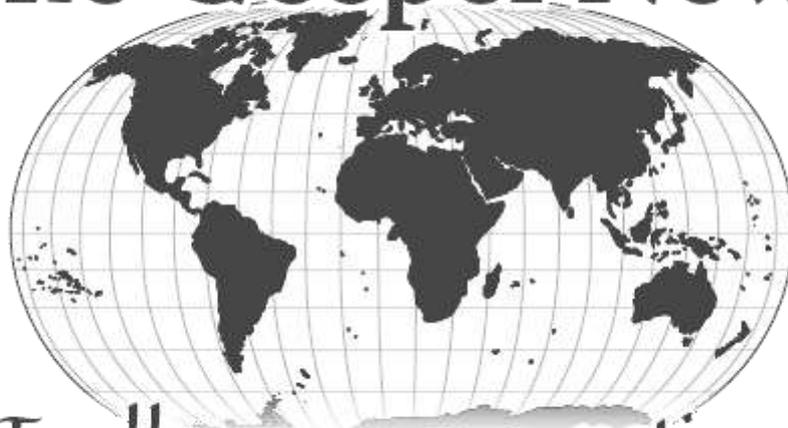


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”

Editorial: THE FOCUSED LIFE

The ultimate pattern for mission is in God Himself. His Name, YHWH, means 'I will be who I will be / am who I am'. And the declaration of His Name is followed by statements of how He 'will be' grace, love, justice, judgment etc. (Ex. 34:5-7). He will work out His purpose of glorifying the characteristics of His Name. If we align ourselves with this aim of glorifying God's Name, then our lives become focused, our aims and goals are clearer. Our baptism into the Name means that His mission, His restless, 24/7 working towards the goal of His glory filling the earth, becomes ours.

Various images are used in the Bible to bring home to us our sense of purpose. We are to see ourselves as soldiers disciplining ourselves for action, fighting in the only ultimately worthy cause with victory in sight; as slaves of a great Master; as athletes running a race. "Every man that strives in the games is temperate in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I [Paul] therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so fight I, as not beating the air" (1 Cor. 9:25,26). Paul saw himself as very much in reality, and not just shadowing boxing. Why does he bother saying this- that he boxes not as one who merely beats the air? Surely because he perceived that many people don't grasp the 'reality' of life. They think it's all some virtual game, online rather than real life. But Paul saw the real issues of eternal life and eternal death very clearly. Those who responded to his preaching and teaching really would live for ever; those who rejected it or fell away from it would ultimately remain eternally dead. Paul perceived that we are dealing with the ultimate of all realities: the love of God, His feelings for us, His mission and purpose for us, how every moment the King of the Cosmos is yearning for us, the life eternal, the sense of the future men might miss. And so Paul fought for it all, not uncertainly, and not as one who feels only half in reality. It was his life. "For me to live is Christ" was how he summed it up (Phil. 1:21). The early church likewise had "a single purpose" (Acts 2:46 ISV). They were exhorted "that with steadfast purpose they would cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 11:23). And right back at the foundation of God's Israel, they were taught: "You shall not take up the name of the Lord your God for unreality" (Ex. 20:7). They were to see the ultimate reality required of those who bear God's Name.

"In Christ"

But from where do we get our specific mission? Who is our pattern? Paul takes a prophecy concerning how Christ personally would be the light of the whole world (Is. 49:6), and applies it to himself in explanation of why he was devoted to being a light to the whole world *himself* (Acts 13:47- although 26:23 applies it to Jesus personally). Paul even says that this prophecy of Christ as the light of the world was a *commandment* to him; all that is true of the Lord Jesus likewise becomes binding upon us, because we are *in* Him. Note that Paul says that God has commanded *us* to witness; it wasn't that Paul was a special case, and God especially applied Isaiah's words concerning Christ as a light of the Gentiles to Paul. They apply to *us*, to all who are in Christ, because everything said about Christ is a commandment to all of us who are in Him. What would Jesus do, who would He be, if He lived in your street, did your job, was married to your partner, mixed with the guys *you* mix with? The answer to that is our mission. In this sense He has in this world no arms or legs or face than us. Paul was a placarding of Christ crucified before the Galatians (Gal. 3:1 Gk.); to the Corinthians he was "the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 2:10 RSV). There is a prophecy of the Lord Jesus preaching: "How beautiful are the feet of *him* that preaches the Gospel" (Nah. 1:15); but it is quoted in Rom. 10:15 with a subtle change of pronoun: "How beautiful are the feet of *them* that preach". We are the Lord Jesus to this world, because we are brethren in Him.

Paul: Working Model

Paul felt very clearly his sense of mission. He speaks in Troas of how “none of these things move [deflect] me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy” (Acts 20:24). Some years later at the end of his life he could write that “I have finished my course” (2 Tim. 4:7). He didn’t let anything distract him- and our age perhaps more than any other is so full of distractions. Paul clearly had a purpose- to spread the Gospel in a semi circle around the Roman empire (2 Cor. 10:15), beginning from Jerusalem, through Asia and Italy, then Spain (Rom. 15:19), North Africa and back to Jerusalem. Speaking of how he planned his journeys, he comments in 2 Cor. 1:17: “When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yes yes, and no no?” Again we see a definite purpose, not the kind of human intention which vacillates between yes and no; for this is inimical to the person who has true purpose.

The mission in our minds, the path ever before us, makes our decision making so much clearer than it is for those who dither over which flavour coffee to have tonight... Truly could Paul say at the end: “But you have followed my teaching, my conduct, and my purpose in life; you have observed my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, my persecutions, and my sufferings” (2 Tim. 3:10,11). And he is set up as a model for each of us (1 Tim. 1:16).

Practical Implications

The focused life is far simpler to live than the selfish, unfocused life. Which school for our kids? The one which will be best for them spiritually. Which music to listen to? The type which helps me be more spiritually minded. How much time to spend online? Enough for communication and gathering needed facts, or mindlessly sitting on Facebook and drifting around the net? How to react when the phone rings at 03:30 a.m. and wakes us up? The focused mind will stumble out of bed towards it eager for the opportunity which the call may give to glorify the Name. The mission-less mind will moan and groan about whoever is daring to disturb their sleep. Spend 20 minutes discussing which chocolate is more tasty, or be so focused on the Lord’s work that what tickles which taste buds becomes an irrelevancy? What to do as we have to wait outside an office for an appointment for 10 minutes? The focused mind sees a great opportunity to read some verses from a pocket Bible, to pray. The unfocused person will instead fret under the irritation of having ‘nothing to do’. They will wonder whatever to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon; the focused mind will scarcely notice the weather. How to spend our retirement? Eagerly move up a gear in our service of God... or fritter away golden years? What to do with some unexpected money- go out for a meal, or give it to the Lord’s service? Which jacket to buy- the nice expensive one, or the cheaper one and use the difference for the Lord?

In all these questions, the focused believer, the disciplined mind, will instinctively and quickly choose correctly - Every time.

Anyone with a true sense of mission will at times meet obstructions in their path. Moses is a classic example. His true greatness, like ours, is seen when we don't permit the hour of defeat to divert us from the path or to permanently drown us in despair. Those who let this happen lack a sense of mission. And life is littered with them, from alcoholics to the billions of empty minds sitting watching TV or the internet tonight in a state of passive depression.

Luke's Gospel describes the Lord as ever "going up to Jerusalem"- even when He was actually travelling *away* from Jerusalem geographically. Luke clearly perceived the way that the Lord's face was set to go to Jerusalem and die there. Any travelling the other way was only in order to ultimately get there. When He finally exhaled in the words "It is finished", He knew that He had

achieved what He had always been travelling towards. The sense of being aligned with the Father's purpose was what inspired the Lord at perhaps His lowest point: "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name... For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world- to bear witness to the truth." (Jn. 12:27,28; 18:37 ESV).

We are asked to *take up* His cross; a highly conscious act which demands our 100% commitment. If it doesn't, the invitation, the words used, have no meaning. Having a sense of mission, knowing we have given our lives to achieving what God wants and is behind, enables us to see all setbacks in a positive light. The breakup of personal relationships, financial crises, illness, lack of response in one field, betrayal, rejection, incomprehensibly unreasonable attitudes of others against us... all these things "work together for good" in the final picture. Thus Paul reflected: "the things that have happened to me have really helped the progress of the gospel" (Phil. 1:12). If we are truly focused on God's agenda, knowing we have His backing, then all setbacks, even our death itself, will be understood by us as all for the ultimate advancement of the aims we are working towards. It's a battle, a war, a campaign, a race, which we can't ultimately lose. With God on our side, we have to win. And we shall.

Paul urged Timothy to not get sidetracked- especially by those "occupying themselves with myths and endless genealogies. These things promote controversies rather than God's ongoing purpose" (1 Tim. 1:4 ISV). Living as we do at a time of information explosion, we can likewise be distracted by peripheral details and thus deflected from the essence of our mission in this world: She said that, we suspect from website X that Y probably believes Z... and before we know it, our spare evening, our hours, our days, are gone. Gone for ever. We each have an individual set of opportunities, potentials, divine intentions for our service, some uniquely personal way in which we are to fulfill the overall mission of God. Heb. 12:1 could imply that before each of us an individualized racetrack is set, and we are to run that race having laid aside every distraction. Ask God to reveal to you His intentions and specific plans for you.

The parable of the talents is naturally relevant to our theme. Note how valuable just one talent was- equivalent to 20 years' earnings of a working man. This seems to me to be an element of unreality in the story, that flags up a lesson. The point is, we have been entrusted with a *huge* amount. We tend to see it as something ordinary; that we have a faith, a denomination, just like many others do. But the personal, individualized gift which we have been given is simply *huge*.

Imagine if you were given, say, \$1 million to use for the Lord's service. You'd be quite busy working out how to spend it all. But the point is, we have each been given *far more* than this. The parable has specific application to our witness; for it was just prior to the Lord's departure that He gave us the great preaching commission, corresponding to how, in the parable, the Master leaves His servants but just beforehand gives them the talents with which to trade. Hence the one-talent man is criticized for not having lent the talent on usury, a practice which Jews could only have done with Gentiles. He should have taken his talent, the riches of the Gospel, to the Gentiles. And yet I'd suggest that 21st century disciples aren't one-talent people. We have been given so much - not least literacy and having the Bible in our own native languages.

Time and again, David takes comfort that "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" (Ps. 138:8). God will fulfill His purpose for us- if we align ourselves with it, and thus see in everything that happens in our lives *His* will being forwarded. We can choose to not align ourselves with His will. The Pharisees rejected the purpose of God against themselves by not being baptized by

John (Lk. 7:30 ESV). His will is not that we should sit around doing Sudoku, watching movies, bantering on the internet, trying to get as much money as possible to finance our nice meals, expensive coffees and designer clothes. His will, as expressed in His very Name, is that He 'will be' grace, love, care, justice, salvation, righteousness, all over the world and to every man and woman. If these things are our focus, our mission, our purpose, our passion, our underlying heartthrob, if *His* will is behind *our* will... then everything somehow comes together for us in a dynamic and fulfilling existence, both in this world and in the life eternal. And God *yearns* that we might have a spirit like this: "He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us" (James 4:5). And be sure that He will be ever working in our lives to try to get us to have this focus.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from cameroon

FONTEM

Thank you for the books you sent me *Helps for the Christian Warfare, The Ways of Providence and Bible History*'. As you told me, all welfare has to go through our linkman, and you sent a copy of my letter to Bro. Ian Fifield.

Bro. Anthony Mbiaoh

WUM

We are grateful indeed for the book you sent entitled *The Death of the Cross*. We pray that God will continue to give us strength and that His *will* may be done on earth as it is in heaven. The book is helpful to me for it reveals the sufferings and death of Jesus on the cross and its meaning in our lives whenever we come to remember him in the breaking of bread and drinking of the wine, as he commanded us. This really was the revelation of God's love toward us, and we should love one another, for if we do not love one another, then the love of God is not in us.

I found the magazine interesting. We, too, have been patiently preparing for Christ's return. It matters not how few in number we are. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Please extend our greetings to all the brothers and sisters in your ecclesia and nearby ecclesias and Sunday Schools.

We are few in number and often remind ourselves of Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt.18:20). To those of us who are isolated this should be a verse of comfort in our Christian life.

Our thanks go to all the brethren and sisters worldwide for their support of us, both spiritually and physically. So we say thank CIL and CAT for their spiritual feeding these past years and pray that God will continue to bless them in order that they may continue to strengthen His people.

Bro. Kum Donatus Cheghe

news from egypt

We and all those baptized are doing well, and we feel we are moving into the stage of advancement from the basic things of the Gospel we have learnt and taught.

Bro. Ogun

news from ethiopia

Thank you for the *Gospel News* you have been sending me for the last three years. I hope you will continue sending it and corresponding with me. Bro Nestor Byema is now living in Canada but I do not have his address.

Bro Gabriel Kiragi Dendhal

news from ghana

CAPE COAST

Firstly, I want to extend my greetings to the brethren in Australia who have suffered because of the climatic conditions. I want to tell them that they should not be offended in God through what has just happened. I want to assure them that only God knows best and He overrules what happens to them. Also it is only God who gives and who takes away. All things happen in this world through His will and power, so we should always depend on Him whether things are good or bad.

Also I want to take this opportunity to say that while other brethren and sisters have experienced trials or other happenings in their lives, these could happen to any of us, so we should always watch and pray for strength and understanding when they befall us. Our Lord and Master was tried and trials must and will befall us and we must face them with humility and love. All this is happiness indeed as it is the medicine of the godly man.

Sis. Monica Agyeman

SUBRI

We are indeed living in exciting times and we are seeing and hearing of the end time prophecies being fulfilled. I receive *Signs of the Times* and *Glad Tidings*, which I pass around to other brethren and sisters and I plan to put some flyers inside the magazines, so that interested friends can apply for the correspondence course. We must continue to pray earnestly for our brethren in refugee camps, those in Israel and other war countries. We need now, more than ever, to hold fast and pray as our redemption draws near.

Sis. Janet Odiko

news from kenya

BONDO

Dear fellow worker in the hope of Israel we share, please receive my warm greetings.

All here is fine, just earnestly praying for the Lord's return to establish the Kingdom.

Here in Kenya we are faced with a myriad of problems after the clashes and riots of last year following the disputed election results.

This year Kenyans are faced with starvation, which has affected the whole country's basic food supply. Commodities are lacking in most of the Government Cereal Board stores, and people are running to and fro to get food which is rare, and whose prices have rocketed skywards.

Coalition partners who are in the Grand Coalition Government are also bickering in sharing power, leaving the common man in a dilemma and at crossroads. These and many more difficulties are sure signs that our Lord and Master may come at any hour, when we least expect him.

I have been thinking of starting Cassava farming for our Ecclesia as a food security measure, but we lack resources to start it off, since first it needs a piece of land and fencing all around before ploughing and planting takes place: but this all needs money in order to make it happen.

In April I was privileged to meet other Kenyan brethren and sisters and some brethren from the U.K. team at the Bible Conference in Mombasa and I was glad to share the emblems with them. This is very memorable and a foretaste of what we look forward to in the coming Kingdom of our Lord. Matt.26:26.

I was very thrilled by the booklet you sent me entitled 'The Truth about Demons and Spirits,' a subject which has caused much controversy in Africa. I have also received the six copies of *Bible Basics* in good condition which you sent me.

Please find enclosed a photo of Kenya Youth Conference which I attended at Bondo recently. I hope you will return it to me later.

Bro. Raphael Aimo

Youth Conference at Bondo

BUNGOMA

I do appreciate very much the work CAT are doing to spread the gospel news to the four corners of the world. It really needs a lot of sacrifice as very few people especially here in Africa, where poverty is rampant will be willing to spend their resources on people they do not know. It may be because of our selfishness that Africa lurks behind in development as the Bible says more blessed is the hand that gives than the one that takes. I will be graduating from the University this coming year and God willing if I get a job I may help meet the cost.

I will be much grateful for a copy of Brother Duncan's book *The Real Devil*, this is a very lively topic here.

Bro Griffin Wafula

CHWELE

It is another wonderful time that our Heavenly Father has given to us. From what we are seeing in the world, and particularly in Israel, we are able to conclude that Jesus Christ is about to come back. Things that were prophesied, like hunger, are now worldwide and in Kenya it has

been declared as a national disaster. Many people in our country are suffering very much from hunger.

These signs make us strengthen our faith so that we may enter the Kingdom when Jesus comes.

I would like to thank you for the books you sent to me, i.e. *Eureka* and *Notes on Signs and Prophecy* that shows the Bible to be true. They have been of great importance to me and the Ecclesia. I have also developed an interest in visual literature, but I lack a D.V.D., so if you have one available I would greatly appreciate and make proper use of it so that I will not have an excuse in judgement. I think that God will open our eyes so that we may see wonderful things of the truth in the Law, as we wait for the coming of Jesus.

Bro. Daniel Wakhabu

ELDORET

I have received the books you sent me and am very thankful for them because they will go a long way to help save many souls in isolation.

Brother, when we read Genesis 12, the subject is 'Blessing of Abram,' and the great famine which caused Abram to seek refuge for food in Egypt. We learn how Abram and Sarah decided to call themselves brother and sister in order to save their lives from danger and hunger. Surely that kind of state is what we are facing in Kenya currently. I need not hide, brother, that I'm really a victim of this kind of situation. Surely the brothers who have benefited from reading *Bible Basics* will not remain the same again spiritually. Also the *Gospel News* is really worth reading.

My country is currently undergoing a very crucial famine. Not all of us are in the same situation, but a few deaths have been recorded due to this cruel drought.

By putting ourselves totally in God's hand, we lay hold of the victory Jesus has already obtained on the cross – we must recognize that we are powerless to do anything in our own strength.

Bro. Jacob Okoth

ISHIARA

We are well, waiting for the return of our Master to save us. My Mum is unwell but we believe that the Lord God has the power and will to heal her.

My student is continuing with studies, hoping to be baptized this year. We shall be happy to have company at Ishiara. I am happy also to inform you that we have changed our address, now using Box 191 Ishiara -60102: please pass this to others who would like it.

This year I enjoyed an occasion when I was among the Central Area Group which went to Mombasa for the National AGM. There we met with brothers and sisters from different parts of the world. There were Kenyans, some from the UK, Canada, South Africa and Australia. I was happy to meet with the family of Bro. Treval, who I had not met since my baptism in April 2005. Bro. Alan and his wife also were there and Bro. Alan took the largest part of our studies. After the Memorial Service on Sunday we departed. It was my first time to see the Indian Ocean.

To the Brothers and Sisters world-wide: our time in this order of things is nearly gone. Our Master is around the corner. What will prevent us from welcoming him? What sorrow will be ours if we miss that opportunity! What could be our aim in this world then? Our hope is in the Lord, who prompts us to show works of love to each other, giving thanks to God for every

increase in our Christadelphian family. For what is our work as God's family but to live, preach and spread the good news to others, as Jesus did? For God's Word says in Deut.32:2 'My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.' And Jesus said, 'everything shall pass away but my word shall remain perfect.' Let us hold on to the promised coming of Christ and the resurrection.

The Resurrection Tree

The naked, sleeping almond tree
With dark limbs spread
Against swift wind clouds riding free
High overhead,
Speaks of the wintry night and death
In earth's full womb;
Where saints devoid of living breath
Sleep in the tomb.
But soon the songbirds' melody
Acclaiming Spring,
Awakes the sleeping almond tree
And blossoming,
It deeply breathes crisp fragrant air,
And leaves appear.
Soon petals fall from blossom fair –
The fruit is near.

Sis. Caroline Aphaxard

KANDUYI

The magazines you sent are helping us both spiritually and physically. I recently had my email address made active, so I hope that our communications will be more frequent.

My prayer and entreaty is that the Almighty may continue to give us life and understanding of His revelation so that we may be faithful until the coming of our Master.

I would be delighted if you could link me with a brother who is able to transmit to me exhortations on my email address (wanjala.samuel@yahoo.com).

Bro. Samuel Wanjala

KATITO

Many thanks for the excerpts, *Testimony magazine*, news and information you sent. Here it is very hot and dry. Many thousands are starving as our maize is sold by greedy government officials. I've enclosed an extract from our local dailies talking of corruption. These are times when we need not be anxious but have courage. There is a list of men of courage in God's Word.

Bro. Lawrence K'owiti

KILGORIS

I am very happy for the work you are doing in the Master's service. I am requesting for the book "Wrested Scriptures" by brother Ron Abel.

Bro. James Nyangute

KITALE

I appreciate very much receiving *Gospel News* and the book '*Index Rerum*', a Ready Reference book distributed from the USA. We are studying the book together with brothers, sisters and friends. We hope you will continue sending us such good gifts in future, and please keep me on your mailing list. If you have booklets concerning farming, we would appreciate them very much.

Bro. Martin Barasa

Sis. Lydia Fuchaka with children; they are in need of children's hymns.

MACHAKOS

When I first joined Machakos Teachers' College, I noticed that they were admitting all kinds of people, including the disabled. During the first orientation, we had sign language interpreters who were interpreting to the hearing impaired (deaf). After that I thought they might be given their own special classes for instruction. Fortunately or unfortunately, I happened to be the desk mate of Joseph Gichira (standing in the centre of the photo). Communication became very difficult between us – it was really a nightmare. We could only communicate through writing. But he happened to be more friendly to me and started teaching me sign language. I can now sign a few words in English.

After three weeks, another new friend was admitted to the College, his name is Mutuku Muthama from Kangundo. Although he had eyes, he had no sight and his story is very sad: when he was young, he started to feel pains in his eyes and persuaded his parents to take him to Kenyatta National Hospital for an eye check-up. The nurses there were University students, still unqualified, and they prescribed him the wrong eye drops. Immediately the medication was applied to his eyes they started to bleed, which caused one eye to lose its sight, and the other became short-sighted. He then had to use lenses, and when he joined the Secondary School they were using fluorescent tubes powered by a generator for studying. Due to the unstable power of the generator, the tubes kept going on and off, and this problem caused Mutuku's remaining eye to lose its sight. He was then taken to Thika High School for the blind, and now we are together at the College.

I almost felt like crying when he told me that two days after he completely lost his sight, his mother died, so I took on the responsibility of caring for the hearing and visually impaired, and continue to the time of writing.

We still have very many deaf, blind and physically handicapped, and I have been friendly to all of them. But can you imagine how many people are ready to assist those with disabilities? How do you and others perceive disabilities in your country? Should we isolate these people because they are unable to cope themselves? You will discover that most disabled people were not born with their disability, like those we have in College – some got disabilities through road accidents and others through diseases. Did they apply for it, or was it God who made them to be the way they are? Most of the disabled people in the present world are very much discriminated against, in almost all facets of life. But we should remember that on their side, they do not have any problem about being disabled, whereas we who think we are well are candidates for disability: we don't know what our future holds.

The hearing impaired students have been sponsored by an organization from America known as Global Deaf Connection. Those in difficulties are the blind: we pray for them so that one day they may have sponsorship as well. So please, let us change our perception of disabilities and consider those people as brothers and sisters.

I would like to request a copy of the book *The Death of the Cross* and *The Place of Women*, mine was borrowed by brother Alfred whom we baptised last year..It seems the books are very interesting to him that is why he is not ready to surrender them to me.

Bro. Laban Kisaka

Crouching from left: Bro. Laban Kisaka, Brown Kahindi (hearing impaired).

Standing from left Diana, Joseph Gichara (hearing impaired) and Mutuku Muthama (visually impaired).

MAKHONGE

Thank you very much for the support and care extended to us through providing us with books. This has helped us in our work of spreading the Gospel to people around us.

We wish to inform you that now we have purchased a plot for Makhonge Ecclesia and therefore we thank you for your prayers during the time we were experiencing pressure in our previous plot.

Bro. David and Sis. Jacklyne Wanjala

First meeting of Makhonge Ecclesia in the newly bought plot.

MATUU

I hope and pray that you are all doing well in the Lord. I have several *Bible Basics* in English, French, and Swahili translations and also '*Why are we here?*' and some other books and leaflets, which I supply to brethren and contacts in Kenya. I suggest that you direct anyone to me who requests such books. I also request that you send me more, and if possible include Swahili, Kikamba and Kikuyu translations. It will be cheaper than you sending direct to individuals. I am in the CBM office and I meet with other CBM committee members who represent the whole of Kenya. My area includes brethren and contacts in Nakuru, Nairobi, Nyeri, Muraga, Kikuyu, Meru, Embu, Kirinyaga, Machakos etc. and I make several personal preaching visits and carry these books with me. I shall also be trying to help those who are isolated to meet the nearest ecclesia, brethren or even contacts who share the "hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1:2.

Bro. Lazarus Kingoo

MBITA

I am very happy that you send me *Gospel News* and find it very helpful.

'IF YOU HAVE ...'

If you have food in your home, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a bed to sleep on, you are richer than 75% of people in the world. So thank God.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than a million people who will not survive this week, so thank the Lord.

If you have some money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in your pocket, you are among the world's wealthiest 8%, so thank the Lord.

If you have read the Bible today, and can worship the true God without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than millions of others in the world, – so really thank the Lord for that blessing.

If you have read this message, thank God again, for you are more blessed than millions of people in the world who cannot read at all.

Adapted by Bro. Daniel Ogembo

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is about to come to restore the kingdom.

I received the parcel you sent, and appreciate your help. I am having a problem with payment of school fees. I have a boy who joined form one, but I am not able to pay the school fee of £35 a year, so now he is at home.

Bro. Daniel Ogembo

MOMBASA

It is now three or four months ago that I received your letter and a good book about 'The Gospel of Mark.' Really it is a systematic commentary with contributions from other Gospels. All this time I have been enjoying reading it and making notes.

Digression 2: BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. This helped me very much because I am a teacher in Mombasa Ecclesia teaching the friends about baptism so that they may be our brothers and sisters to inherit the Kingdom we are waiting for.

Do you have a leaflet or small book about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ? I had one leaflet which was sent me by Bro. Charles French of Australia which taught that our Lord Jesus died on Thursday rather than, as many believe, that he died on Friday and was raised early Sunday morning. We read in Matt. 12:40, Jesus' body was in the grave three nights and three days, which corresponds with the reference of Jonah 1:17. When I read these passages I really learned something, that our Lord Jesus didn't die on Friday. One of our brothers took that leaflet before I had made my notes in my Notes and Lessons Book. If you have one, please will you send this to me and I will teach our friends and also some of our members.

Bro. Edward Kunikina

From Right: Bro. Edward Kunikina and Bro. Moses Simiyu, (Mombasa), with friends.

NANGO

I am very grateful for the books and pamphlets you have given to me to help our ecclesia to grow in the Word of the Lord. The book on *Devil, & Satan* and *The Holy Spirit*, amongst others were thrilling, since these are the most disturbing subjects to many church-goers in Africa. I hope you will be able to continue to send us more as you have them available.

I am also pleased to tell you that I have received the tapes you sent our Ecclesia. The problem remaining now is that we don't have a cassette player to play them on, but the dry cell batteries

are available through our local arrangement. I hope you may consider other ways and means of helping our Ecclesia to develop much further if Jesus still remains away.

Bro. Raphael Aimo

NDHIWA

The Lord Jesus knows every detail about your life and who we are. He has a special purpose just for you and me he will continue to give you all you need to fulfil it, (1 Cor.2:9). And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith and it is in accord with God's purpose. Double your determination; nothing in life that is worthy is ever too hard to achieve if you have the courage to try it and have the faith to believe. God never ploughs in the soul of man without intention and purpose.

This is the day to enrich the lives of those near you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God. God's mighty hand can be felt everywhere for there is nothing on earth that is not in God's care. We all have cares and problems we cannot solve alone, but if we go to God in prayer we are never on our own, (1Chron.5:20). Everyone has problems in this restless world of care, everyone grows weary with the cross they have to bear. Let us display genuine concern and furnish assistance in shouldering the crosses of others (Titus 3:1-2).

Thank God for little things that often come our way, the things we take for granted and don't mention when we pray. This is the day to feel how fortunate you are that God loves you, He is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. Always remember that the hills ahead are never as steep as they seem and with faith in your heart start upward and climb till you reach your dream (Matt.21:21).

This is the day to increase your perseverance, somebody cares and always will, the world forgets but God loves you still and always will. Illuminate your devotion to your Creator and your zeal will also shine. Thank God for the good things He has already done and be grateful to Him for the battles you have won. Step by step climb day by day closer to God with each prayer.

May the Lord use this article to lift your spirit, encourage your heart, build your faith and brighten your days (Prov.19:21).

Sis. Emmy M. Aseyo

OKUMBO

I thank you for the good work you are doing to preach the Gospel. I confess if it were not for you I could not be who I am spiritually. The knowledge I have gained is good to assist me to resist ungodly influences.

I enclose a 'photo taken of Okumbo Ecclesia, where Bro. Francis (far end) was preparing us for baptism.

Lastly I request from you the address of the Swedish Co-operative Center. It is a non-profit-making organization which supports self-help development. I wish to get some agricultural books which will assist me and the entire ecclesia to start a farming scheme. If you could supply any other material or books concerning farming they will be very helpful to us.

Bro. Benjamin Mwatu

The Swedish Co operative Centre has a number of useful handbooks and also Centres in Africa. In East Africa: P.O.Box 45767, Nairobi, Kenya, in Southern Africa, 70 Livingstone Avenue, No 1 Veronica Gardens, Harare, Zimbabwe; Co-ordination Centre, P.O.Box 32012, 93 Kudu Road, Lusaka, Zambia. Another source of books designed for small-scale sustainable agriculture in the tropics is Agromisa, P.O.Box 41, 6700 Wageningen, Netherlands.

Okumbo Ecclesia

RAPOGI

I am very happy because of my baptism into Christ which took place on 1st February 2009 by Bro. James Wyangute, which was witnessed in Okumbo Ecclesia. This occurred after my hard preparation for 11 years and it was with a lot of anxiety. The whole of my family did not allow me to even attend the ecclesia's meetings.

I continued without fear because I have already been 'washed clean' to eat the fruit of eternal life (Rev.22:14). So I continued my prayerful Bible study with them, one by one happily without fear, and through the Name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, I hope one or two might well have learnt the true Gospel.

I am very happy to be among you as a brother, as we all wait for the second coming of Christ Jesus.

Bro. Michael Mokes

SUNA-MIGORI

We are all doing well, including our Ecclesia, despite a few shortfalls that have ever been with man since the beginning of creation.

Let me call them 'Storms.' We sometimes find ourselves off the mark – that is, in the eyes of the people around us. For instance, someone abuses you in public and the people around you expect you to retaliate. If you don't retaliate, you have failed as far as the people around you are concerned. We all want to succeed in life. How can we handle such intriguing matters? The secret lies in knowing where to fail. Some exams are a hoax. It is in our pursuit of success that some of us have ended pushing others aside to reach our ambitions. Let us follow Jesus and success will follow us: on the contrary, if we follow success it might lead us to a step in the wrong direction.

To follow Jesus means that we have to take in everything our Bible teaches. It is the only source of information that will lead us to the Kingdom of God, which all the saints toil day and night to reach. We all know that education removes one from the dominion of darkness to light. 'Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it' (John 1:3-5).

Academically, men have excelled in various fields. There are men and women we cannot run our various institutions without. They know all that it takes to keep our institutions running. We are proud of them due to their technical know-how. Let's stop and listen to this voice, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.' Even if we can remove someone's brain tumour by using a scalpel, and skillfully help their healing, we still need to choose what

Mary chose. It gives light beyond oblivion – the light that we have today in this world will one day turn to darkness. We need that light which endures for ever.

Bro. Joseph Onyango

I am very thankful I received the parcel you sent me containing a Question Book with answers. This book is very helpful to me and the contacts I am teaching the Truth to.

I am sorry for my delay to reply – I am facing some problems. The hospital where I used to work has been affected by the former political crisis, so the owner had financial constraints which forced him to make a general redundancy by which I was affected. But that cannot stop me from serving our God. I hope, God willing, to get another job.

Bro. Benjamin Mwatu

TONGARAN

Sis. Nancy Sikola with some of her grandchildren

WAIROBI

All the reading textbooks you are sending to us are good and help us in our Bible study.

Although the Truth has been in Kenya for some years, the progress has been slow. Several reasons can be given as to why this is happening. The first difficulty is the widespread influence of the Evangelical churches, the Seventh Day Adventists and other churches who have active missionary networks and resident pastors throughout the country. The second reason is that the Christadelphian Mission in Kenya does not broadcast radio programmes as the other churches do. Lastly, our brethren and sisters in the country have limited access to technology which will enable them to experience the wonders of God through the internet. We need to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22).

Bro. Samuel Maruta

news from malawi

BOLERO

Bro. Nyomilo Lujanga

DOMASI

I received the *Bible* and *Gospel News*, thank you very much. If you have used books about the Bible, please send them to me also. At the moment I have a bad leg. I send greetings to you all.

Bro. B. S. Kawonga

DZALEKA

My greetings to you through the name of Jesus. I thank the Lord for having this opportunity to write this letter, renewing my correspondence with you. I have moved from Tanzania to Malawi, together with my family. I have taken this decision because the Tanzanian Government has decided to close all Congolese Refugee Camps early this year. So owing to the political situation

in my country, Democratic Republic of Congo, I am not ready to go there. Please use the new address to send me the *Gospel News* and other books which you feel will interest me.

I have found brothers here with little knowledge of our Christadelphian faith, as many among them have embraced other denominations, taken Christadelphian equipment, and others are having fellowship without the Breaking of Bread service. But now we are breaking bread in fellowship as well.

Bro. Bernard Ikola

Photo: The first fellowship contact in Dzaleka between Bro. John's family and that of Bro. Bernard Ikola's. From left: Sis. Marie Chantal (carrying baby), Bro. John Abwe, Sis. Sophia Kilinda (carrying baby) and Bro. Bernard Ikola.

Seated: Apolina, Mauwa and Shukura John; Aimerence and Anastazia Bernard and Emanuel John.

Family Information:

Greetings through Jesus' Name. I am very sorry to inform you about what has happened to my son Lambert John. In March of this year he was taken by someone and personally abused. This person was seen by neighbours and immediately took him to the police in this Camp. I reported this action to the UNHCR Camp Administrator, and the Malawi Red Cross, but no action has so far been taken.

I am still facing many difficulties here, so I need more prayers from my brothers and sisters.

We thank the Lord we are able to inform you that we have received another Christadelphian family from Lugufu Refugee Camp (Tanzania), Bro. Bernard Ikola and Sis. Sophia Kilinda, his wife, and their four children. For now we are together here in Dzaleka Refugee Camp (Malawi) and fellowship together, doing our ecclesial activities and breaking bread together; but because of living conditions here in the Camp, we use Coca-cola instead of wine. Please remember us in your daily prayers, because Christians are tempted all the time – only God can save us from this situation.

Bro. John Abwe

Photo: Bro. Bernard conducting Breaking of Bread service in the accommodation of Bro. John Abwe. Standing: centre Bro. Bernard, John and Abwe, with one contact each end.

Seated: Sisters Marie and Sophia with children.

GONDA

Please pray for us here that God may allow us still to grow in our spiritual life and become more mature. The world is affected by so many problems, so we need to be strong: this should be done to show the failings of the rules of this world's Governments. Soon Jesus, who is the only ruler who is chosen by God the Creator, will provide everything and his kingdom will be established for ever.

The C.B.M. made contact through the internet with ONGO. (which is called LOMADEF), to go and meet the C.B.M. of Malawi to summon one leader from each church from all parts of Malawi, and Gonda Ecclesia was chosen. Each representative was to learn how to make compost manure, and this can be made in different ways. We attended our school for one week

at Ntcheu District. After learning how to make these types of compost we were given certificates. We were told to go and form clubs in our churches for all who are interested, and so not all will be Christadelphians. But this work of making compost manure will be very difficult because the necessary equipment is very expensive.

As you have already said, this climate change is part of the world's troubles. I think what you assume is correct because it is a time prophesied by Jesus in Luke 21:25-28 when he said 'There shall be signs in the sun, and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, for the roaring of the sea and waves. Men's hearts will be fainting for fear and for expectation of the things which are coming to the world, for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.' Regarding this prophecy even world Governments are trying ways to provide people with peace and security, but they fail and the world is still affected with so many problems. We Christians have the same problems because we live under the same rulership, but the exciting thing is this, God protects His people and gives them life. Maybe He wants to fulfil verse 28 which says, 'When these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption draweth nigh.'

I was happy to receive Sunday School parcels from Canada, and each child has a named Jumbo, finding inside clothes, colouring pens and pencils, a Bible, toothbrush and paste and combs – all parcels the same and gratefully received and gave much joy to the children and parents.

Bro. Robert Folley

Photo: Bro. Robert Folley. In his right hand a packet from Sis. Walker with Sunday School lessons, and in his left hand the certificate given at the Compost Manure Course.

I am glad to receive the *Gospel News* magazine and the books you sent. Thank you, all brothers and sisters who endeavour to send books which interest and help us, and I pray that you may be able to continue to send to us all.

I would like to share with our brothers and sisters about how we can enjoy a good life on earth: we need to read and learn God's Word and understand it well, praying for His guidance to help us understand His message. The Bible says God loves and takes care of those who do what is right (Psalm 1). We should work hard to continue to please the Lord and inherit His blessings.

Bro. Diverson Folley

JALI

I would like to apologise for taking a long time to write to you. This was due to the death of our Brother J. Chikapa, whose postal address I was using for my mail. Now my appeal is that you continue sending me *Gospel News*, and as we are living in the last days, I am in great need of the book '*Family Life in the Lord*.'

Bro. Robert Mapsera

KASUNGU

Our ecclesia is very strong indeed and we will benefit a lot from the books you have sent us. We appreciate your help very much. You always choose very good books for us. Lastly pass my warm greetings to your family friends and relatives. I think Sis. Gwladys is older now, I remember her when you visited me in Kasungu.

Bro. Harmony Ntchalachala

LILONGWE

We are quite short of copies of the 'Revision Studies' and 'Teach me Thy Way', could you please send us some as they are good in preparing those who are studying for baptism.

Brother Daniel Banda's reading glasses have arrived safely and have been given to him. He says only God will assist to thank you for him. More than anything else, I hope to reach out to others, and this will I think give us a wonderful approach – this personal contact to those around us. For those in need of spiritual growth, it makes its foundation much stronger. Though pulpit evangelism wins more souls, the numbers decline fast.

Your prayers and material support really guide me to know the truth. Please continue to do so. May the Lord soon come.

Bro. Henderson Sosola

MASANJE

I am sorry I have not written to you for some time, but I was involved in an accident that caused me to remain quiet for some time because of that incident. This accident occurred when I was cycling to visit my friend who was not feeling well at that time, but I failed to visit because of the incident that hospitalized me for over four months.

Please continue to send me *Gospel News* and other Bible material to keep me close to Jesus Christ as a way of life. Since some of my fellow members are young boys and girls, please can you send Chichewa Bibles as a way of keeping the youth in touch with Jesus Christ.

Bro. Tholesi Nazombe

MAYAKA

Thank you for the book you sent to me and for your prayers and preaching. I am glad to say that my wife is healed from the disease and I believe that this happened because of your prayer and love. I am now staying in the city of Zomba near Chalwe Hotel. Please continue praying for my family. Please read Acts 20:35-36.

Bro. Lameck Niwawala

MWAMBO

Dear God,

I would like to thank you for your greatest love which you have been showing to me before, during and after my birth, and up to now you are still showing your love to me. I'm giving abundant thanks to you, my helpful God. You are the God of love, peace, mercy, wisdom grace, faithfulness, forgiveness and even jealous, gracious, longsuffering and righteous. All these virtues signify your character.

Your Almighty Name 'JEHOVAH' (Lord God) reminds me how good, how powerful and how active you are. Nevertheless, you gave your only beloved Son, Jesus Christ, also known as 'Emmanuel,' meaning 'God is with us,' to die, crucified on the cross for us. This is a wonderful gift to those who believe, fear and depend on you.

To trust you is important because of our sinful nature and our failures before you. We are alive in your presence, and we also die in your presence. We have to praise and worship you and live a life of sacrifice in order to please you always.

For instance, when I look at your creation, such as mountains, waters, sun, moon, stars, wild and domestic animals, fish, human beings, birds, lightning and thunderstorms, living and non-living things, vegetation and wind– all these teach and give me fear of You, Lord God. Indeed, your created natural world is so beautiful and good.

(Let us give honour to and salute our Lord God and his Son, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Just imagine, today people world-wide are honouring our fellow human beings. Each and every day we should praise and give honour to our God.)

Finally, my dear God, I am a sinful man to you and I appeal to you and Jesus Christ to forgive me my iniquities, to make me righteous in your sight.

Here in Malawi a poor harvest is expected again due to last year's hunger. Many people are using the maize from the field before harvest, which will result in a very low yield. We are expecting another famine from November through to February next year. With regard to rice, yes, of course in some parts people will produce a better harvest.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lidia Maganga

In the photo, from left is me holding the baby boy, in the middle is our firstborn, and to the right is my wife Lidia holding the baby girl.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lidia Maganga

MZUZU

Here in Mzuzu we are all well. I am writing this soon after the fraternal meeting we had in Mzimba. Two of us from Mzuzu attended but others were unable because of the cost of transport. While we were there the brethren proposed that a fraternal should be held here in Mzuzu before the end of the year. What we need, if possible, is some assistance to help us to buy some chairs, because we do not have any at the place we are renting.

Bro. Sylvester Tembo.

I would like to thank you for sending me books on the '*Immortality of the Soul*.' Due to such problems as shortage of stamps, I am sorry I took quite a long time to write this letter to you.

Every fact you wrote to me was read and considered as true. The more you will be in despair by the postage costs, the more we will suffer here, possibly twice as much as you. I am so very concerned about that and pray that God will cause a means to be found to reduce this problem.

Bro. Dutch Mphayah

SALIMA

I wish to let you know that I received your letter at my new address, together with a copy of '*The Testimony*' magazine, so let us thank the Heavenly Father for opening this avenue of communication. I also wish to inform you that the Lord did wonders to assist in the matter I wrote to you about. At the moment I have a couple of '*Bible Basics*' which interested parties

borrow and give back, however when the book on the work of Christ comes out I will be most grateful for a copy.

Bro. Ignatius A.G.Maluwa

ULONGWE

Thank you for your letter and your help to us all. I have been going to the hospital to take medicine because, although I am still suffering, it's better than before. I thank God for his blessings.

Bro. Harry Benito

ZOMBA

I enclose 'photos of when I was in Lilongwe and I was coming from Bunda and Malingunde Ecclesias to preach the news of the Gospel with Brother David Remmison, UK. He took the 'photo with his camera. Brother David is a kind man who loves teaching the Gospel in Malawi and likes to go to local areas.

I love you in the name of Jesus and ask that you continue to send me *Gospel News*. We must always think of what God has asked us to do and I keep you in my prayers that one day we shall see one another.

Bro. Davis Madolo

Davis Madolo

Advertising the correspondence course

Thank you for the pamphlets on Acid Reflux etc. concerning my wife's problems. My wife is being hospitalized 264 Kms away from here in Lilongwe, where she is still in a semi-coma. Thank you for your help and good advice.

Bro. Henry Banda

news from mauritius

I have not yet received the latest copy of *Gospel News*. My ecclesia is the new one at Poste-de-Flacq, but I have heard that the ecclesia of Quatre-Bornes has received their copy. In Australia they received copies very early, because a brother has sent me a copy. For a long time I have regularly received all copies of , except this time it is very late.

Bro. Guy Jhureea

I would like to acknowledge receipt of the '*Bible Basics*' book and a advertising packet of rulers, which you have sent. Thank you, I really appreciate it a lot. Can you again send me a copy of the 5th edition of '*Bible Basics*'? I would like to give it personally to a friend of mine.

Bro. Angelito V. Corpuz

news from nigeria

ASABA

We have been greatly helped by the books you sent to us last year. Also we have enjoyed *Gospel News* a great deal. We are a small ecclesia but enjoy fellowship with other ecclesias that visit us from time to time and our overseas brethren have visited us in the past. We are advancing in preaching, except that to make one person agree in the doctrine is like going to Mecca! However, we shall be happy if you could be good enough to send us large quantities of pioneers books as well as leaflets, pamphlets and hymn books, including children's hymns.

We are quite aware and concerned for you because of this world meltdown as most of our help comes from that end. In Nigeria we are accustomed to any eventuality as our leaders are not fair or straightforward and they amass wealth, contracting graduates for jobs, so there are no jobs for the less privileged who consist of 98% of the population. We wait for Christ's coming Kingdom to redress man's inhumanity to man and the suppression and oppression we are witnessing in our country.

My ecclesia, my wife Peace and my two children, Ikechukwu and Chisom, send their greetings to your wife, family and ecclesia.

Bro. Ikechukwu Ugwu

ENUGU

All are well here, by the grace of God. I have received the book about Daniel that you sent, with much thanks. I am happy with the way you are co-operating with Bre. Stanley Blackstone and John Woodcock; they are my friends.

I am sending you a report of the all Nigeria CYC gathering at Akwanga Nasarawa, which is in Northern Nigeria. It was the first time that the CYC was held there. The gathering started on 9th April and ended on 13th April. It was very good and many people came. Five brethren from U.K. attended and the gathering was led by Bro. Dafydd Jenkins. I use this opportunity to express my thanks to overseas brethren for their support in the gospel work in Nigeria. Five people were baptised at the gathering: two from Warri Ecclesia, Sis. Roseline Chukwu and Bro. Terry Otorbor, one person from Aba Ecclesia, Sis. Mercy Avisia, and two from Akwanga Ecclesia, Sis. Kyolu Isaac and Sis. Deborah Isaac. We pray for our Heavenly Father to guide these newborn members to a place in the Kingdom.

In March, three new sisters were baptised in Enugu Ecclesia. They were Sis. Oge-chi Goddy, Sis. Chidubem Ugwunta and Sis. Chiamaka Ugwunta. We pray for the Father's richest blessing on our new sisters as they walk with us to the Kingdom. The writer's daughter was among those baptised. He expresses much thanks to God for keeping him alive to see his daughter baptised in the Lord.

Bro. Goddy Nwosu

Three sisters baptised at Enugu. From left, Sis. Chidubem Ugwunta, Sis. Chiamaka Ugwunta and Sis. Oge-chi Goddy.

The three new sisters being welcomed by Bro. Goddy.

PRAYERS NEEDED FOR OUR BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN NIGERIA

There have been hundreds of killings violence, robberies, kidnappings, burning of properties recently in Nigeria which has alas affected some of our brethren and Sisters, for security

reasons we have withheld the names of the two brethren that have sent in these disturbing reports.

On the way home from visiting an Ecclesia.

“We met a group of armed robbers on the high-way with gun and cutlass and covered faces. They stopped us by force and started searching the motor, lied us down and took my mobile phone and my bag with my new Bible and hymn book. I managed to reach home with the help of some people. I thank God that they did not kill us. Help me to thank our God for sparing my life. All these things happening is the fulfilment of the prophecies (Luke21:26). Nothing at all will stop me from going outside preaching till I die!

Another brother write from a different part of the Country,

“Nigeria is in a mess, God only will solve its problem and not any human. What is now the order of the day? It is kidnapping and destruction of innocent souls God created. Men are being kidnapped each day. You only free yourself if your people can pay a ransom---if after the day they give your people expires without anything done, and then you pay with your blood for they will shoot you. ---It is now over a month they started kidnapping children from Churches and Schools.--- Everybody is in great fear both day and night.

Only 500 yards from my home, five policemen were butchered in cold blood by kidnapers. There is no night that passes without hearing the sound of gun shots from different angles. There is no security of any type; God is the only security to his servants.

OHAFIA

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God, therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

I write to thank you for all your concern to help us in this isolated area of ours, for all the books and booklets that you send to us have gone a long way to help us to always be in constant hope for his return and the events of today show us that it will be soon. We really need constant prayers for each other to overcome this world of materialism and increase of knowledge. May we always purpose in our heart, like Daniel, not to defile ourselves with the portion of the king's meat nor with wine which he drank, Dan.1:8. Let us always continue to hold forth the Word of Life that we may rejoice in the day of Christ, which is at hand. Philip.2:16.

Bro. Uka Egwu

news from south africa

JOHANNESBURG

More evidence that, with hard work, the Lord will bring people to Christ – another baptism from a local area outside Johannesburg and the friend of a Johannesburg brother. As someone said, “Work as though it all depends upon you and pray as though it all depends upon God”.



MOKETS

May our Heavenly Father bless all the brothers in the whole world. I am Bro. Kuvarega Mavuvo of Triangle ecclesia in Zimbabwe and I am now in South Africa working at B.H.B. ZZZ in the Shed. I met Bro. Tavaremba Mugova and Sis. Tambiraikle for a prayer and daily readings and we sang hymn 2 of Shona and 268 from the black hymn book. I feel at home and my family in Zimbabwe are fit and fine. I am looking for brothers and sisters who are Christadelphians as it is rather lonely here. My address is ZZZ, Box 19 Mooketsi, South Africa, 78km from Pietersburg. Please let me know the nearest meeting place to Pietersburg and also try to send me *Gospel News* and encouraging Scripture material. I am the lost sheep who needs to be with the other 99 sheep. I am staying at B.H.B. Hotels. (2 Thess. 3:16).

Bro. Kuvarega Mavuvo

news from tanzania

I pray you are alright and keeping strong in the Lord's hands as well. Thank you so much for the *Gospel News* and I'm happy to read all the news worldwide. Its been cold here and I have allergy so I have difficult times in the mornings. May God be with you all.

Thanks a lot for the good news about the work in Latvia and the new hall and the books.

Our bro Justine was attacked by stroke but he was rushed to the hospital so he can walk a bit he is around 78 years now. We are meeting at his home as he cannot walk to our meeting place. Its so important to meet together to Break Break.

Sis. Monica

news from uganda

BUSIA

The Bible offers unique opportunities to help others by planting God'S truth in those with little or no hope. There is nothing more inspiring than witnessing young men and women, who once only cared about themselves, undergoing a genuine change of heart to live for others with the true gospel. May it be said of us as it was of Jesus "You are my son; today I have become your father" (Heb.5:5). The Bible is telling us not to make our hearts hard, because God loves us and that is why He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die in order that we might be saved.

I request you to send me some interesting books like *Bible Basics* and *The Real Christ*. These books will help me to find out more about the Word of God and will give me knowledge to help me to teach other brothers, sisters and contacts who want to join with us. In Busia ecclesia we have 16 meeting with us; 7 brothers, 4 sisters and 5 interested contacts. Recently I was privileged to go to Gulu with Bro. Fredrick Wabwire to baptise some Ugandans there.

Bro. Mangeni Rogers

BUTIRU

Greetings to you in the Hope of Israel. I hope that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is caring for you and the family as you continue serving Him. Thank you for the *Bible Basics* books which have really given a lot of spiritual help to the brothers, sisters and to seven contacts of Butiru Ecclesia. I would like to inform you that I have really gained a lot of spiritual help from this book and become a strong mountain in the faith and no one can move me away from it. I would like to request more copies of *Bible Basics*, both in English and Swahili.

Bro. Boniface Masakala

KASESE

Living in the Fear of God

The Lord will confide in those who fear him. Ps.25:14

The Lord will store up his goodness for those who fear him. Ps.31:19

The Lord's eyes will be upon those who fear him. Ps.33:18

The Lord's angel will encamp around those who fear him. Ps.34:7

The Lord will provide for those who fear him. Ps.147:11

The Lord will grant knowledge and wisdom to those who fear him. Prov1:7,3:7

The Lord will impart strong confidence to those who fear him. Ps.14:26

With so many wonderful promises, it is certainly to our advantage to fear the Lord.

Bro. Muhekha Addidas

We must read the Word of God first. It cannot live in us unless if we fill our hearts and minds with it. It only lives in us when it becomes part of our character, when we are living like Jesus, doing things his way and not the world's way –it is then we are making it the living Word in our lives, otherwise it is just a book of words, pages that rot and get eaten by mice, rats, termites, it is a dead thing. The Word only lives when we make it come alive by doing what it says. That is why Jesus was called the Word made flesh, because he lived it, he made it come alive, everything he did was according to God's Word.

James 1:22, Ps.119:9-11. It is a challenge. We must get God's Word inside us so that it can flow out of us in our behaviour and attitude.

Bro. Baluku Nicodemus

LUMINO

There is sometimes a situation where some of our friends, brothers or sisters fall into temptations which make them sin and they are rejected, hated, put out of fellowship and laughed at by their fellow-believers. As brethren and sisters should we continue to do such things to those who are tempted? What is our task in salvation? How should we treat or feed our minds to avoid such situations and foolish things about those who sin? What does our Lord tell us to do?

We should love and pray for each and everybody, more especially those who fall into temptation, this should be our greatest task. Read Gal.5:22, 1 Cor.13:13, Philip.1:27, James 5:16. Brethren and sisters, we should allow the spirit of the Truth to work into our minds in order to avoid such foolish talk which may lead to envy, jealousy, gossip and quarrels as 1 Tim.6:3-11 and John 5:1-5 tell us.

Let us seek God's Kingdom by serving as Jesus did. He loved and prayed for the sinners so we should not talk bad words about those who are tempted and alas fall, knowing that Jesus is coming to see the fruits of our forgiveness and love to others.

Bro. Godfrey Egessa

NEKUKU

I am sending you some simple notes of advice/guidelines on how to pray and the importance of prayer to a Christian person. They look small but very interesting to me. I did not want to be selfish with the Word of the Lord and that is why I wanted to share it with my fellow brothers and sisters all over the world so I hope it will be published in *Gospel News*. (They are printed as an article in this edition) We hope to learn more as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Mukisa Samuel

news from zaire

MUSESE

I understood about the salvation from our Saviour when I read *Bible Basics* and *Introducing Bible Basics*, which are available from my fellow Christadelphians here in Uganda. The library provides the means, but I would beg you to send me an English Bible and booklets as a sword to fight with here. Jesus said, "Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brothers or sisters shall inherit everlasting life."

One of the most powerful arguments for the existence of God Almighty is in the Bible. The Bible contains many prophecies about the rise and fall of kingdoms and nations, about individuals and events. In many cases these prophecies were recorded hundreds of years in advance. This is something that man could not do, only God, who controls all things, could have caused them to be written. If we are to understand the Bible, Jesus said that we must become teachable as little children. Jesus again said, If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them, because some of us are weak in faith. The Bible gives us the reasons for these facts. This is a powerful proof that the Bible is divinely inspired and therefore infallible. Despite its age, the slight variations of translation in the various versions, they do not affect the doctrine, prophecy or historical facts, so the work of archaeology confirms in a remarkable way the truth and reliability of the Bible and thus, indirectly, show it to be the production of divine inspiration.

But the aim of *Bible Basics* is to enable one to systematically study the Bible by oneself. At the end of the studies, you have a clear view of the basic gospel, which Jesus taught. He

commanded the disciples to preach the gospel to all the world, and to baptise believers by immersion in water, into his death and resurrection.

Bro. Benson Mandali

news from zambia

CHAMBISHI

Thank you for the book, *Christendom Astray from the Bible*, which has helped me to understand questions I find difficult to comprehend. I also understand who the Bible 'Lucifer' is. The pamphlets you sent help me to understand and grasp the explanations. I am happy that one of the friends that I preached the gospel to has received Bible lessons from you. I encouraged him to write to you and allowed him to use my address. I have delivered the gospel material you sent him which included *Bible Basics* and I am explaining some scriptures which he finds difficult to understand.

Bro. Christopher Mwewa

CHINSALI

I received your letter and the message it contained together with the Revised Version of the *Holy Bible*, '*The Ways of Providence*', '*Women in the Church*' and five copies of *Bible Basics*. I pray to God that He gives me time to go through them and get to understand the spiritual guidance they contain. I appreciate all you are doing as a very good example of Jesus' instructions to his disciples in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Reading *Gospel News* reminds me of many things that we go through as believers in Jesus, but our stand should not be shaken by circumstances that come our way, but we should always remain united in the Lord and pray for one another as we wait for the Lord's day.

The book '*Women in the Church*' is very interesting to read and understand, more especially to us in Christadelphian communities. I wish I had material to translate into our local language. I have a lot of interest in spiritual books and if you have any other titles please send me some more, as I shall be very glad to receive them. "Even so, come Lord."

Bro. Charles Kangwa

KABOMPO

I am grateful for the study materials, especially the book, '*Questions on Daily Readings, April-June*'. The book is an excellent study material and if there is another copy for July-December please send it to me for it will be useful with my preaching contacts in Kabompo or wherever I may be if it be God's will. I informed the Kabompo ecclesia about the effect of bush fires in Australia on our brethren and thanked our Heavenly Father for protecting their lives so that they can give glory to the Lord our God and to his Son, Jesus Christ. Material loss is nothing in the sight of God for the Lord Jesus Christ came to save our lives from sin and death, not from loss of possessions of this world. The Lord also does all things good, or bad, for His purpose (Isa 45:5-7).

We are praying for the Christadelphian Advancement Trust work that you are doing, together with Bro. Duncan and other brethren and sisters in the U.K. I again forward names of other people who would like to receive and study the Bible Correspondence Courses.

Bro. Reuben Musole Kaambeu

The great assistance given for the fraternal was very much appreciated. This year, Bre. Arnold Kunda and Dennis Kombe were the speakers from C.B.M. (Z.) Committee.

Topics of discussion included:-

1. Correct methods of recording the income and Expenditure.
2. Jesus and the Law of Moses.
3. Jesus as our representative.
4. Question and answer session.
5. Ecclesial life.

I am requesting you to assist with books, leaflets and any other spiritual material if it is possible that may help the students. The rich blessing of our living God be with you until we meet in the Kingdom to come.

Bro. Charles Muhupu

KABWE

I am glad to inform you that *Gospel News* has arrived and also '*God-Spell*'. Please keep on sending me books as you know that it helps me a lot and especially nowadays when we are in the last days and we must read the Bible and other books about God. Here, in our country things are not good; we have many problems at this time, including employment, crime and prostitution. It is true that we have to be on our guard and study the Bible as things are changing every day. I want to encourage our brothers and sisters worldwide to be firm in the Word of God, especially at this time when the whole world has financial problems. False preachers will arise and deceive many, so please let us wake up, watch and let no one deceive us. Let us put on our helmet and fight back whatever will come our way because we are on a long journey, so let us not be like a vehicle which has a breakdown.

Bro. Greenwell Kunda

KAFUE

Greetings to you in the blessed name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for responding to my call for help and putting my letter in *Gospel News*. May God richly bless you. The nature of our problem as a family is actually shelter. The house we stay in, which was partially built for me by my late son, has just been partially roofed with asbestos sheets leaving the other rooms, where children sleep, open and exposed to all weather patterns that we have here in Zambia. This poses great danger to us, especially in the rainy season, when most times we are forced to spend nights in my bedroom to avoid being soaked. Because the type of roofing already on the house is that of asbestos sheets we are requesting that we be helped with the remaining 18 x 3m sheets.

Bro. Lotson Kayuni

KALOMO

We are all OK at Kalomo. We are halfway through building our ecclesial hall, using some poles, grass and muddy bricks; it is much better than our previous one. At present we are busy maintaining the surroundings where we have a small playground for soccer, mainly for our Sunday School, though we have no good ball. At the roadside, about 30 metres away from the ecclesial hall, we put a small box with C.B.M. literature for passers-by to read or take away to spread the gospel. If you have copies of English and Bemba *Bible Basics*, different types of leaflets, pamphlets etc. please send some to us and they will really help greatly in ministering the gospel to others. We have a programme to hold a one-day preaching session when we will invite the general public to attend. This will be the best time to distribute some pamphlets and you may have more cassettes for some choirs, or messages we could use on that day. Please do support us in any way possible for the gospel to go to every door of every house.

Bro. Harry Hambula

KAMUCHANGA

With the Global Financial Crisis of the world today, here in Zambia I am sure that we, the Zambians, are the people who have experienced everything – a) Job crisis and b) Global Financial Crisis. In particular, in Mufulira where I am staying, the job crisis took only two months from November to December 2008. Many companies in the mines sector were thrown out and many employees lost their employment. Just imagine, many employees got their loans from the banks and after spending their money on buying cars, renovating their homes, buying all they needed, their jobs were finished and their banks got everything from their last payment. Many people came back with nothing in their pockets. All businesses have gone down and many people have gone away from their own towns. Many people who bought cars, houses and anything for their homes sold them again at the cheapest price. This has happened to Mufulira Copper Mine and lastly to Chililabombwe K.C.M. Many have suffered and felt the pinch of the global problem. We see from the newsletter that our large countries have suffered in the same way and many will still suffer and I am also badly affected. Your letter collection from the world teaches us very much.

Bro. Katongo Mulenga

KASAMA

I write to find out how I can be helped with some books. I have been a Christadelphian student and I have finished the lessons from my two tutors. I am very grateful for what God has done for me through these two ladies, may God bless. I am hereby requesting a Bible with references, as here they are very expensive.

Binwell Musipi

Thanks a lot for the chemistry book which I received, and may Almighty God continue to protect you. I also received *Gospel News*, which I would like to continue to receive. As you know, I was at a College where I had been given a place to do Secondary teaching for three years (Diploma), but I have been transferred into a School for Civil Engineering, which will be a three and a half year diploma.

Willie Kanage

KAZEMBE

Last Sunday I was called to exhort in English and Bro. John Kasanda helped me tremendously to translate Bible language using the Bemba Bible. The brothers and sisters had no difficulty in understanding. I feel this is the right method of praising the Word of the Lord and to understand *Glad Tidings* magazines and *Gospel News* in English, which every member is receiving regularly. After all, each member has a son or daughter aspiring for a higher grade in secondary school, who can act as a translator at home.

I have three farm areas, one around my house, another 1 km away at the Old Pantaleo's village and the last one where, bananas are found, sugar cane, etc., is at the shore 2 km away, where fish trapping is another hobby. I am sorry to hear of bush fires in Australia and I pray that the powerful arm of the Lord will stretch forward and quench them.

Bro. Vincent M. Mwense

LIVINGSTONE

I am truly with you, trying to serve the Lord as best I can. Despite all problems we stay firmly in Christ and see you as our loving brothers in Christ, for so many things you have done for us. We really appreciate your wonderful work, for I am always receiving spiritual food which is such a blessing for reading and teaching the community about the work of Christ and to prepare ourselves more for his return. I am now out of hospital but my health is very poor at the moment. I was very ill, in constant pain and I could not walk. I thank God that I am a bit better now and ask for your prayers in this situation.

The Livingstone Ecclesia are well. Thank you for sending me the Middle East News. Please continue encouraging us to spread this news worldwide. The Middle East conflict is a sign that the Lord Jesus will come soon to establish his Kingdom. I really feel grateful for your concern in sending me reading material, which is so important and encouraging to our hope, especially now, when we are walking through all our troubles. We must hold on to this hope because it is our *only* hope, to keep strong in our faith and pray to God always. Read 1 Sam. 8:10, 17-19. God in earlier times provided Israel with kings who were to deliver a good service to the nation but they failed to give the people clear direction and purpose, many became too concerned about their own position. This is what is happening in many countries today. Leaders are engaged in corrupt activities and are busy stealing public funds, building the best homes as part of their investment and other resources. They do not consider poor people; workers are going on strike due to poor salaries and some people are living like wild animals. The country now seems to be motivated more by personal gain. I urge all brothers and sisters, whatever difficulties we may face to hold on to that great and precious Hope before us and pray for God's Kingdom to come so that bureaucratic behaviour and sorrows may be over. We all look forward to the return of our Lord.

Let us think of the court of the Gentiles. John 2:13-16.

The encroachment upon the Gentile court by the priest salesmen of sacrificial animals and birds is an indication of their degeneracy and also a symbol of how the whole religious service was debased. Instead of a house of prayer it had become a den of thieves. The object of the Jews' desire was not righteousness but wickedness. The Jews are a type of our natural sinful life from Adam. Should we follow the bondage of the Law? The choice is ours brothers and sisters, to choose the path which leads to destruction or the path in the service of Almighty God and

have the promise of God, everlasting life; the way of God or the way of man. No one makes us do wrong, we do so because we want to and we find sin pleasurable. The way is prepared for us, Jesus is God's manifestation in the flesh, justified in Spirit and is the only Name given among men whereby we can be saved and inherit the coming Kingdom.

Bro. Caphes Sikanyika

Appeal for Carpentry Course notes –

N.B. Our Brother wishes to become a carpenter and would appreciate any do it yourself type of books with diagrams of how to do various jobs. M.H.

LUSAKA

Thank you very much for everything you have done and are doing for me. This gives me courage. I mentioned in my previous letter about a laptop. I know that you cannot help me with it at the moment but I am asking if you can manage to let me have a mobile phone, which is more advanced so that I could send my articles via your e.mail address.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi

MAZABUKA

It is because Jesus is our Mediator that we put all our prayer requests before our God through him who is our Saviour. It will be lovely when Jesus returns to set up God's Kingdom. I feel and pray that his return is soon. The present severe problems with the world's finances and Israel's latest events are a sign that his arrival will be soon. Let us pray that when he comes we will have been faithful and by God's abundant mercy be part of the Kingdom.

Thank you for sending more reading matter. It was kind of you to tell me that you had T.B. when you were young. Thank God that with the modern medicine we now have the possibility of quick recovery. I am a bit better with the help of medicine and am feeling the love of God's healing each day. I do pray that all your work will be done by God's grace.

I have written an article and hope it will be of help to you and for consideration for Gospel News. We are experiencing the hardest economy ever with meal meal prices rising as well as almost everything else, which makes the poor more destitute. We are one and the same in Christ and when need arises like hunger and illness we must do all we can to try and help out and carry each other's burdens.

Bro. Gideon Hankomone

MICHELO

Michelo Ecclesia

MUZOKA

Muzoka Sunday School

NABOYE

In your letter you advised me to send a picture of the work in progress at our meeting hall so that you could put it in Gospel News. Enclosed is a picture of our meeting hall together with blocks,

which I mentioned in my letter. I am second from the right. I have to praise God all the time and give thanks for everything we receive daily. Our way of life is the best way of preaching to most people around us. May the Lord continue to protect us in all the troubles that are upon the world.

Bro. Josiah Siame

Naboye Meeting Hall

NDOLA

I am happy with the books you sent to me – ‘The Man David’ and ‘Where it Happened’. I am reading them at present and hope that I will learn something from them.

Bro. Harris N. Mulongesha

The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ

Jesus was born to Mary of sinful nature. Read Luke 1:30, Heb. 2:14-18 and Romans 8:3. Because of our sins God sent Jesus. Read 1 Tim. 2:5. Jesus was born of our nature and tempted as we are also tempted. Animal sacrifice cannot take away sins, only Jesus Christ took away our sins. Read Heb. 10:4 and Gal. 1:4. Jesus has power given to him by his Father to plead or speak on our behalf, as our Mediator. We are now in Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Jesus Christ died for our sins and the Old Testament sacrifices were a shadow of Christ’s sacrifice.

Bro. James Mwanza

PEMBA

Thank you for the encouraging literature received and especially for all the updates from around the world, which are such an interesting link to the world situation and Bible truths about the present day and we see that, God willing, the problems in our particular area will eventually come to an end. Bro. Kelly Simambula of Kafue visited us and spoke about this topic as well as other issues of concern. I trust that God will soon intervene in the world and we know that He is always in control, overruling every situation.

Thank you also for the books you have sent which equip our ecclesial library, we make good use of these. The financial situation has hindered us, to some extent, to share our literature with others, unless we meet at the Bible Camp. It is good to see people asking for Bible Basics locally. It is so important to try to look forward to the coming of Christ and it is comforting to see so many signs that the time is near when our Master will take over and bring the present world situation to an end.

Bro. Wilfred Chibomba

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your lovely informative letter and I am delighted to learn that you had a nice time on the island of Malta, where a baptism was conducted. There

will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who think they do not need to repent. We are ambassadors for Christ and our major task is to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creatures. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. May the Lord bless and keep you and we all look forward to the time when we will rejoice together in the Kingdom in the mercy of the Lord.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your invaluable help. Every item I got from you is put into our ecclesial library for brethren and sisters to read and we are benefiting greatly. If there are tracts that we could translate into our local language and use them for preaching we would be glad to receive them. Thank you for the papers, which update the events in the Middle East.

Today, buildings are erected on foundations made of concrete. Before cement came along, the ancient builders used to lay huge stones for foundations. The builders had to pick and choose which ones would fit into the design for the house. Some were discarded because they were unsuitable. Others, when used, became an integral part of the building. Once in place, they served a valuable function and could be said to have come alive.

In the Bible, the people of Israel considered themselves to have been rejected by the world but chosen by God. So was Jesus. He was the foundation stone of a new building, the Ecclesia. As the rock on which the Christian community was built he was a living stone.

The world still rejects him. It thinks his values are too idealistic, his way of love too weak, his power confined to a few trivial areas of life and his significance limited to being only one of a range of religious options. But he is still the stone God uses on which to build his community. From him comes the grace that grows and strengthens the Church that bears his name. He is the source of the Spirit that empowers his disciples. At the end they will see that the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Rev.11:15).

Bro. David Banda Yelulani

BINDURA

Thank you for the *Gospel News*, *Glad Tidings* and *Bible Basics*, which reached me OK, I have also received a new Bible from Bro. John Butler via Bulawayo. I have not been able to attend my ecclesia in Harare for a long time because of transport costs as it is 90 km away. As I am unemployed lack of money makes life complicated and both my parents have recently passed away and these bereavements have given me a lot of problems. We read in the Bible of these signs of the times, such as famine, untreated diseases, uprising of nations etc. and look forward to the coming of Christ.

Joseph Mucheri

CHEGUTU

Thank you for the materials that you sent, which are a great help as I have a big task of teaching students in our local language, so I need to do extra study and research in the Word and I need *Bible Basics* and other literature for the students. Recently we had four successful interviews for baptism and four more sheep were added to our number. Still there is a great work needing to be done. Pray for us. As Servants of Christ. "The Challenge to Serve". 1 Cor. ch. 4

v.2. "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." Yes, it is our duty to act likewise as we have been given light to lead the world out of darkness, let us be on the hunt and overcome evil.

v.3. "I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court, indeed, I do not even judge myself."

v.4. "My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord that judges me."

v.5. "Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time, wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God." Paul's words to the Corinthians encourage us that our duty is to serve the Church with the Word. Let us be hard workers in the Lord and the Master is waiting when our duty ends. If we read the Word and meditate we will not go astray.

v.7. "For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" After reading this verse I looked at myself, looked at everything around my room and saw everything I had received. Basically I have no need to boast about myself, only our duty is to be disciples of Christ. We received the Word and need to pass it on. We should not have any bad thoughts about our dear brethren. The world belongs to God. I have brought nothing into the world and I will carry none of life's trappings out of it. However, we pray like Nehemiah that in the day of our resurrection we will be remembered for good.

CHEGUTU

In May we held a Preaching Weekend at Chegutu and the theme was Love, Hope and Faith. On the Friday brothers and sisters from Chegutu and other ecclesias, students and the Sunday School started to arrive for the big event at around 3 p.m. What a wonderful start it was and the Word was shared from speaker to speaker and everyone was greatly moved by the Spirit Word. Time for supper arrived and our sisters prepared the local dish and it was very much enjoyed. The evening programme started after supper and talent was shown from individual groups and all participated in musical items, drama and quiz. The Lord was with us as we went for sleep late, after 10.p.m.

The next day, Saturday was a big day, as after the morning service we went out for the Outreach and distributed C.B.M. material and preached at local shopping areas and other locations. All was done and the Lord was with us and about 12 contacts were interested in doing the lessons and joining us. After the Outreach, back at the school it was time for the five students to be interviewed and four were successful. The Lord added to our number as we had one mind and heart, It showed how we at Chegutu are doing concerning the Word of God. So far this year we have had about 8 baptisms and God willing, many will be added to the House of God. Great events were done and happiness was shown among those present.

Then Sunday arrived and all was done in remembrance of Our Dear Lord, who died for us on the cross. After the main service there were other activities until we had to break off for the night. Monday was the day of saying goodbye as we had to leave for our different places after discussing the positives and the negatives from the weekend. Everyone concluded that we had achieved our goal and must have another such gathering. We have seen how it strengthens our ecclesia over here. This is the first time in Zimbabwe that we have had such an event arranged by local brethren, so we have seen that we have matured spiritually and can do great wonders if

time permits. It was wonderful and enjoyable to be there. Photos were taken to show how it was done and about sixty people attended the weekend.

Bro. Farai Phiri

Chegutu Preaching Weekend

Supper time at Chegutu

CHINHOYI

I write this letter to inform you that I am now a Christadelphian brother. I have been baptised by Bro. Lungu. I had been thinking about baptism for a long time and am very glad that I have made the right decision. I write to inform you that as Sis. Mary Woodgate's student I wish to continue studying the Bible Lessons. I have also heard about the *Gospel News* publication and am very interested to make a contribution. I have a poem and a lesson about the Saviour who was cursed on our behalf and I would be happy if my writing could be included in *Gospel News*.

Bro. Tinashe Mberengwa

I will glorify His Name

I lift my hands to you
higher, higher, like an eagle
in distant clouds
praising your name aloud –
I will glorify your name.
I will go over the mountain top
spreading your message time and again,
for in you I've seen something
far beyond my eye can see –
I will glorify His name.
Jesus Christ, a man of wonders,
love is what we've learnt from Him:
Glory be unto you my Lord
and for that
I'll glorify your name forever!

Poem sent in by Bro. Tinashe Mberengwa

Jesus never tried to please people. (Luke 4:28-29)

He never told people what they wanted to hear but what they should have heard. Because his words penetrated their spiritual stubbornness and pride they affected them in different ways. Many accepted the challenge of his words to righteous living and, at sacrificial cost, gave their all to follow him. Others bitterly resented what they heard, for he revealed their sins and weaknesses and they were afraid when they realised that he knew them so well.

Today the words of Jesus have the same penetrative power and basically produce the same reaction. There are people who respond with cheerful readiness to obey his every command because they have caught a vision of what life can become if it is lived in harmony with him. Their love for him is expressed in willing obedience. Few people deliberately reject the challenge conveyed in the words of Jesus, but they are adept at side stepping his invitation to a new and

righteous life. The time is inopportune, the inconvenience discipleship could cause among workmates and friends, and numerous other excuses are all evasions to the call of Christ to "Follow me".

When Christ presents a challenge he speaks to the heart and not only to the mind. His words possess a healing quality that, when applied to life, bring the peace that passes all understanding, into the experience of daily living.

I'm no longer staying at Barket. I'm now in Chinhoyi. I am attending the services together with brothers and sisters of Chinhoyi.

Bro Calvin Chitano

Thank you for everything you have done for us in Africa, especially in Zimbabwe. On behalf of my fellow brethren I would like to say, "May the Lord grant you many more years to come". Your teachings are so good and easy to share with others. We all appreciate your effort.

Bro. Gift Lungu

CHIPINGE

Thank you for *Gospel News*. It is nice to hear how other brothers and sisters are coping in this tense situation; the likes of Sisters Nina and Ludmila and others, reading of their age and how willing they are to preach and also those like Alexei and Vera and others I have not mentioned but we read about them in *Gospel News*.

There are now goods in the shops here, fuel is available, schools and hospitals are also open again. Right now we are busy harvesting. We have already finished harvesting beans, soya beans and ground nuts and we are almost half way harvesting maize and sunflower we haven't yet started. Very soon we will be introducing what we call Village Bible Education – we want to reduce time spent going out preaching since this new initiative will attract local people to our farm and teach them the Truth while we are here. Please pray with us that this will be successful.

We have decided to change the method of preaching and decided to do everything on the farm. So far we have one lady who has completed Bible Basics and her husband has also requested to join the studies. Also a pastor from a local church wanted to join the studies and there are also ten boys who are doing the Introduction to Bible Basics. We are also doing the book 'Speaking about Jesus' with the boys every Saturday. I am doing all these activities under the programme "Village Bible Education Centre", but to follow our Lord Jesus' command, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

CHIREZI

I would like to thank you for the book, 'The Death of the Cross' that you sent to me. It has helped me and every other Christian who has borrowed it to read. It is very enjoyable with lots of reminders of the days to come. Is it possible for me to obtain the pamphlets, 'Campaign of the Kingdom' and 'A Brief History of God's World'?

Currently I am employed as an office orderly at the Triangle Sugar Company, Tongaat Hulletts, Zimbabwe. I was born on 27/04/1971 in Zvishavane Town, have five children, am married to

Stella and we have been together for the past 18 years. My children are doing Sunday School lessons with Bro. Stephens of the C.B.M. My father was laid to rest in August 2008 and my 80-year old mother is still living. Please pray for my family.

Our mission is to preach the Word of God in every corner of the world like the Apostle Paul. We have a big job to do and God will judge us if the message is not sent to those, after knowing the goodness of God.

Bro. Mobie Siziba

CHIREZI

Brothers, I am so pleased to tell you that the books and materials you sent to me I have received safely. I got the reading glasses and a book 'The Real Devil,' which I am enjoying a lot because now I am ready to answer most of the questions asked by a lot of people around my work place and the community. As I stay where people believe in different doctrines, I am trying my best to teach them the Truth revealed in the Bible, written by different authors under inspiration. The Bible teaches us God's purpose for his people and those who believe in Him and his Son with all their heart and strength.

I tell those brothers and sisters who stay in isolation that if we feel lonely in our struggle to keep faith with God, always remember that Jesus Christ is close beside us even though we cannot see him. 1 John 2:1 says, 'My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin, but if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Jesus brings us comfort. John is saying that in our struggle against sin we have the comfort of Jesus to help us because he is beside us. If we feel weak in our faith, if we struggle against opposition to our preaching, or have personal problems in our lives, if we reach out to Jesus he will be with us.

Bro. Abel Dumbu

CHISAPE

Lovely greetings in the name of our Saviour as our mediator. My father, who had been ill for two years, since November 2007, has now fallen asleep. When he was seriously ill he was admitted to the General Hospital several times and discharged without any change. Instead of getting well he was getting seriously ill and since I was the only man among his daughter,s the task was on me to look after him and I became bankrupted. We can only pray that our Lord will return and restore us from all these calamities. I just remember Job when he fell on temptations and all his sons and belongings perished. He said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Bro. Weston Kamota

CHISHUMBA

'Judgement to Come' arrived safely, thank you very much for a book well written. Can you please send me any book you may have by the same author. I am taking this opportunity to let you know that we of Chishumba Ecclesia had six baptisms on 28th December 2008. The newly baptised are Brethren Frank Chigariza and Wilbert Munyaradzi and Sisters Lorraine Chigazira (nee Kamutikaoma), Heather Chadra, Letwin Chikwata and Eunice Tigere. May the Lord of

peace guide them in their walk to the very soon coming Kingdom. May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Bro. Norman and Sis Grace Kamutikaoma

Alas, alas Bro Norman Kamutikaoma of Chishumba (Magunje) died in hospital after a short illness on 26 June. He was 66. We do not yet know what he died of, but his death came not long after the death of his wife, Sis Grace, and his 7 year old grandson in Harare. He will be sadly missed by the ecclesia and the community in Chishumba.

Per Bro John Butler

HARARE

Right now I am working on my own as a motor mechanic. The problem is that I don't have a toolbox. I am therefore renting a toolbox, and the money I am paying to rent the tools is half the price of the job I am doing.

The situation in our country is now stable. We thank God for hearing our prayers. People in this area are asking for more books, especially the one on Bible teaching about homosexuality. Please send some if you can. Thank you very much.

May God bless you for the job you are doing.

Bro. Noah Thom

HARARE

I am well here, trying to do the will of God and attending the meetings of remembrance of our Master when I can. I always remember you in my prayers. The situation in our country is better but still the economy is shaking, not stable. At the moment I am looking for better employment, as I would like to prepare for inputs for the next rainy season, buy food and other items for the family. Please pray for us, everything is possible with God. I am working hard in the vineyard, the ground seems to be fruitful and more literature would be good for gospel proclamation at this end.

Bro. Stanford Kuuzha

KADOMA

I have received the book '*Life in New Testament Times*', which is very useful, even though non-Christadelphian.

I thank you for all you have done for me and continue to do. *Present Day Events* and write-ups are good to read, enjoyable and stimulating.

Bro. Itai P. Tembo

KWEKWE

In his mortal life Christ was establishing a Kingdom on different principles to most kings. He called men, not to authority, but to service, the strong to bear the infirmities of the weak. Those who possessed positions of power or had talent or education had a greater obligation to serve their fellows. To even the lowliest of Christ's disciples it is said, "all things are for your sakes". "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for

many.” Among his disciples Christ was in every sense a caretaker, a burden bearer. He shared their poverty, he practised self-denial on their account, he went before them to smooth the difficult places and soon he would consummate his work on earth by laying down his life. The plan and ground of salvation is love. In the Kingdom of God those are greatest who follow the examples he has given and act as shepherds of his flock. “This is the message that you have heard from the beginning that we should love one another.” Christ laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our life for the brethren. “To him that overcometh,” Christ said, “will I grant to sit with me on my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and I will write upon him the name of my God, I will write upon him my new name.” Rev. 3:21,

2 Tim.4:6-8, 1 Cor.9:19 & 10:33, 1 John 3:11-16.

Submitted by Bro. Raphael Mutoma

MUTARE

I want to thank you for the books, which you sent to me. I am interested in the Word of God and the coming of our Lord Jesus to the Kingdom in Jerusalem for the resurrection and judgement of all the dead who have died in Christ. Here you never know what is happening, but Jesus, the Lord, knows everything everywhere. The problems that are happening in our and other nations are very difficult. It is like waiting for the second coming of our Lord Jesus, no one knows the day it will be, as we are breaking bread and drinking wine with the brethren and sisters to remember his body and blood, we hope he is coming soon to rule the world.

Thank you very much for the notes on the daily readings. I think it was a nice visit to Malta for a baptism and also Bro. Duncan had a good visit to Egypt and Burma.

Bro. Henry Kushata

Thank you so much for continuing to send me literature, which is very important to me. The inclusive Government has helped us to have enough food but rents, electricity and water costs are still high.

Bro. Gilbert Tevere

RATELSHOEK

There are more students at Ratelshoek, developing an interest in learning the truth and hopefully they will ask for baptism (God willing). We had a nice meeting with the two brothers from Triangle, Elifasi Mlambo and Taurai Mudodo, who were baptised at Rimbi on 19 April. My sister, Sis Barbara Makendeni is a member of Triangle ecclesia and she is very willing to receive *Gospel News* and was asking me for a *Bible Basics*. Her two sons Phillip Collins Chimuse, 13 years and Leonard Amos Chimuse, 10 years will be joining the Sunday School at Chiredzi.

Bro. Farai Makendeni

Bro. Farai Makendeni soon after his baptism in the Tanganda River in 2007.

SHURUGWI

We had a good time with Bro. John Butler and his son-in-law Bro. Jeremy Hulme, for the A.G.M. so we met more brethren and a few sisters. The members of my ecclesia are quite old with only

three sisters and five brethren and we meet at my house once a week and then every month we meet at the large ecclesia in Bulawayo.

I am a farmer with 35 hectares of land but I do not have much experience with farming. If you could please help me to get a book about farming I would be grateful. I would like to plant tomatoes and to keep chickens, pigs and cattle for milk. I want to sink a borehole for the garden. So far I do have a small dam.

Bro. Lulu Kazomponda

ZVISHAVANE

I have written this letter to request if you can send me 10 copies of *Bible Basics* in English and 3 copies in Zulu to give to contacts who are on the Bible Correspondence Course. *Bible Basics* has become a strong tool to those seeking the Truth in the Word of God. Keep up the good work in preaching the gospel worldwide.

Bro. Sibangani Maka

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from azerbaijan

BAKU

Nothing much is new for me here, but I think of you and wonder how your wonderful church in Riga is developing now. It was lovely to be with you all and I hope I can come again.

Sis. Luba

news from belarus

SENNO

I am so glad I have the hope of being in the Kingdom. It was wonderful how it happened. First, a Russian Orthodox woman gave me a Bible to read. I read it and so wanted to understand more. And then someone told me about a book called *Bible Basics* which I then obtained, and then I was baptized. I now try to tell everyone about the Kingdom, although because of my illness I don't meet many people. A man told me I am crazy, that this is all nonsense, and afterwards it hurt me so much that I cried that our great hope can be dismissed like this. So I pray I will meet more people to share the good news with.

Bro. Valerij

news from denmark

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of ANNE-THERESE and MORTEN; may God be with them until His Kingdom comes.

I have been busy on the streets of Aalborg sharing the pamphlets Brother Marcus sent me with people that wanted to talk, I try to be selective so I don't waste the pamphlets! Brother John Benson in the U.K also sent me some pamphlets in Danish which Sis Annette Henriksen had made! I will also try to write one myself referring people to Biblebasicsonline.com - hopefully soon some more people will wish to be baptized!

Bro Johnny

news from israel

We are sorry to report the falling asleep in Christ of Brother Viktor Aleksandrovich. He was the firstfruits of our preaching in Israel, being baptized in 1998. He and his wife sister Nina entertained Christadelphian visitors with much warmth and gratitude and devoted their lives to the Truth. We long for the day of resurrection.

Brother Viktor Aleksandrovich

news from italy

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of Brother CHIEDU and Sisters EDITH O., EDITH I., DORIS, MERCY, ROSLYN, GLORIA and SANDRA, all members of Brother Festus' group who have been studying Bible Basics.

news from kazakhstan

We are well here, despite our problems. I re-read old issues of the magazine and wonder, how is everyone, and pray for those I read about, this helps me not to think too much of my own problems.

Sis. Elvira

news from kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK

I still cannot find work, and so I am doing voluntary work in a centre for AIDS victims. I try to change the minds of the people there by telling them of the Gospel, but it is so hard to change people's minds. I just admire the titanic work done by the apostle Paul, who changed so many people so far.

Bro. Anvar

news from latvia

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of TONYA, MARIA, PAVEL, ILGUNIS, GENOVIEFA, VALERIJ, IVAN, IVAN & ANGELIKA, STANISLAV, NATALJA, SANTA, DACE, DAIGA, ARNIS & ANITA, LIDA, INNA, IRINA, NATASHA, ELENA, NORA and SANTA ; may God be with them until His Kingdom comes.

AIZKRAUKLE

Our pensions have now been reduced twice, and I am really feeling it. I don't want to let these things distract me from the path to the Kingdom but I have to say it is difficult when one has to keep struggling about food, clothes, medicines etc.

Sis. Irena

RIGA

Please pray for me, as I have such problems with no work and my health failing. Now all the doctors do is prescribe procedures and drugs, but I am not being paid so I really can't afford them. Even to go to the doctor must be paid for. Please pray for me, I somehow feel my life drawing to an end.

Sis. Katya

I have now finished translating *The Real Devil* into Latvian, and am working on *The Real Christ*.

Sis. Irma



Photos: Sister Belinda Burns from Australia spent two months in Riga assisting in preaching and pastoral work. There are so many opportunities for work- do come and get involved if you can!

news from lithuania

ELEKTRENAI

I am pleased to say that I am feeling a lot better. Thank you so much for those tablets. I enjoy reading your books and the Bible.

Bro. Mantas

VARENA

I am busy this summer repairing my kitchen, that is my news. Greetings to all and God bless you!

Bro. Albinas

VILNIUS

I have again found myself working for a company that won't pay the wages at the end of each month, I have worked now three months without being paid. So I am applying for a job in England, through an agency. I send my greetings in the faith to all!

Bro. Ryszardas

news from macedonia

SKOPJE

I am often thinking of you and do hope all is well. I am struggling without work, and so I am going to Croatia for the summer to work at the beaches.

Bro. Kicho

news from moldova

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of VESTA and MASHA; may God be with them until His Kingdom comes.



Photo: Sis Elvira at an outdoor Breaking of Bread with her granddaughters

CHISINAU

I still am not being paid by my employer, but I don't know what else to do. I see no point in sitting at home, so I continue working in the hope some day I will get some payment. I am so happy about the desire of my granddaughters to be baptized! Thank you for all your assistance in so many ways.

Sis. Elvira

We are so grateful to Brothers Charlie and Scott from America for sending us so many *Russian Bibles*. I am distributing them to Brothers and Sisters and people I know.

Sis. Luba

news from qatar

Since moving here from Nepal things have not been easy. Moslem culture is everywhere and I request your prayers, and also more *Bible Basics* for my fellow workers.

Bro. Yogendra

news from russia

EFREMOV

Again, I am so sorry for our long silence from here. We were visited by Sis Lena from Moscow, and we again had a nice Breaking of Bread. Still we keep trying to talk to people, but as yet nobody will study with us to the end. I so long for the next Bible School in Poltava.

Bro. Oleg

I feel I am getting weaker, but I feel some inner strength from knowing that the Kingdom shall soon come. As I write this I have the blessing of having my sister both in the flesh and in Christ with me. How we long for the Kingdom to come. We speak much about it. It takes me now a long time just to walk to the shop. Often I stop and wonder if I will have another heart attack. I fear, too, being robbed, so I only go out in the middle of the day. But I am not too fearful, as I know God is with me- a man who for so long didn't believe in Him, but now I do, and I know His love, and I love Him.

Bro. Boris

KAZAN

We have some work in the market and also working our land, so we are occupied. But we are always holding our meetings still, and trying to get more people to come along.

Bro. Alexei

KHABAROVSKIJ KR.

I have saved to get even this postage stamp, to send this letter; things are very hard for me. I am weaker and weaker and can't work the land as I used to, and things are now just so expensive, to buy food, let alone medicines. Thank you for the clothes you sent, that you care, and pray for me.

Sis. Galina

MOSCOW

We are now living here and will be so happy to meet with you!

Bro. Alexei & Sis. Vika

I have just had a meeting with Brother Igor Pr, we Broke Bread and talked about so many spiritual things.

Bro. Igor S.

PETROZAVODSK

Nastya and I will be away for some time at her mother's near St. Peterburg. We think of you and would love to meet again. The operation on Nastya's mother went well, we are so thankful to God. May God bless all we try to do for Him.

Bro. Kostya

SHAKHTY

I have just met with Bro Sergey and Broken Bread. It was most encouraging. Without such encouragement I would likely have given up long ago. Thank you!

Bro. Andrej

SHANINO

I suppose I must admit, that I am preparing to die, I have been blessed with a fair life, and have seen my daughter and grandchildren grow. But above all, I have got the hope of everlasting life, as I know the Kingdom shall come and I have been baptized into that hope. I am thinking a lot about it these days. I just wanted to thank you!

Sis. Tamara

news from serbia

BELGRADE

I continue to be thrilled how the Bible prophecies are being fulfilled. I am reading again *The Last Days* and so wish I could persuade more people about these wonderful truths - that Jesus really will come soon.

Bro. Vladimir

news from spain

The people to whom I distribute *Bible Basics* are amazed by it. They are asking for more copies. I send greetings to all and especially to my father in Christ, Marcus.

Bro. Rachid

news from turkmenistan

I am sorry for not often writing. But you are ALWAYS in my thoughts and prayers. Hope you and your family are safe. I've recently got the magazine and was very much encouraged to read about God's works and relations with people. And many people's activities in the missionary work really encouraged my faith. My life goes with its same ways: nothing interesting. But I feel God's power in my life. Of course, we do not do any crafts now as the mail way has changed its taxes and sending crafts got forbidden...But I don't have any complaints. I have a work at school. And it is well now. But many things are limited and checked as we had earlier. So I wouldn't like to write all in detail...

God bless,

Sister Guncha

news from ukraine

We are delighted to announce the baptism of VLADIMIR; may God be with him until His Kingdom comes.

KIEV

I am very glad to be baptized, thank you so much for making it possible. I will continue to try to be faithful to God and His word.

Bro. Vladimir

LUGANSK

Since losing my job I have been quite depressed. The only offer of work is in the coal mine, but I already worked there for some years and it damaged my health. All seems very dark, as without money even one's own family are negative about you. So please pray for me.

Bro. Valentin



Photo: Bro Valentin soon after his baptism, with Bro. Charlie Klennert of the USA.

POLTAVA

I have now arranged with the hotel for the January Bible School. I take great comfort in God and in my family. We are hoping to invite some of the local Brothers and Sisters to a gathering at our summer house.

Sis. Ludmila

I learnt a lot from Bro Duncan's talk about the language of Jesus. Thank you. We are well here, and soon will be visited by Bro David & Sis Kathryn Pearce.

Sis. Tanya

I am writing this from France, where I have come with Sis. Ludmila Khaver to work looking after an old lady for the summer. We read the Bible with her and so hope she might decide to be baptized.

Sis. Veronika

News from the Americas

news from bahamas

I am part of a home Bible study group and the participants want to be involved in a more structured format of Bible study. So I am going to introduce them to *Bible Basics* Introductory Studies. I have two copies left of the set of *Bible Basics* that I received for the prison ministry. Is it possible for you to send me eight more copies? Doors are beginning to open up for ministry and I am definitely going to walk through them.

Sis. Velyn

news from trinidad

AROUCA

There have been further delays in considering Brother George Constantine's case for release, and the hearing has been postponed until October. Following the series of postponements one wonders if yet again it will be further deferred. However, things have radically changed for him: He has been transferred to the country's most modern prisons at Arouca, with electric gates and 9X9 cells for three which have a bathroom, toilet and sink in each cell. His cell mates are good. There are four large yards for life prisoners and they can play cricket, use a gym and have many opportunities for learning various skills. He is allowed to go to a large mess hall for meals. The great thing is that he is OK and is coping and patiently waiting for his case to come up and says he is making the most of every minute to learn as much as he can. His memory is not as good as it was, doubtless partly the result of being locked up in solitary confinement for years and so has to keep writing things down, he certainly needs our prayers for help and to thank the Lord for His kindness towards him. MH.

POINT FORTIN

Thank you for *Gospel News* and the books sent to me over the years and may God continue to bless CAT in the wonderful work of spreading the Gospel. Could you please let me have a copy of *Christadelphian Standards*.

Rabindranauth Deopaul

news from usa

We are delighted to announce the baptism of JOSH, a contact from our websites; may God be with him until His Kingdom comes.

Here's a message from those who are involved with following up *Bible Basics* requests from prisoners in the USA:

"We get a number of prisoners request *Bible Basics* and we are grateful to those who follow up on this. We'd like to share with you the case of William in MS. He got *Bible Basics* read it and particularly studied the chapter on 'baptism' and desired baptism, but as he's in a high security prison it's hard to visit and baptize inmates. He asked the chaplain to baptize him by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, which he did. William was attending a Bible study group when he received *Bible Basics* and he shared what he read in *Bible Basics* with the study group in the prison. There were five other men baptized along with William at the same time by the chaplain. However, we have not been able to visit these folk, nor were we able to discuss things with them before baptism. William just wrote to us and told us what he'd done! It would be great if

someone could go visit these folks. They are in Mississippi, and if anyone is willing to make the journey or happens to be there and would like to assist, do let us know".

News from Asia

news from china

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of LAN, JIALIN, YANG and JING; may God be with them until His Kingdom comes.

JIANGSU

I now have a job here, and am working on three months probation first of all. May God bless you all!

Bro. Donald

news from india

We have an Ecclesia in Chennai which I attend on Sundays. My ill health has not made it possible to write to you for sometime, I do not always receive Gospel news regularly and enclosed my revised postal address which I trust will enable me to get it and any other literature you may have.

Bro I Barnabas

news from nepal

KATHMANDU

Yesterday I received the long awaited packet of *Bible Basics*. I will distribute them to the persons who really deserve this wonderful book.

Bro. Santosh

SURKHET

The Raute people we are ministering to here are suffering from the heavy rains as they are without tents, some have died. I request you to pray for these people.

Bro. Bishnu

news from philippines

I'm very sorry I did not respond to your letter earlier because you know here in Isabela is one of the busy place in the Philippines for the working of needs of the Body and we are also busy in

preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for sending me *Gospel News* and other materials, they are very useful to me for preaching and for study. We need your help in prayers for us here in Isabela as a new small Ecclesia. Regards to all my loving brethren in Christ. If we do not meet in person before, I hope see you in the kingdom of God.

Bro. Luming Arambulo

Thanks very much for granting my request. I'll be looking forward to receiving the latest edition of the *Bible Basics* in the mail. Yes, I'll be happy to help you advertise the Bible Basics book in libraries using the rulers that you've sent. It will be a great way to let the people know about the existence of *Bible Basics*. If it is not too much to ask, is it possible if you could also kindly send me a hardcopy of the book entitled *Angels*. I'm really interested to learn more about this subject so I hope you could also accommodate my request for this book. You can also send a few more rulers together with this book so I can distribute the rulers to other different places.

Angelito V. Corpuz

Jesus Cursed for Us

In the Old Testament we read that if a man committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree. You shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God; you shall not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you for inheritance (Deut 21:22,23). When the religious leaders of Jesus' time had him hanged, they did not believe that he was their Saviour who was going to redeem all true believer's.

From the elders' knowledge they knew that a man hanged upon a tree was cursed by God. Their hearts were too hardened to believe that Jesus was being cursed for our salvation. However, if we look at the life of Jesus, he did nothing to deserve such a curse. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, 'Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree'" (Gal 3:13,14). Here it is clear that Jesus, when he hung on the tree (the cross, stake), was bearing our sins, that is, he was bearing our nature that we might be justified by faith in him, Jesus the Christ.

Bro Tinoshe Mberengwa (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

The Pharisees, Chief Priests and Elders

In his ministry, Jesus was careful to support the Law of Moses, which itself pointed forward to him. See how he commanded a person healed of his leprosy: "Go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing as a testimony to them" (Mark 1:40-44). Peter was asked whether Jesus was to pay or not to pay the temple tax. Straightaway Jesus sent Peter to catch a fish and to pay the drachma for both Jesus and Peter (Matt 17:24-27). Jesus believed in paying taxes, but to honour God first (Matt 22:15-22). Why did they accuse him falsely? It was their ignorance and jealousy.

Jesus never committed any sin. They accused him of preaching against them, and asking them to repent because they were neglecting God's decrees. But they were out of touch with the scriptures, could not identify their Messiah nor recognise his works. They were negligent, they were not cleaving to their God and their selfishness blinded them spiritually.

The prophets had paved the way for Jesus. Their fingers pointed to the coming of Jesus and his purpose. David foresaw him and wrote about him; his Psalms are full of Christ's coming. When he came, Peter confessed Jesus, as did the rich young man. Jesus was the Saviour. He was a teacher, meaning 'one above you'. The Pharisees, chief priests and elders all were aware of Jesus but they failed to identify their Messiah.

Messianic books which all the Jews read in their scriptures about their saviour include:

Isaiah 7: The sign of Emmanuel

- Isaiah 9: To us a child is born
- Isaiah 11: The branch of Jesse (verse 5)
- Isaiah 35:5,6: Jesus preaching about the Kingdom
- Isaiah 42:1-4,6,7. chosen servant in whom God delights. God puts His spirit in him.
- Isaiah 43: What Israel was longing for.

Another witness is David:

- Psalm 22:7: They were to mock him; v16: Evil men

were to pierce him; v18: They were to divide his clothes by casting lots (Matt 27:35).

- Psalm 41:9. A close friend (Judas) would betray Jesus
- Psalm 69:21. They would give him gall and vinegar. Please note Matt 27:32-56.

All these were read in their synagogues every Sabbath day. They saw the miracles that Jesus did, but they did not register in their minds. Jesus spoke in parables: "You have eyes but you cannot see". They had brains but were unable to think. They were unable to choose the good from the bad. They did not choose God but evil things (Matt 13:13-15; Mark 8:18; 4:12; John 12:40; Isaiah 6:9,10).

Jesus once asked the Pharisees, "What do you think about Christ? Whose son is he?" He reminded them of what they had read daily. They were blind and turned their backs to him. Let us not be like them: let us not turn our backs on the preaching: let us keep awake until the Saviour comes, because the Kingdom of God is just around the corner. Let us not do what the Pharisees, high priests and elders did.

Bro Svuure Faustino (Zaka, Zimbabwe)

Vessels of Honourable Use

It is high time as Christadelphians we should understand the word of God, the way we should follow to separate ourselves from this world. We should be honourable vessels in every way, and I thank God that we should be worshipping Him by living in a humble way. I am encouraging brothers and sisters to leave their natural emotions and replace them by the will of God.

I am happy to say to brothers and sisters that we should unite in the truth of God that we have received and believed. “You know, brethren, in the house of God: we are designed to do good works only” (2 Timothy 2:20,21). I thank you all in our Lord Jesus Christ for the good work in sending lessons and literature to everybody involved.

Bro Stephen Siamabi (Lusaka, Zambia)

Prepare for Tomorrow's World

The true Christian simply cannot be part and parcel of this kind of God-defying world. Nor can he participate in the world of cut-throat competition, shady deals, dirty jokes and misused sex or in the cocktail lounge or jet- set world of lust and vanity, the permissive world of the ‘swinging wife swappers’, drug users – the list can be endless as all this is what the Bible calls worldliness and must be avoided (2 Timothy 3:1-9; 2 Corinthians 6:17).

The person who would avoid what the Bible really does describe as worldly, is the one who would surrender to God and yet at the same time live a happy and balanced life. This person must have definable values, definable goals and a way of life to achieve these. He or she is a person who carefully studies, meditates on, and lives by, every word of God (Matt 4:4; Isaiah 40:31). He or she is the one who, following Christ's example, rises in the morning and prays to God for help, wisdom, love and guidance. He or she is the one who is carefully and diligently studying and following the inspired example of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15). Fellowship with the brotherhood is also a vital essence on the journey towards the kingdom.

Such a person will be filled with joy, building real balance and character with the goal of living for ever with God in tomorrow's world (Hebrews 11:6). Fellow- labourers in the Lord's field, if our Master were to come today, would we be happy to meet him in the state we are in now? If not, let us not harden our hearts: the Lord Jesus is still waiting for our response (Rev 3:20).

Bro Sibangani Maka (Zvishavane, Zimbabwe)

Prayer

The simplest way to describe prayer is that it is talking to God and letting Him talk to us. Make time every day to pray. The best time is first thing in the morning before you get involved with other activities.

What to pray about: This is one of the problems you will meet. You think of your family, friends and your associates, your own needs and in five minutes you have run out of subject matter.

One way to solve this problem is to channel your prayer into certain directions, a different direction each day.

Kinds of prayer: Another solution to the problem of what to pray about is to recognise that there are several kinds of prayer. Basically, prayer is simply talking to God.

1. Petition prayer: This type of prayer means asking God to meet certain needs. Though some people never progress beyond the 'give me' stage, always asking God for something, there is nothing wrong with asking the Lord for His help. In fact, He encourages us to come to Him with our needs.
2. Thanksgiving prayer: Remember this type of prayer is a two-way street. Don't forget to thank God for what He has already done for you.
3. Praise: This is something like thanksgiving but deals with what God is, instead of what He has done. Sometimes you can use one of the Psalms, reading it aloud to express how you feel.
4. Worship: This is very close to praise, but is almost an attitude. There will be times when words cannot fully express your feeling and you can only say praise words like 'Glory' or 'Hallelujah'. You may even become silent as you kneel or sit, overwhelmed at the sense of how great God is.
5. Intercession: You may become gripped with the need of someone else, until you feel burdened to keep on praying until you have the assurance that God has answered your prayer, for in it you are thinking of others. We need more of this kind of prayer.

In brief, prayer should be a lifeline of our spiritual life. In our private times, make this a conversation with God. Think **WHAT WE NEED TO PRAY FOR:**

1. We should pray for things from God's perspective according to His purpose.
2. We should pray that His gospel goes through the earth.
3. That ecclesias become and stay spiritual.
4. For God's people and the Jews (Romans 10:1)
5. We should pray if we are in trouble (James 5:13)
6. We should pray for what is important, eg the sick or sinners (James 5:15)
7. We should not pray for things which are not helpful or right spiritually.
8. We should pray about most things (Philippians 4:6)

WHEN PRAYER IS NOT ANSWERED, it may be:

- i. It is not according to His purpose.
- ii. We wish to greedily consume it on our lusts (James 4:3)
- iii. We are not prepared to wait for God's answer in His own time.
- iv. Our life is not right with God.
- v. We are not repentant of our sins.

NB Prayer is like incense (Rev 5:8; Psalm 141:2), it smells right to God. Prayer is an essential part of all that we do. It is a sign that we are serious Christians.

Regular meeting attendance: If you take a live coal from the fire-place and put it by itself; it will soon go out. In the same way, Christians need the encouragement of other Christians. Hearing the word of God, praying with others, singing together, making Christian friendships: these will help us go grow spiritually.

Understand the Bible: There is nothing mysterious about the Bible. Just think of it as God's way of talking to us. However, this outline may help us understand any part of the Bible, long or short:

1. Points: What does this passage or verse say? What are the various parts? What are the subjects it speaks of?
2. Problems: What does this verse or passage say that we don't understand? Write down the problems and find the answer later by our own study or by asking an older brother or sister.
3. Parallels: What similar thoughts can we find elsewhere in the Bible? The more we study, the more help we will find.
4. Promises: What blessings and helps are stated or implied?
5. Perils: What warning do we find?
6. Precepts: What commands are stated or implied for us to obey?

BE A STRONG CHRISTIAN. As a Christian we need strength for two reasons: firstly to live an overcoming life and secondly, to serve the Lord.

We may feel inadequate. Good! We must feel our need before God will help us.

Bro Sammuell Mukisa (Bugiri, Uganda)

As a Grain of Mustard Seed

As Christadelphians, we firmly believe that we uphold the faith once delivered to the saints. But how much personal faith do we show? Do our lives show the complete dependence on God that characterised the worthies of old and which is outlined so vividly for us in Hebrews chapter 11? The question is meant seriously. On several occasions we are told that Jesus had to rebuke his closest disciples for their little faith. If they failed in this respect, are we not also in danger of falling short. In Hebrews 3:19, we are warned that the vast majority of the Israelites did not enter the promised land due to unbelief. The exhortation continues, "Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them. But the message which they heard did not benefit them because it did not mix with faith in the hearers" (Hebrews 4:1-2).

The gospel useless? Yes, if it is not followed through to the end and with all the strength at our disposal: "Let us therefore strive to enter that rest. And let us make sure that none fall by the same sort of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:11). If we take our calling seriously, then we will want to

examine those areas where our faith is weakest and seek help. Our Lord not only rebuked but also indicated the remedy.

When Jesus descended from the mountain of transfiguration with Peter, John and James, he was met by a discomfited group of nine apostles. They had been publicly shamed by their inability to cure an epileptic boy. After Jesus had healed him, the disciples asked why they had not been able to do so. Had they not been given the gifts of the holy spirit? Had they not already healed many sick and disturbed people. Jesus replied shortly, "Because you have so little faith". Then he went on to suggest that if they had faith "as a grain of mustard seed", they would be quite capable of doing the impossible: "Nothing would be impossible for you" (Matt 17:20). Here the Lord makes it clear he regards the mustard seed as the smallest of seeds (Matt 13:32). Is he saying that if we only have a tiny amount of faith, we shall be able to move mountains and perform the impossible? No, as this would be self-contradictory. Rather he is pointing out a natural truth that even a small seed has enormous power stored up in it.

I am myself a farmer and have the knowledge of this, every year I experience seeing how even heavy paving stones are lifted up by tiny seedlings. A seed may be small but it is strong and determined to achieve the destiny that God has intended for it. We are not expected to go and move literal mountains, of course. That would be a pointless exercise and God does not encourage display of power for its own sake, just to show whether we have faith or not (Matt 4:5-7). Jesus dismissed that kind of temptation as an unworthy use of God's power.

'Mountain' here represents an obstacle. Jesus said this so that the apostles should be prepared for the task ahead of them: preaching the gospel.

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

QUESTION BOX

Question: Jesus taught that we should not fear those who can kill our bodies, but rather fear Him who can also kill our souls (Mt. 10:28). Surely this is teaching us that our souls do not die when we physically die?"

Answer: Jesus says (Mt. 10:28) that He can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. So, the soul is destructible... not inherently immortal. I don't see that His words mean that our soul lives on; He is saying that persecution can only kill our body, but not the soul. That's not necessarily the same as saying that the soul lives on. Problem is that 'soul' / nephesh / psuche has a very wide meaning in Hebrew, Greek and English. It can at times refer to the body [tho' clearly not here in Mt.

10:28]. At times it means simply the person. At other times it appears very similar in meaning to 'the spirit'- although not always [soul and spirit can be sundered apart in Heb. 4:12]. In English, "Save our souls" refers to natural life; "she's a troubled soul" refers to internal life, the real self of a person. And this kind of breadth of meaning is also found in the Hebrew and Greek usages of the word.

Very often it is true that the soul refers to the body, and very many references to the "soul" in the Bible are to souls dying or being mortal. The word "soul" does indeed in some places refer to the

body. But not always. Whilst we do not consciously survive death, our spirit returns to God and He is aware of us, holding each of His children in some kind of active memory; so that we read in Rev. 6:9-11 of souls crying out to God for justice, the souls of those who have been slain by persecution. In God's mind and feelings, they are still there with Him, just as the memory of those we love abides with us after they are dead, they live on in our hearts. And far more so in the heart of God our Creator and Father. So whilst death is the cessation of existence for the one who fell asleep in Christ, they live on in the mind of God.

From a human viewpoint it is the end, for the time being; but from God's viewpoint, "all live unto Him", He sees those things which are not yet as if they are, and hence He "is" still the God of Abraham etc. to this day.

So in Mt 10:28 I'd say that it is God and Jesus who have the power to destroy permanently our real, essential selves. All men can do is slay the body. They have no control over how God sees things and whether or not He will obliterate a person's soul / real self / essential being from His memory and heart.

Duncan Heaster

The Hidden Man

At Copperbelt Fraternal gathering held in Kitwe, we learnt about the hidden man, the spiritual man who lives in those who believe in the true doctrines, and it will be fully revealed in us after Jesus Christ's second coming and the judgement, God willing.

When we were baptised the inner man started to develop and we had to feed it like a baby. With what type of food should we feed it? We can develop the inner man by feeding it with the right kind of food, which is the word of God.

The parable of the virgins in Matt25 tells us that the five wise virgins were ready to meet the bridegroom having oil in their lamps (representing the Word of God). They went into the marriage and the door was shut.

The Kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the sea and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore, collected the good fish in the baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age, then the inner man will be manifested Mat 13:47.

Bro Fred Mumba (Mufulira, Zambia)

Field Workers Reports

MYANMAR



A brother whom we baptized earlier this year in Myanmar, Suum Pi, has travelled to the Irrawaddy Delta area which was decimated by Cyclone Nargis last year.

The devastation was under-reported by the military Junta governing Burma, but Western estimates of the final death toll are between 150,000 and 400,000, with 3 million



homeless and mass destruction of infrastructure. Suum Pi reports that the only way to get around some of the areas was by chartering boats. He distributed literature and held meetings with his contacts there. He didn't baptize anyone this time but did manage to teach a number of people, and is

hopeful he may be able to baptize some on a future visit. In the photos, Suum Pi is the one in the plain shirt and cap and the one standing by the table. He also met a number of orphans and others in need of assistance. Seeing Western aid groups are severely limited by the ruling Government, this is an amazing entrance for us into another area where the true Gospel is going for the first time. It is amazing how the Truth is spreading- and an honour to be part of the process.



Giving some small aid to orphans



With Bible contacts



Travelling by boat

Riga Bible Centre May 2009

The fast growing Riga, Latvia ecclesia has moved into new premises, and a great team of Brothers and a Sister- Graham Mitchell, Pauline Brett, Pete Eichhorn and Mark Leadbetter- came over from England to assist in this work. They worked extremely hard and returned home with the empty hall now a functioning Bible centre, with a baptismal pool, kitchen, etc. There's still much work to do but everything's now functional. They tackled some major plumbing issues, installing drains and bringing water quite some way to enable this property to be

functional. Here is the team installing the baptismal bath:



In the 10 days they were in Latvia, they stayed at Duncan and Cindy's apartment and each evening did the daily Bible readings together from the 'Bible Companion'. Staying at the apartment was LJUBA, whose mother is a Sister, and who lives normally in Azerbaijan. She enthusiastically joined in the daily Bible readings and finally made the decision to be baptized. So she was the first to be baptized in the new tub. Here she is with Cindy just beforehand:



She's now returned to Azerbaijan, and our thoughts and prayers are with her there. A few days later it was our pleasure to baptize MARIJA in the same tub. Marija lives in the women's shelter in Riga and became aware of the Gospel through our ministrations to the women there.



Brother Mark is a master carpenter and put up shelves around the place, where we are already displaying our literature in several languages:



Mark also did an amazing job transforming the storeroom into a kitchen, and already the ecclesia is meeting here and using it:



So, Sunday Breaking of Bread meetings are already being held here- but we have many plans to start holding seminars, "Improve your English through reading the Bible" courses, mothers' and women's groups etc.



What we need is workers! Those empty chairs in the photo above are waiting for you to fill! Thanks to our brethren's work, the hall now has a kind of 'apartment' which can provide basic accommodation for short to medium term visitors. It's on the direct bus route from the airport and has a supermarket next to it. We're looking for anyone interested in coming out to give presentations just for a weekend; or coming to stay for 2-3 months [or longer!] to run the classes here. There have been many baptisms in the Baltic states over the last 20 years; there's much pastoral work to do as well! Please do prayerfully consider this challenge, and do contact us if you're interested at info@carelinks.net. The Latvian economy has well nigh collapsed and there is huge unemployment and slashing of wages- leading many people to turn to God. You may have read press reports about it, here's a quote from http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1106666.stm : "An economic contraction of 12% and a 50% increase in unemployment was predicted for 2009, and the government was prompted to seek aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The social turmoil triggered by the financial crisis led to the fall of the government in February 2009". All this makes fertile ground for the Gospel.

Italy

We reported earlier this year the baptism of two brethren in Naples, Italy who run a church there. We gave them a boxfull of *Bible Basics* and they have been updating us about their progress in teaching their church. We spent a weekend with them recently, and what an experience it was. Brother Festus had been the pastor of a large church, comprised of African immigrants, of whom there are many in Naples. But he was convinced of the truth, was re-baptized by us, and told his congregation that they no longer should believe in things like a personal Satan, trinity, and that Jesus is returning to earth to establish the Kingdom here. Each week he has been teaching them a chapter from *Bible Basics*, at the end of each session he asks them the questions and they note down the correct answers. His congregation has dwindled to around 25 people, but they are truly on fire for the Truth. We turned up at the large hall they have, and found it in a way sad to see Festus mount the platform and speak through the PA system to just a few people, with masses of now empty seats.



The group turned up on time, mostly in their own cars, with their Bibles and "*Bible Basics*", dressed in Sunday best and some in their traditional African costumes. We video recorded Festus' lecture about the Kingdom of God coming on earth, and his asking the group the questions from the final lesson of the course.



It was really most impressive to see their love of the Word, their eager taking of notes, and to see how on fire they are. You can see in the video how earnest they are. They took up a collection to defray their expenses, and then there was a very lively African style praise and worship session. It's amazing the power and volume of 25 dedicated people! They had been planning the baptisms for a long time, and everyone was prepared. So after that we drove down to a beach and baptized those who had successfully and correctly completed the course: Brother CHIEDU

and Sisters EDITH O., EDITH I., DORIS, MERCY, ROSLYN, GLORIA and SANDRA . It was a windy, rainy day, but surely the Lord was present there on that beach.



We continue to be humbled at the Lord's usage of our small efforts, and we are humbled, too, through our partnership with Festus, a man of unusual humility and yet energy, blessed with an excellent knowledge of the Word, able to quote and reason freely and with power. We really do pray that this group will continue to blossom; we owe them all the support we can give them. We see ourselves as very much in partnership with those to whom we have been led, like Brother Festus, simply giving them the teaching and spiritual infrastructure with which to spread the Word further, helping them to trade their talents to the Father's glory.

For all this, we truly give thanks

LATVIA

We're delighted to report the baptisms of PAVEL, ILGUNIS and GENOVIEFA. These are all in Riga, and we can say we are seeing a huge upsurge of interest here, especially in the wake of the economic disaster affecting the country. Some of the poorer people are turning to God very seriously.

Pensioners benefits have been severely reduced, and just don't cover basic food needs let alone medicines, clothes and utilities payments.

Sister Genoviefa is an invalid who used to live at the women's shelter. The conditions are so bad there that she tried her best to get out. So, she clubbed together with two other pensioners, Pavel and Ilgunis, and between them they manage to rent a room- literally, a room- in a very run-down and crumbling apartment block. She's scarcely mobile and has bandaged her right arm tightly to relieve the awful pain in her bones. She was given a Bible by one of our Sisters in the women's shelter, and has been reading this each day for as long as her weak sight allows her. She's also been learning the Gospel, and given that she and the two invalid men are living together in about 15 square meters, sleeping on chair-sofas, it's inevitable they spend their time talking with each other- especially about hope for the future and resurrection. After 18 months, they now reached readiness for baptism and it was our joy to baptize the three of them. They are all of limited mobility, so the men collect her pension for her. They, too, are weak, and the three of them are currently suffering an outbreak of scabies [see photo below] because of the poor hygiene in that tiny room. They've shaved themselves but the problem persists. They have no medical attention, so Cindy's doing what she can for them.



Genoviefa sits like this for most of the day with her Bible on her lap, reading as often as she can. Note how close is the 'bed' next to her, and there's another such bed the other side of that one,

too:



Talk about "the hope of the Kingdom". It really is, just as it is for our dear Brother Leonid whom we've mentioned in recent Carelinks [he's pretty weak just lately, but keeps saying he's looking forward to the Kingdom].

The block in which the three live in is just terrible. It's a hangout for drug addicts, alcoholics and prostitutes. One can't safely enter it in the evenings or at night. The graffiti of the drug abusers is in English, so you can see what kind of a place it is- we took this photo in the stair well:



Note the red hammer and sickle [symbol of Soviet Communism] sprayed there too. There's quite a resurgence of this, given the failure of capitalism in the eyes of many poorer people. These three pensioners literally barricade themselves into their room after 5 p.m. The toilet is in the corridor, so they have to use pans etc., contributing to the smell and terrible hygiene in the room.

We keep asking for your prayers, but please do pray for them and know that these are very genuine cases of need.

Brother Ivan

Brother Ivan is typical of so many poorer people in Eastern Europe. He has no relatives apart from a daughter who long ago disappeared to live in Western Europe and has gone off contact. He gets a pension of 80 LVL / month, and lives in a hostel which costs 2 LVL / night, including two cups of tea / day. So he has to live on about 20 LVL / month- for all food, clothing, medicines. He lives in a dormitory style room which has seven beds. He has a plastic bottle he fills with tap water which he drinks, and has one bag of possessions. There's a tiny TV / Radio set in the room which is how he keeps up with what's going on in the world. He spends his days reading the Bible and picking up discarded fruit in the nearby market, which is largely what he lives off. He's a Jew who has struggled for many years with the issue of Jesus. He has read a huge amount of Jehovah's Witness literature, but he refused to accept their obsession with the Jehovah Name and their view of Israel. And he saw through many of their other errors as well - as he will explain to you in great detail!

Ivan was spotted reading his Bible by a cleaner at the hostel who is a Sister, and she put him in touch with us. It was a pleasure to baptize IVAN into Christ, and to see him so rejoicing in Him for whom Israel hopes, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is very frail on his feet and it's a tragedy to see such a fine man in this situation. Please do pray for him. We will do our best to support him with food, medicines and clothing.



Photo: The hostel, with what used to be the museum of atheism in the background.



Fellowshipping together in the dormitory whilst the other men were all outside:



The Shadow of the Cross

The hour of Christ's glorification had come. He was standing in the shadow of the cross, and knew that the sacrifice he was about to make would bring many sons and daughters to God. They would see Jesus placed beside Barabbas, a robber and murderer who would be chosen for release before the Son of God. They would hear the people, inspired by the priests and rulers, making their choice of the murderer. And to the question, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" The answer would be given, "Let him be crucified."

By making this propitiation for the sins of men, Christ knew that his Kingdom would be perfect, extending throughout the world. For a moment he looked into the future, and in his mind he heard the voices proclaiming in all parts of the earth, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world".

Jesus saw a great harvest, when the partition wall between Jew and Gentile would be broken down, and all nations would hear the message of salvation. The hour is come, that the son of man should be glorified. Only by his death could the world be saved. Like a grain of wheat, the Son of Man must be cast into the ground and die, to be buried out of sight and to live again. The death of Christ on the cross at Calvary will bear fruit unto eternal life. Christ is the example of self-sacrifice that we all should learn and follow.

Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)

The Leper

The leper is guided to the Saviour. Jesus is teaching beside the lake and the people are gathered about him. Standing afar off, the leper catches a few words from the lips of Jesus. He sees him laying his hands upon the sick. He sees the lame, the blind, the paralytic and those dying of various maladies rise up in health, praising God for their deliverance. The leper's decaying body is horrible to look upon, and at the sight of him the people fall back in terror. They crowd upon one another in their eagerness to escape from contact with him. Some even try to prevent him from approaching Jesus.

The leper sees only the Son of God. He hears only the voice that speaks life to the dying. Pressing to Jesus, he casts himself at his feet with the cry, 'Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make

me clean'. Jesus replied, 'I will, be thou made clean' and laid his hand upon him'" (Matt 8:3). A change passed over the leper. His flesh became healthy. The restored leper would be permitted to unite once more with his family and friends.

If we confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Bro Melusi Ndlavu (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)

A Leader

A lot of people worldwide are leaders in various ways, some in schools, others in companies, clubs, churches, etc. Now what does the Bible say about it in James 3:1. For sure, as a true leader one needs to take this scripture seriously.

Let's take a look at Moses, while keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, when God's call came. "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire and the bush was not consumed" (Exodus 3:2). The first thing God did was to reveal Himself to Moses. Moses was certain that it was God who spoke to him (verses 5,6). This is something that we must be sure about in our own mind. When someone comes to ask us to serve in one way or another, make certain that God is in it. Since God is concerned with what we do, He will make His will known. He promises to do so, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8).

Another promise is "This God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death" (Psalm 48:14). But Moses thought himself unfit to lead the Israelites from Egypt, but God said "Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10). And he cried out to God with his question, 'Who am I?' But God said 'Certainly I will be with thee. Moses, it doesn't really matter who you are, whether you feel qualified or unqualified, whether you feel up to the task or not. The point is that I am going to be there. I have come down to deliver them. I am going to do it and I am going to give you the privilege of being in it with me. You will be My instrument of deliverance.'

When one is called of God to take a position of leadership in His work, he should remember this truth that God is not looking for people who feel 'sufficient'. Paul said, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God" (2 Cor 3:5). "And He said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Cor 12:9,10).

Moses asked another question, "Behold, when I come with the children of Israel and shall say unto them, 'The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you', and they shall say to me, "What is His name? What shall I say unto them?" (Exodus 3:13). "God said unto Moses 'I AM THAT I AM...The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob hath sent me unto you'".

The call of Gideon: "God called Gideon to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of the Midianites." But Gideon has this to say "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my

family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house" (Judges 6:15). Read also the call of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-19) and the call of the disciples (Matt 28:19,20).

Bro Harry Hambula (Kalomo, Zambia)

The Healing of the Demon-Possessed Man: (Mark 5:1-13)

All of us were like the demon-possessed man in Mark 5. When we were restored to right minds, we learnt the word, understood it and were baptised in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Are our minds still pure? Is the word in our hearts? Do we check whether our actions are the same as before we were baptised?

Beware, lest you won't be restored into the future nation of Israel (Proverbs 3:3). "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart" (Proverbs 7:3).

"And when he (Jesus) was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him" (Mark 5:18). Are we praying to the Lord to be with him as we are awaiting the coming of God's kingdom or not? If not brothers and sisters, the time to act is now. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Bro Harris N Mulongesha (Ndola, Zambia)

Why Be Baptized?

What is the correct method of baptism: sprinkling, pouring, immersion or some other technique? As Bible dictionaries show, the word 'baptize' means primarily 'to dip into' or 'immerse'. All biblical examples reveal that baptism was always performed in a body of water large and deep enough for immersion. John 3:23, for example, tells us that John the Baptist was baptising in Aenon near Salim because there was much water there. Matthew records that when Jesus was baptized, he came up immediately from the water (Matt 3:16).

All other examples of baptism by Christ's disciples mentioned in the scriptures follow the pattern. We read in Acts 8:38 that "both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and he (Philip) baptized him". There is no biblical example of any other form of water baptism.

The scriptures show us that baptism should be performed in water deep enough to completely submerge the whole body. Baptism performed in this manner is profound in its meaning. Romans 6 shows that baptism represents not only the burial of our old self, but our faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as our Lord and Master. It also pictures our rising from a symbolic death to a new, converted life. It represents our faith that just as Jesus was resurrected from the grave, so God resurrects us to immortality at Christ's return.

Until our baptism, the Bible describes us as enslaved to our self-serving human nature. But once we are baptized and our sins forgiven, God regards us as servants to righteousness. We

are redeemed, brought from a life of slavery to sin, to becoming servants of God and of true righteousness (Romans 6:16-19).

Bro Gift Lungu (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

It's Your Attitude That Counts

The apostle Peter wrote that Christians should be 'clothed with humility'. Indeed, humility is a familiar theme throughout the Bible. It is a quality of godly character that is absolutely essential to fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

Jesus told his disciples, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). As love is the hallmark of a true Christian, so pride and arrogance are the enemies of a godly nature. Love cannot grow in the hostile soil of conceit.

Jesus Christ himself was perfect and sinless, yet he was willing to give himself for us. He was willing to be lied about, hated, despised, spat upon and tortured. Because he and the Father loved us. He did all this, not in a spirit of superiority, though he was certainly superior, but in humility. He was willing to suffer even though we were all sinners. Even though humans were behaving selfishly, arrogantly, foolishly and hatefully, he was willing to suffer for us that we ultimately might be able to change. In so doing, he showed us how we are to think and live with others.

God has called true Christians to a new and living way. The truth of His revealed written word, is truth that must be put into practice. It is not to be just knowledge alone, but applied knowledge. It is one thing for us to know and understand the wonderful truth of God's word. But God requires that we use that knowledge, that we live by it. And humility forms the basis for making that precious knowledge come to life.

We are told in James 4:6 that "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble". A proud attitude prevents one from receiving the grace of God. The reason is a simple one.; a proud attitude cannot be a repentant one. It sees itself as already right, as having no special need for the mercy of God. Because it sees itself as superior to others, it does not condescend to the humility necessary to admit error or confess guilt, therefore it sees no need to change. It sees others as inferior and therefore the needs of others as less important.

Consequently, it treats others with a certain degree of contempt. It sees no need to sacrifice its own desires or wants for the good of another. The attitude that enables one to receive the grace of God, on the other hand, is one of humility. The humble spirit is able to honestly see itself and recognize its need for the mercy of God. It does not view itself as superior to others, but rather, is concerned with how it helps make the way easier for others. People with this attitude, like Jesus, are not afraid to sacrifice their own desires for the ultimate good of another. And this attitude is willing to go before the throne of God to ask for mercy and forgiveness it knows it needs.

Indeed, the humility that comes from the love that abides in a true Christian is no mere platitude, no cliché, it is a way of life. It is a way of living and thinking that changes lives. It is not the way of the crowd, and it is not an easy way. It is a way of personal humility that requires a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice, God's way is the way that cares.

Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

When Things Go Wrong (Job 1:10)

How often have you asked the question, ‘Why?’ Tragedy strikes you, you experience hard times, a disaster occurs, trouble overtakes somebody and the question rings out, “Why? Lord, why did you let this happen?” On the contrary, though, when something good takes place, how often, or rather, how seldom do you hear of people giving thanks to God for the blessing they have received? One of the very important facets of the life of a Christian is the discipline of faith. In order to lead a full life in Christ it is essential that you put your absolute trust in God in all circumstances, good or bad, believing that He will provide all you need.

Your concept of life is human and can only take in the here and now. It is for this reason that you may find it difficult to understand why things are allowed to take place which have a seemingly adverse effect upon you. This is when it becomes necessary to show that strength of faith that will enable you to put your trust in God, whose view of life is eternal. Believe that there is a purpose in everything that takes place in your life. Also believe that the purpose is known to God, and let your faith reassure you that everything that happens fits into a pattern, ultimately for good.

Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Help Is At Hand (Psalm 124:8)

There are some who claim to be self-sufficient but there comes a time in the lives of all people when, if they are honest, they will admit to needing assistance of one sort or another. It is a sad fact of life, however, that there are some unfortunate souls who have no family or close friends. As a result, when a need arises, they feel completely alone and helpless.

The Psalmist’s affirmation that “our help is in the name of the Lord” was no idle comment or platitude. He knew from experience that God watched over him and, as He had promised, would not fail nor forsake him and would be with him always. This promise, though made centuries ago, is as relevant today as it was then. It is for you. Whatever problem or difficulty may confront you, no matter what the circumstances may be, the living Christ is at your side waiting for you to turn to him. Do not fret when life becomes difficult. Confide in your Master and seek his help. He will not disappoint you.

Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

The Teaching of the Resurrection in the Old Testament

The resurrection of the dead is an event that will involve the Lord Jesus Christ together with the angels. They will exercise the mighty power of God to re-create many of those who have been

alive before but have died. This amazing event has been promised to the faithful and is a necessary first step in giving eternal life to those who are worthy.

There are at least nine passages of scripture in the Old Testament that refer to this wonderful event. In studying these it was thought best to deal with them in the order of occurrence in scripture.

Gen. 13:14 'And the LORD (Yahweh) said unto Abram ... "Lift up now thine eyes and look from the place where thou art (Canaan) northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever."

Although in this case the resurrection is not specifically referred to, its necessity is inferred by the circumstances in which this promise was made. In chapter 15 Abram was told that he would "die in a good old age". Consequently for God to fulfil this promise it would be necessary for him to raise Abram from the dead.

The Testimony in Job

Job 14:14-15 "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come. Thou shalt call and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands".

Here is a straightforward statement of belief in the resurrection. Job would wait in the grave for the ultimate call by God, which he would answer in full consciousness.

Job 19:25-27 "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God".

Job's knowledge of what happens to a dead body did not weaken his faith that one day in the future, called the latter day, he would be raised again to see God and others, too, who have been raised.

The Testimony in the Psalms

Psalms 16:8-11 "I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope: for thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore".

This is a passage of scripture that the apostle Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost to show how it referred to the Lord Jesus. His flesh did not see corruption because God raised him after his crucifixion on the third day (Acts 2:25,31). David adds, "my flesh also shall rest in hope". Death is described here as a 'rest' from which he hoped to awake at the resurrection. Because of that wonderful event God would not leave his soul in hell (Heb. Sheol – the grave) so that he would be shown 'the path of life' for evermore.

Psalms 49:14-15 "Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on themBut God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me".

It is worth noting that the word 'grave' here is a translation of 'Sheol', the same word which was used in Psalm 16:10 where it was translated 'hell' which, of course, means the same thing. In Psalm 49 the grave is said to have a 'power' which is to keep captive in their decaying state all the dead bodies which are put into it. David recognised that God has the ability to release a

dead body from this power by raising it to life again. In faith he declared, “God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave”.

On God’s behalf, the Lord Jesus has been appointed to be the redeemer. Because he was to offer himself as the redeeming sacrifice, he was able to declare, “Everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day”. (Jn.6:40)

The Testimony in Isaiah

Is.25:6-9 “And in this mountain (Mount Zion) shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, ...well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all the people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us; this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation”.

This passage describes in joyful pictorial language a celebration in Jerusalem of the marvellous consummation of God’s plan of redemption for this world. All that the surviving inhabitants should understand about their merciful redeemer will be made known by the Lord Jesus when he comes to reign over them.

For this reason Jesus claimed to be the light of the world (Jn.8:12) not only for New Testament times but also when he comes again in glory. When that happens death will be swallowed up in victory. At last the dead will be raised and made immortal, to die no more.

This passage of scripture (Is.25:6-9) is quoted by the apostle Paul in the 15th chapter of his letter to the Corinthians. In his conclusion he identifies the redeemer by joyfully exclaiming, “Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”. (1Cor.15:57) To this we can all say Amen!

Is.26:19 “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust; for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead”. This brief declaration is very clear in its import. It is uttered with the background of the prophet contemplating the failure of the nation to achieve a state of righteousness and success. Their past struggles are likened to the pains of a woman bearing a child. But there will be eventual joy when the dead are raised. The prophet Isaiah is confident that his own dead body will surely join with others in being raised and sing for the joy of experiencing the new and wonderful life being granted to them. The glistening dewdrops which can mysteriously appear in the morning on the leaves of plants is used as an apt figure to describe this wonderful event which is yet to take place.

Is.61:1-3 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified”.

We can well understand the Lord Jesus wanting to quote these early verses from Isaiah 61 when he went to Nazareth (Luke 4:26-29) because they applied to him. In our extract above we have omitted the early part of verse one because Jesus fulfilled them at that time. The later phrases we have quoted would be fulfilled by him when he comes the second time (Heb.9:28). The remarkable phrase ‘give them beauty for ashes’ means the giving of immortality after a spell in

the grave, even when people's bodies have long since mouldered into dust! The 'oil of joy' is the rejoicing of the redeemed when granted a new life after death. The 'garment of praise' is a figure of divine nature bestowed on the faithful at the resurrection, 'being made equal unto the angels' (Luke 20:36).

All these beautiful figures of speech describe those who are raised to life by the Lord Jesus and are therefore called 'trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD that he might be glorified'.

The Testimony of Daniel and Hosea

Daniel 12:2-3

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever".

This concise statement occurs in the course of a long historical prophecy that helps one to assess the time when the resurrection will take place. The use of the term 'sleep' indicates that these people would 'awake', as it were, to a new life at a later date.

The glorious bodies of those who are granted divine nature (2 Pet.1:4) are described as 'shining as the brightness of the firmament' and also as 'the stars for ever and ever'. Such a reward can only be described as wonderful. However, there will be some that will be judged unworthy of eternal life and will be rejected.

Hosea 13:14 "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes".

This remarkable verse comes in a context in which God reminded his nation Israel about their sinfulness (13:1-2). However, in spite of their failures there was hope. "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help" (13:9). God's help will certainly be manifested when he ransoms them from the power of the grave, when the resurrection of the dead takes place.

In poetic style, the abstract term 'death' and the literal 'grave' are both personified and addressed in no uncertain terms to the effect that mortality will be a distressing calamity of past years, when God "creates a new heaven and a new earth" (Is.65:17). He will not change his mind about this wonderful development as the last sentence intimates, "repentance shall be hid from mine eyes".

Summary

It is remarkable how all these passages of scripture referring to the resurrection use such a variety of style; poetic, figures of speech and celebrations of victory over death to describe what will be one of the most wonderful of events ever to take place on the earth. The redeemed will want to rejoice and praise God and the Lord Jesus. The book of Revelation gives a glimpse of this: 'And they sang a new song saying, "Thou art worthy.... for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth"'. (Rev. 5:9-10)

Bro. Ralph Green (Torquay, U.K.)

People in the Last Days

Instead of explaining some of the world's events, the Bible also foretold the changes in people in the last days. The apostle Paul foretold what they are like: "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of money, lovers of themselves, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them" (2 Timothy 3:1-6). I believe almost everyone all over the world experiences at least some of these changes. That shows that God is soon to do something. "The wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish; they will be forever destroyed" (Psalm 92:7).

A good example: "Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, 'Is this not great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my might, power and for the glory of my majesty? The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven: "This is what is decreed for you, king Nebuchadnezzar. Your royal authority has been taken away from you...You will be driven away from people and will live with wild animals and you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes" (Daniel 4:29-32).

So be very wise you Christians because it says many are called but few are chosen. Every event comes at the time appointed by God. Do not be surprised by what is happening now, it was written before. You should love your God with all your heart.

Bro Calvin Chitano (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

Jesus Died for Our Sins

"He who did not spare his own son, but he gave him for us" (Romans 8:32).

When Abraham was asked to offer up his only son Isaac as a burnt offering before the Lord God, he did not delay or hesitate to follow God's directive. As he tied his son to the altar, he had already made the sacrifice in his heart. Seeing his faith, the Lord stopped him at the very moment when he had lifted the knife to slay and offer his son. It was not the blood of Isaac the Lord demanded, but the sacrifice made in Abraham's heart and that was made in complete obedience to God's demand. Isaac had been born, not through the natural power of the flesh, but through God's promise and direct intervention.

Jesus came for the purpose of living for us and dying for us, when he was tied to the altar, which was the cross to which he was nailed, to be a sin offering before God. There was no substitute provided by God on this occasion. There was no animal nor any human being who could be sacrificed that would please God, or whose life blood could atone for our sins. So Jesus had to die for us. We are freed through the only acceptable representative sacrifice of Jesus. Because through Christ Jesus, the law of the spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

Bro Benjamin Mwatu (Suna Migori, Kenya)

Prison Preaching in America

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

In these last days God is calling out people from the dark hidden places of society. Behind prison walls there is no hope unless a person is truly called. The prisons do have chaplains, but their doctrines are false and only lead to the darkness of the grave with no hope. When inmates are released, they often end up back in prison because they have no goal in their life and they have no vision. These prisoners need God’s Word as their guidebook to life and they need to know that God has a plan and a vision for them of His Kingdom. This gives these prisoners a Hope.

In August of 2004 we received a coupon asking for *Bible Basics* from Sotero Ceja in the Corcoran Prison. He received this coupon from another prisoner. We sent him the English version of *Bible Basics*. Then we received a letter from Julio Diaz of this same prison explaining that he was writing the letters for Sotero since he could only read and write in Spanish. He also asked if he could have a copy of *Bible Basics*. I answered Julio’s letter and suggested that he have Sotero give him his English version of *BB* and we would send Sotero a Spanish version. We did this and the two of them studied when they could. Sotero and Julio did not share a cell together, but could only meet out in the exercise yard.

Julio would do his lessons and send them to me and often include Sotero’s answers as well. Sotero wrote his answers in Spanish and since I don’t know Spanish, I had my daughter, Anna, help me with the translation. Julio and Sotero did very well with their lessons. When they were finished, they both in 2005, they wanted further contact with the Christadelphians.

At one time I wrote to Julio about another inmate named Mark, who had a hard time letting go of the belief in a devil. He wrote me back. “I was reminded about a time when Sotero and I were just starting out with the Bible course, another fellow inmate, saw me reading the book (*Bible Basics* course) and told us that it was no good and something along the lines of ‘they don’t even believe in the devil.’ That last statement actually attracted my interest more. I felt I had to keep an open mind, because there might be truth in something and if God is guiding me to the truth, I shouldn’t be overlooking it.

“It certainly was different than what I was previously being taught, yet it did make sense and it all came together, backed up by lots of scripture to make the point clear, while what I was learning before tended to confuse me. Then thoughts would arise about, beware of cults and such, something also engrained in my mind by listening to society and stuff, but then there had to be some common sense in my inquiring, so I looked at the pros and cons:

“It’s not like they’re trying to steal my money.” (I ain’t got none.)

“They’re not trying to brainwash anybody to manipulate them.”

“They’re not looking to send someone down the wrong path.”

“They’re not extraterrestrials trying to eat our brains.” (My imagination ran wild with thoughts.)

“From the letters I’ve been receiving from Sister Marilyn, I see no evil intent, in fact there’s more of a humbleness and a genuine interest in helping others learn the Truth.”

[Extracted from his letter of May 28, 2006]

Then Julio wrote me when Sotero was to be released, in September 2006 that sometime during the night he was taken and deported to Mexico. Julio had written a letter to me in English for Sotero as he dictated it in Spanish in which he did give me an address in Mexico where he would be going. We wrote to this address, but received no reply. To this date we do not know where Sotero Ceja is, but he knows of God’s Hope and about the return of Jesus.

On October 9, 2006 Julio Diaz was released and he went to live in Napa with his sister. He decided to attend the local junior college and enrolled there taking Art and basic courses. At this time I wrote to Julio and asked if he wanted to do the *Exploring the Bible* course and he replied ‘yes’. We did this by mail.

Then in January 2007, my husband, Jim, was scheduled to speak at the San Francisco Ecclesia, which meets at Marinwood in San Rafael, California. I found this was within the radius of Julio’s parole limits. He could come and to meet us and other Christadelphians here and come to a meeting. I called and he did come and brought his sister with him. All the Brothers and Sisters were happy to meet Julio. He is kind of a quiet young man of 30 years old. This was the first time we ever met him. He learned about the mid-week Bible Class and went to it. He started coming regularly. We would see him when the Northern Christadelphian Ecclesias would get together for events like the Sunday School Program or the Sunday School Picnic. Julio told me that he brought his mother to meeting on Mother’s Day and she had told him to thank me for contacting him. She has seen a good change in her son.

In August of 2008 Julio asked for baptism. The Brethren of the San Francisco Ecclesia gave him an interview. I had mentioned to Julio that whenever he decided to be baptized, I wanted to be there. This was because when you do prison preaching all you can do is teach the inmate and give them a baptismal interview. You cannot see an inmate get baptized because the chaplain has to do it on his time. The inmate has to request a baptism by immersion. Then on August 26, 2008 he was baptized in the San Francisco Bay by Bro. Jim Sillars and Bro. Paul Campbell.

Bro. Julio has finished his courses at the Junior College in Napa now and applied to San Jose State University in San Jose. We heard he has been accepted and will be moving down our way later this year. Then he will be attending our ecclesia, the San Francisco Peninsula Ecclesia. We are looking forward to having him at our meeting. He speaks Spanish and will be helpful in our Spanish Sunday School class and with preaching.

Sis. Marilyn Seagoe, (San Francisco, USA)

The Coming of the Lord Will Be Soon

The Lord will return as a thief in the night – unexpectedly (2 Peter 3:10). Why do we believe it will be soon? Look around you: what do you see?

The Bible tells us what will take place in the last days. These very things are being fulfilled: “For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not what would happen until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the son of man be” (Matt 24:38). God destroyed the first world with the flood because man became selfish, and the imaginations of his heart were evil continually. Violence filled the earth. They were “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Tim 3:4). Today people love pleasure as never before, and will put forth all efforts to obtain it.

Let us look at the conditions existing in the world today. The destructive and hateful uprisings in many cities: bloodshed and murder are daily occurrence. Why? Men have forgotten God. Why have youth become so restless and uneasy? Mom and Dad are working away from home, leaving children to fend for themselves at the very time they need someone to guide them.

They run the streets and get into much trouble. Juvenile delinquency increases every year. Crime ranging from misdemeanors to grave offences is on the increase. What do you think, will it get better? Do you see any chance at all for improvement? How long can this go on? God is long suffering, but His spirit will not always strive with man. There is a reckoning day coming when man must give account before God.

How is it with Christians of today? Are they putting first things first? Or have the material things of this world so engulfed them that they are not able to hold up the real light? Has the salt of the earth lost its saving flavour? “If the light that is in thee is darkness, how great is that darkness”. Yes, I believe we must all truly say the light has become very dim and that soon the day will come when the responsible will stand before that great judge and answer for their deeds.

Jesus is coming, “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up: and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly towards heaven as he went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11). This, my friends, is one event we won’t miss. Every eye shall see him. He is coming and when he comes: “Before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats” (Matt 25:32). Some will go with Jesus to glory; some will be left behind. What about you – will you go or will you be left behind? You must choose!

Bro Wilberforce Wandera (Busia, Uganda)

The Grace of God to the World

When Yahweh revealed His glory to Moses, He did so not with a mighty act of power, but with a revelation of the quality of His goodness, in His compassion, grace, mercy and truth. If it had not been for the goodness of the Father towards us, in His loving grace, we would have remained in the world of darkness to vanish in endless death. “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished: he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the father to the third and fourth generation” (Exodus 34:6-7).

How crystal clear about the quoted verses, brothers and sisters, you may wonder about the immeasurable grace for you and me. But we should realize that God does not want us to disobey Him because He punishes those who do not do His requirements. How passionately, then, should we rejoice because we live under that gracious favour, the divine love of the Father; and how vigorously we should testify the gospel of the grace of God. “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24).

In the world are relatives, friends and a host of others to whom we should reveal, by word and deeds, this wonderful gospel of “the grace of God” and we should never cease in our efforts to win them to the faith and the hope of the life immortal.

Every day of our lives ought to be a day of thanks “for the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to mankind”. It is instructing us to the intent that “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, and righteously and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and appearing at the glory of our great saviour, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:12,13).

We are living in the last days of Gentile times and an age which gives us a heightened and deepened sense of the inexpressible and irreplaceable value of the truth we hold, and the preciousness of every moment that remains before the coming of Jesus. Freedom from sin is a gift from God, it is not earned or worked for in any way, it is given to us through God’s grace (Ephesians 2:4-9).

Finally, brothers and sisters, we know that at times we shall fail, but if we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us; we have no righteousness of our own to offer God but it is His grace that teaches us to turn our backs on this life and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ as his disciples. His grace makes us eager to do what is good and will bring us to His Kingdom.

Bro Stephen Siamabi (Lusaka, Zambia)

All Is Exposed to God

All things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting (Hebrew 4:13). If we are ever tempted to distort the truth in an attempt to make people think well of us, may the story of Ananias and Sapphira stand as a sober reminder (Acts 5:1-10). We might be able to deceive fellow humans, but we cannot fool Jehovah. Time and again the scriptures exhort us to be honest with one another, for liars will have no place in an earth swept clean of unrighteousness (Pro 14:2; Rev 21:8; 22:15). The reason for that should be clear. The promoter of all untruth is none other than our human nature, otherwise known in the New Testament as the devil, or Satan (John 8:44).

Making honesty our way of life brings numerous benefits. Among them are a clean conscience and the satisfaction of being trusted by others. In many cases, because they were honest, Christians have obtained employment or have kept their jobs. Above all, honesty wins us the friendship of Almighty God (Psalm 15:1,2).

The 30 pieces of silver paid to Judas Iscariot

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The following is based on a question asked in the DailyMail and the answer by Nick Welham.

The sum paid by religious leaders appears designed to show contempt of Jesus. According to Exodus 21:32, the price paid to recompense a master for a servant being hurt by an ox, is 30 pieces (shekels) of silver. Carrying this forward, for his work as a shepherd of the people, Zechariah was paid '30 pieces of silver'.

Yahweh scorned this as a meagre sum, regarding the wages given to Zechariah as an estimation of how the faithless people viewed Yahweh Himself, 11:12-13.

Consequently, in offering 30 pieces of silver for the betrayal of Jesus, the religious leaders made Him out to be of little value. At the same time, though, they were fulfilling Zechariah 11:12, "If it is agreeable to you, give Me my wages thirty pieces of silver. And Yahweh said to me, "Throw it to the potter" – that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of Yahweh for the potter".

Judas was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood". Then he threw down the pieces of silver and went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests took the 30 pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood," Matthew 27. And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field to bury strangers in.

This was fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah.

Bro Stanford Kauzha (Harare, Zimbabwe)

Birth Pains

We are living in an in-between time period, a time after the ascension of Christ to heaven and just before the return of Christ to set up the long awaited kingdom of God on earth. After Jesus returns, those responsible will give an account of every careless word they have spoken, "For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt 12:36,37). The writers of the New Testament compared this period in very painful language as the equivalent of birth pains. The New International Version actually uses the words 'birth pains'. The first time we read about them is early in the Bible: "To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase pain in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children'" (Gen 3:16).

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the sentence given to Eve was the multiplication of pain in childbearing. The pain is for a short while, then it comes to an end. After this painful period, the mother gives birth to a new baby. There is celebration, singing and present-giving to the mother and new baby. The pain is forgotten.

Matt 24:4-8, Mark 13:8 and Luke 21:28 all speak of a time when there will be wars and rumours of wars, but we must not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes, and famines in various places. We are to look beyond this suffering when afterwards there will be laughter, dancing and singing. Then the suffering and pain of the present will be forgotten for ever in the Kingdom of God. Isaiah speaks: "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the

ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer and mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground, bubbling springs” (35:5-7). This is my favourite chapter, when we shall inherit the promises to Abraham. Let us all be watchful so that we may receive this beautiful reward.

Bro Peter Kariuki (Loitoktok, Kenya)

We Look Forward to One Like Joseph

People are expecting the world economic crisis to be over in a short time and yet the crisis is serious and deeply-rooted. If you take a closer look at the world economic performance, it looks as if the huge amounts of money given by governments, simply evaporated. To cut a long story short, human greed has created a system of circulation of credit, which is not backed up by real money. So when there is a call on this credit, it causes a run on the banks and the whole system collapses.

People have come to worship a new alien god which is money, and this god has now betrayed all his worshippers. People must realise that we are called to make new choices concerning the care of people and the care of nature. The so-called advanced technology and huge capacity for growth has to be re-set. We must move back from the age of plenty to the age of scarcity. There is no doubt we are, globally speaking, facing an era of scarcity. But with imaginative re-ordering of priorities it can, paradoxically, be turned into an age of caring for people and sustainability for our planet.

To a true believer this will only happen when the Lord shall be king over all the earth and in that day there shall be one Lord and His name one This King shall bring a new administration, one religion of truth, one united world, new economic system, increase in productivity and equal distribution of wealth. “Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7). That is when one who is like Joseph is here.

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

The Foundation Stone

“Behold, I lay in Zion a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.

In infinite wisdom, God chose the foundation stone and laid it Himself. He called it a sure foundation. The entire world may lay upon it their burdens and grief, and with perfect safety they may build upon it. Christ is a tried stone. Those who trust in him, he never disappoints. He has borne every test. He has endured the pressure of Adam’s condemnation. He has borne the burdens cast upon him by every repentant sinner.

In Christ, the guilty heart has found relief. He is the sure foundation. All who make him their support, rest in perfect security (Isaiah 8:13-15; 28:16).

Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)

The Truth About ...

Does God really care about us?

We live in a world full of cruelty and injustice. Many religions teach that the sufferings we experience are God's will. But God never causes what is wicked. "Far be it from the true God to act wickedly and the Almighty to act unjustly" says Job (34:10-12). God has a loving purpose for humans. That is why Jesus taught us to pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt 6:9-13). God cares so deeply about us that He has gone to great lengths to make the fulfilment of His purpose a certainty (John 3:16; Gen 1:26-28; James 11:13; 1 Peter 5:6-7).

Will war and suffering ever end?

War continues to claim untold numbers of human lives. All of us have been touched by human suffering. God foretells a time when He will establish world-wide peace on earth. Under His kingdom, a heavenly government, people will not learn war any more. Instead, they will beat their swords into ploughshares (Isaiah 2:4). God will bring an end to all injustice and suffering. The Bible promises that God will wipe away every tear, and death will be no more. The former things including today's injustices and suffering will have passed away (Rev 21:3-4; Psalm 37:10-11; 46:4; Micah 4:1-4).

What happens to us when we die

Most of the world's religions teach that something inside a person continues living after death. Some hold that the dead can harm the living or that God punishes the wicked by condemning them to eternal torment in fiery hell.

At death, humans cease to exist. The dead are conscious of nothing (Ecc 9:5). Since the dead cannot know, feel or experience anything, they cannot harm or help the living (Psalm 146:3-4; Genesis 3:14; Ecc 9:6-10).

Is there any hope for the dead?

We want to live, and we want to enjoy life with those we love. It is only natural that we yearn to see our dead loved ones. Many people who have died will be resurrected. Jesus promised that "those in the memorial tombs will come out" (John 5:28-29). In harmony with God's purpose, those resurrected who have served God and obeyed His commands in this life, will have the opportunity to live on a paradise on earth (Luke 23:43). This promised future includes perfect health and everlasting life for obedient believers. The Bible says "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside for ever upon it" (Psalm 37: 29; Job 14:14-15; Luke 7:11-17; Acts 24:15).

How can I pray and be heard by God

People in practically all religions pray, yet many feel that their prayers are not answered by God. Jesus taught us to avoid repeating set formulas in our prayers. When we pray, he said, “Do not say the same things over and over again” (Matt 6:7). If we want God to listen to our prayers, we must pray in the way of which He approves. To do that, we need to learn what God’s will is and then pray accordingly (1 John 5:14). No matter what it is that we ask, if we ask according to His will, God hears us (Psalm 65:2; John 14:6; 1 John 3:22).

How can I find happiness in life?

Many people believe that money, fame or beauty will make them happy. Hence they pursue such things only to find that happiness eludes them. Jesus identified the way to happiness when he said “Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need” (Matt 5:3). True happiness can be found only if we take steps to fill our greatest need - our hunger for spiritual truth about God and His purpose for us. That truth is found in the Bible, knowing that truth can help us to discern what is really important. Allowing Bible truth to guide our decisions and actions leads us to a meaningful life (Luke 11:28; Proverbs 3:5-6; 13:18; 1 Timothy 6:9-10). I will just say that I wish you true happiness in your life.

Bro Mangeni Rogers (Busia, Uganda)

Taking Refuge in the Lord

What is a refugee? It is a person running away from war. Why running away from war? They need security. All of us have taken refuge in the Lord, having run away from evil.

Brothers and sisters, read Psalm 71:1-4. This is our individual cry every day, “In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness and cause me to escape. Incline thine ear unto me and save me. Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort. Thou hast given a commandment to save me, for thou art my rock and fortress. Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man”.

How many of us are like the Israelites of Exodus 16:3? After having been baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord God fed the Israelites with manna for 40 years in the desert until they came to Canaan (Exodus 16:31-35). What did manna symbolise? The word of God – see John 6:31-35. Equally we shall eat the word of God until Jesus returns or we fall asleep.

Brothers and sisters, let us be like Ruth (a refugee). Ruth is one of our examples who took refuge in the Lord, when she left Moab for Bethlehem. Read Ruth 2:8-12. She became the wife of Boaz and her son Obed bore Jesse, the father of David. MAY THE LORD GOD THROUGH JESUS BE WITH YOU ALL.

Bro Harris N Mulongesha (Ndola, Zambia)

A Hearer of the Word and Not a Doer (James 1:23)

Your Bible is a mirror that shows you what you are really like in God’s eyes, If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror, for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. This word ‘man’ is the Greek word for ‘male’, so we are talking about the way men use the mirror, they glance just long enough to get the basics done – then they are gone. But not women. They

are so intent on knowing how they look that they carry a mirror in their purse. They can find out any time of the day how they look. The point here is not the difference in the way men and women use a mirror but the difference between taking a quick glance at yourself and taking a good look in the mirror until you have fully seen who you are in God's eyes.

As we read God's word, the holy spirit word holds up a mirror before us. God wants us to see ourselves so that we can make whatever adjustments are necessary. James continues, "One who looks intently at the perfect law (the word of God) and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25). In what area of your life do you desire a greater measure of God's blessing? Take care of the doing and God will take care of the blessing.

Bro Gilbert Tevere (Mutare, Zimbabwe)

Our Refugee Brethren – Continuously Remembering their Condition, Taking Prayerful Action to Free them

God reveals in scripture Nehemiah's tears and grief, his continued prayers for help, and committed action, when informed of the distressing condition of his brethren and city of Jerusalem .

Our brethren are dwelling in refugee camps under conditions that we would not want for ourselves. There is shortage of food, and terrible diseases are a continuous threat, our sisters and young children exposed to any kind of horrible abuse, the young adults living in the corrupt environment which these conditions breed. Day by day this is their life, with parents grieving at their inability to provide for their children, some looking on helplessly as they see their offspring most likely being drawn away – their future, hopelessly uncertain. Their sordid plight should be included in our prayers also whenever we observe the sacrificial love shown by our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ *in freeing us from our own hopeless, sordid, sinful condition.*

I know that our Heavenly Father is seeing their condition, that Jesus is likewise walking amidst the candlesticks there, even as he is among us, spiritually sustaining them. I know also that members of the CBM are active in these camps, doing what they can to lessen the suffering of our Brethren and Sisters, resettling in some cases. However, we all acknowledge that this is a big operation for our relatively small brotherhood, hence my question as to why this tremendous problem is being managed mainly by this group only when we have Brethren all over the world – many capable - who may be willing and eager to assist if called upon. Moses followed Jethro's advice to enlist the help of others in the camp capable of helping to shoulder his responsibility which was clearly too much for him. Nehemiah likewise sought the help of his fellows in the work of rebuilding. There are numerous examples of this sort in the scriptures. Especially where our Brethren's needs are concerned, *we are all our brothers' keepers*, and the second greatest commandment – "*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*" – urges us all to become involved in whatever way we can.

A practical solution would seem to be an ongoing operation directly and solely focused on resettling our Brethren elsewhere - a move that would please our Heavenly Father. Nehemiah

was faced with the tremendous challenge involved in his venture, so were the brethren urged to arise and build the temple, facing fierce opposition, and the disciples when commanded by Jesus to feed the five thousand with no provision for this....How did they manage? By resorting to God with whom all things are possible. Let us not be discouraged or deterred therefore by this mountain before us. Our God is much bigger and more powerful than this problem. Focusing on His love, wisdom, might and power instead, we can together approach Him for His help and guidance in putting the necessary plans in place. Let us strive to practise the faith that God urges in the scriptures, citing the many encouraging examples of men who rose up to these seemingly unconquerable challenges, overcoming them with His powerful help. Brethren, let us start with what we have now, progressing as time goes by, with the help of our Heavenly Father.

Let us now commit this undertaking unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. (Ephesians 3:20.)

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Report on the Visit to Limpopo (RSA)

We met at Park Station on Monday, 30 March, 2009. Our train left Johannesburg at 19:00 and arrived at Louis Trichardt at 7:10 the following morning. We took a taxi to Machuzi and went to the home of Bro Charlie Golele who is in isolation but doing a lot of preaching. He is disabled, but he is very keen to preach the truth. We gave him the typewriter sent to him by Sis Leonie Verster for him to translate the 22 Bible Correspondence Course into Shangani, the local language for that area.

We were received warmly as the whole family was expecting us. We had breakfast and afterwards went to a house right in the middle of the village where we met eight people waiting for us. Daniel is known, so he introduced me. I started by giving a brief talk about 'Who are the Christadelphians?' They had asked to know more about the kingdom of God, the resurrection of the dead, and satan. We started at 10:00 and ended at 13:45. After having lunch together we went back to the house of Bro Charlie, where the three of us broke bread.

We left Machuzi for Louis Trichardt where Daniel proceeded to his rural home, while I went back to Johannesburg. We would like to thank CBMSA for helping us with this visit.

Bre Daniel Makhado and Moses Dhlakama

The Step Between You and the Cure

There is a step between you and the cure, the healing, the blessing and salvation. That step is faith in Christ. Jesus is on one side offering healing, blessing and salvation and you are on the other side in need of healing and blessing.

There is a gap in between which must be filled and the only thing that can fill the gap is faith in the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith then becomes the bridge, the link, between the coming Kingdom and you. You must first of all seek healing, blessing and salvation which boil down to faith. In short, you must offer all you have to live for him.

To take the step: step out and take God at His word.

Bro Atabong Martin (Mayuka, Cameroon)

Would You Like To Be Swindled?

At least three Brethren, one in Nigeria, one in Zambia and one in Zimbabwe have recently been swindled out of money, one even obtained a loan on his house and was tricked into parting with that money and lost the lot – and is now in difficulties repaying the loan.

What seems to be happening is that someone gets your name and address and the information that you are religious. The person, whom you have never heard of before, writes you a nice letter and suggests they could help you financially, as they have heard of your good works. If you respond you may get several nice letters and told that in order to release the lot of money they would like to send to you, there are certain charges that have to be cleared and if you send a certain amount of money to them via Weston Union, then they will be able to get the money released and send you lots of cash. Once you have sent them the money to release the supposed fortune, that's the last you hear from them and have lost your money. It is ridiculous to think that someone you have never heard of before is going to send you a fortune, so do not fall for such tricks. The Russians have a saying, 'The only free cheese is in a rat's trap'. So don't be tempted to get into the trap – the cheese is an illusion and trying to get it you will lose all.

Marcus Heaster