and that His purpose would be established and His righteousness upheld.

Absalom had taken a pillar and erected it in the King's Valley as a monument to himself. He thought, "I have no son to carry on the memory of my name." He named the pillar after himself and it is called 'Absalom's Monument' to this day (2 Samuel 18:18).

The difference between the pillars of God and Absalom's pillar: the pillars of God were there to give praise to God to uphold the memory of His name and His will, not so Absalom's pillar, it was set out in the King's Valley, miles from anywhere. It was to uphold his name and his memory because he had no son.

Paul says, "You will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). It is a place of surety when the world is in turmoil, a place of refuge. A pillar is only as good as the foundation on which it is built. We can have the strongest of pillars but unless that pillar is based upon that firm foundation, it will not stand. We are pillars of God's righteousness: "James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognised the grace given to me" (Galatians 2:9). These three brethren are described as pillars. They were sure and steady in the things of God, they were always there to support others. They gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship and departed, so even though we may be miles away from others in fellowship in Christ Jesus, that supportive right hand of fellowship is constantly there for us. We see Jesus Christ the perfect specimen of a man who was the pillar of faith, and through his sacrifice, shown through bread and wine, we see God's plan and purpose. The bread speaks of strength of God, the wine that God has established a new covenant in Christ.

Bro Joel Singini (Nkhata Bay, Malawi)

Be Sensitive to the Needs of Others

If Christianity is being looked at as an eternal triangle – God is first, others are second and self last. If we, then, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Rom.12:15). We will be sympathetic, tolerant and understanding. Remember the third secret of happiness: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matt.5:4). There is no joy in life like the joy of sharing, therefore we must not be content when we have too much when others in the world have too little.

Fellow brethren and sisters, remember every time we read our Bibles that others have no Bibles to read. Let you and me bear in mind when we hear the gospel preached from all over the world, that we need to examine our own lives. Is our Christian behaviour growing better or worse, leading us into persecution? Some people in the world have never had the gospel preached to them or have heard it but don't bother about it. Let our lives, our means and our prayers be shared with those who are at this moment hearing about God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible says: "But now in Jesus Christ, you who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made both one" (Eph.2:13-14). This is that Jesus, who made Jews and Gentiles one people. If we have that peace of God and peace with God, we

will become peacemakers. We will not only be at peace with our neighbours, but we will be leading them to discover the source of peace in Christ Jesus. Christianity increases the opportunity and area of our lives. It takes us from selfcentredness to multi-centredness. Also conversion takes us from introversion to extroversion. Our lives take on new dimensions when we find peace with God

The Bible says, "A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Let a continual flow of confession come from our hearts. Remember it was to Christians that John wrote, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Bro. George Kangati (Mt Eglon, Uganda)

Paul in Paradise (2 Cor 12:1-10)

Paul was not removed from earth when he saw paradise when he is writing about the third heaven and paradise, he tells us, he is treating of 'visions and revelations' of the Lord (2 Corinthians 12:1).

That is of things represented and communicated to him by the Lord as they were of old time to the prophets and afterwards to John in the island of Patmos. He had a vision of paradise or a vision of the third heaven, in which "he heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell" (2 Corinthians 2:4). He did not see paradise or the third heaven, but a representation of them as they will be, when the kingdom is established by the God of heaven in the land promised to Abraham and his seed (Galatians 3:16), and shall be in continuance after the thousand years shall have passed away.

Bro Walter Wasika, (Ukunda, Kenya)