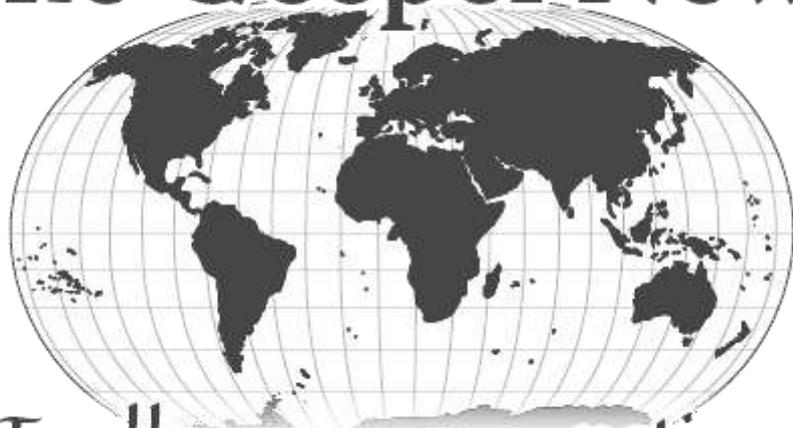


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



EDITORIAL: Walking With God

God has structured human life so that we each experience loneliness, at least in life “under the sun”. No matter how deep your relationship with your parents, in the usual course of events the time comes when they must die, and you must live on - knowing that nobody can empathize exactly with your memories of childhood, the smell of your early home, the colour of the kitchen door... And no matter how intimate your relationship with your partner, he or she wasn't in your life until you met them and cleaved unto them in marriage. No matter how close your relationship with your children, they also only personally knew part of your life. If you were to find a wonderful friend, a companion on life's road, and spent hours of conversation with them over endless late night coffees, you'd still be frustrated that you could never exactly share with them all the memories, the scenes, the situations, that resulted in the personality you are. Many of those things you've forgotten, or misremember; the passage of time changes perceptions of reality in any case. And were you to spend weeks explaining your recollections to somebody, they still could never hug you and say with legitimacy: “Yes, I know exactly”. Nobody has personally travelled with you over all the roads you've taken to what can appear to be, humanly, the unusable last equilibrium of who “you” as a person really are at this moment. This is how human experience is. We are left crying out for someone who was there, to whom we can say, “You were there [then]... you were then [then]... through those years... through that moment... *you* were there”.

The simple truth is, that there *is* such a Companion, “my comrade all the journey through” as a hymn expresses it. Life in Christ is about a personal relationship with Him as Friend, Master, Companion, Brother; and likewise with the Father. This is a reality of colossal import. Learning Bible teaching, baptism, preaching, good moral family life, working in the ecclesia... all this can be performed for decades without knowing Him as this daily, hourly, minute-by-minute Witness, Comforter and Friend. Wisdom surely consists of turning that knowledge into a felt reality.

“I will be...”

An oft overlooked component of the promises to Abraham which are the core of the Gospel is that “I will be your God”. Land and eternal life in the future, blessings... these are indeed wonderful. But the King of the Cosmos is *my* God. Oh how rich the promise. So often we read that God *is* the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I take this to mean that He was there for them, through every moment, He was their God, He alone is without beginning and has immortality in Himself. This continuity in God over history is therefore an encouragement to us that He likewise is the continuous One in our lives too.

Israel in captivity felt God had forgotten them; and so they are comforted that they are individuals “which have been borne by me from the belly, which have been carried from the womb: and even to old age I am he, and even to grey hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; yea, I will carry, and will deliver” (Is. 46:3,4). Note how God, who is presented as male, likens Himself to a woman here. As He carried us in the womb, so He will carry us when we are old and grey haired. True to human parenting experience, the baby is always the father's little baby, even in grey hairs. And this wonderful comfort is so simply because “I am he”. This is an evident reference to God's Name, YHWH. The mystery of the Name is partly because the declaration of it in Ex. 3:6 implies grammatically that He is, was, and shall be. This was intended to be a great comfort to Israel in Egypt, who again had felt that God was somehow distant, looking the other way, leaving them in their aloneness. The same Name, the promise of God's abiding presence and purpose with us, provides comfort to every one of His people.

Case Studies

So many of God's children have come to exemplify the truth of what we've written above.

Job in his depths came to know God as his "witness in heaven" (Job 16:19); in his former life, "when the eye saw me, it gave witness [s.w.] to me" (Job 29:11). But Job was brought to learn that the only ultimate witness in life is God, and it is His testimony and not man's which is meaningful.

David frequently expresses his aloneness, and the comfort He therefore finds in God. But this had to grow over time. His earlier Psalms reflect his fear of loneliness: "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth... when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not" (Ps. 71:9,18). Is. 46:4 seems almost to be in answer to David's fear: "even to old age I am he, and even to grey hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; yea, I will carry, and will deliver". He evidently loved his parents and expected their passing when he wrote: "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up" (Ps. 27:10). But David wasn't begging God to not forsake him; he was now confident that God wouldn't. Ps. 56:8 demonstrates the intensity David arrived at: "You number all my wanderings; put *my* tears into *your* bottle; are they not in your book?" Tear bottles were kept by mourners at funerals; they put their tears in a bottle which they then kept in memory of the deceased. But David says that *his* tears are in *God's* bottle. The idea was that *your* tears went into *your* bottle. But David was so intimate with God that he perceived that *his* tears were in fact *God's*; and vice versa.

God With Us

And so the awesome truth dawns: that man is not alone. For God is with us. Pushing relentlessly deeper- How, in what sense, is God with us? The answer is: 'Emmanuel'. God is with us through the Lord Jesus. But again- what does that mean? Putting meaning into words, we could say that God is "with us" in that the Lord Jesus so suffered, so shared in our humanity, that there is no human being who can legitimately say "Nobody knows how I feel". Maybe there isn't anybody on this earth. But there is One who is now in Heaven, who does know. This is one window onto the old question of 'Why the cross? Why did He have to suffer so much, and so publicly?'. For our redemption could have been achieved any way God chose; His Son didn't *have* to die. To say that He had to die to fulfil the Old Testament types only pushes the questions a stage further back- but *why*, anyway? Why not to give a profound speech and then drink hemlock surrounded by His friends and followers, the classic parting? Why the awful intensity and utter abandon of the cross?

Whilst the answer is multi-factorial, it would be true to say that *one* of the reasons was so that none of us could *ever* legitimately think: "Nobody understands what I am going through". I have met radical feminists who tell me they need a female Jesus, one like them; and radical black theologians for whom Jesus *had to be* black; and to an extent, I can see what they mean. They want Jesus to be like them. Just as I want Him to be like me. A study of Jesus in art teaches us the same. Italian painters have Him with Italian features; the Spanish masters present Him in Iberian-style villas; the Scandinavians as a blue-eyed blonde; the Africans as a negro. And yet the wonder of it all is that Christ is indeed "for every man"; the unique structure of His life and personal experiences was such that He can legitimately know the feelings of the black man, the white woman, the disabled, the deaf, the Arab, the Chinese... Nothing can separate our life experience from His understanding and ability to identify. Is. 53:7 speaks of the Lord in His time of dying: "as a sheep before *her* shearers is silent". Yet the Passover Lamb, so evidently typical of

the Lord as He approached death, was to be *male*. Why such an obvious contradiction? Was it not because the prophet foresaw that in the extraordinary breadth of experience the Lord was passing through, He was made able to empathize with both men *and* women?

Meanings For Us

In the final analysis, we will meet Jesus alone. There will, by God's grace, be a moment when we will even see the face of Almighty God - alone. This was the light at the end of Job's tunnel - he would see his redeemer for himself "and not another". Paul possibly expresses the same idea of an unenterable relationship in 1 Cor. 2:15: "He that is spiritual discerneth all things (about God), yet he himself is discerned of no man". Our real spiritual being is a "hidden man" (1 Pet. 3:4). The Spirit describes our final redemption as our "soul" and "spirit" being "saved" ; our innermost being, our essential spiritual personality, who we *really* are in spiritual terms, will as it were be immortalized (1 Pet. 1:9; 1 Cor. 5:5).

Anyone faced with the trauma of forgiveness, of seeking reconciliation with another, will know that an agreed version of events between opposed parties will never be arrived at. Yet we hanker for this, we long for justice in the eyes of men and women, that they might accept our history, our reality, as the true one. Because of this, so often forgiveness and reconciliation remain unachieved. For nobody can exactly sympathize with us. Nor with the opposing party. Vague sympathy there may be, but there can't be true empathy, total fellow feeling with another because we have not been exactly where they were and are. For we are not God; we've not been there with that other person. And nobody else has been with us in that way either. But for those who know the Father and Son as their personal witnesses, who believe that justice is with God and not men, this crying need for an agreed version of events presses less heavily. God knows. Jehovah-Jireh - He has seen, and will therefore provide. Even if there's no justice, the wonder of a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father will keep us going.

Those who lose their "faith" because of fallouts in the ecclesias, personal offence... haven't know the wonder of this personal companionship of the Father and Son. It's so wonderful that really whatever happens on earth, be it betrayal, injustice, sickness, even death itself... nothing shall separate us from the love and relationship of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the response to this can only be praise: "For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth, upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you" (Ps. 71:5,6).

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from cameroon

DOUALA

I arrived back here in Douala but I have so very many problems on every side. Please do not forget me and please pray for me.

Bro. Walter

KOMPINA

We have some French brothers and we need the following books: 'Heraut du royaume,' Bibles for the new contacts, one Bible Dictionary and one Concordance for the Ecclesia's use. Our postage system here is very difficult: any time you want to send us *Gospel News*, please send us some envelopes.

About the Sisters' Class in Southern Cameroon; recently we were at the Douala Ecclesia and studied Rahab the prostitute, who hid the two spies, which resulted in them making a covenant not to destroy her family. Three months later, Jochebed, the mother of Moses was the topic at the Bula-Tole Ecclesia. When Moses was born he was hidden for three months, and after that the boy was put into a small ark and placed in the Nile and Pharaoh's daughter made him her son. (Exodus 2:10)

I thank God who gave our brothers and sisters the sense of oneness to support the classes. May God, who knows the thoughts of men, keep providing and comfort your hearts till we rejoice together in the kingdom.

Sis. Patrisia Elumba



Sis. Patrisia Elumba

WEH

Our Lord is taking control of all our problems, for it is only on Him we rely, no-one else. As for Brother Peter, he is now in good health as we continue to struggle together to see that the Ecclesia moves on as God is in control of everything.

We are very happy to announce another three Brethren who were baptised here – Brethren Mue Dicksonchon, Douala Kpwe and Kpwe Samson Chou. We thank God for these newly baptised 'babies' in the Name of His Son and pray that God will guide them in their new life in the Lord, as they join us to carry on his work in the Ecclesia. We patiently wait the return of Jesus Christ here on earth, as he will wipe away all tears from our eyes because of the suffering and hardship of this world's life.

Brother, it is good to hear from you that you now have your first grandchild, and we pray that God will continue to take good care of this child, and that she will one day become a follower of the Lord. Brother, kindly give Cindy and Duncan my congratulations and tell them to continue to copy the example of our father Abraham and Sarah by always being patient in any situation that comes their way, being one in the Lord Jesus Christ. I am sure this is just what has been happening, as they rejoice in their new Ecclesial Hall. Thanks to the group from England for their wonderful help. May you continue to preach the message of God in your country, as we do our best here.

Could you please send me some leaflets to give to passersby, as the few you sent me are finished. I will be very happy if you could send me some.

Brother, I was in CBM Mbengwi on last year to help two new students for recruitment this year, and so spent three days with the Brothers and Sisters there.

Thank you for all your help.

Bro. Kum Donatus Cheghe

Thankfully, I acknowledge your letter of condolence for my accident. May the grace of the Almighty be with the brothers worldwide. I don't know how to express my thanks and praise to you, but may God bless you all.

Bro. Peter Kum

news from congo

On this occasion of another year, 2010, I take this opportunity to convey to all of you our best wishes. Our prayer is it may be for you and your family the year of joy, prosperity and blessings in Jesus Christ, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

We love all of you. You are so precious to us.

Brother Kim's Mukambilwa

news from kenya

AHERO

Kenya is experiencing much famine and the government has announced a famine disaster. There is a lack of food and water and we need seeds badly, thus we need much help from anywhere, be it water or something to eat. I fell sick and I could not cope and am still weak and reading in my bed. The weather change, decline in crop output and decline in moral standards in the world are all signs of the last days when the Bible tells us that Christ, as our Saviour will come.

Bro Nelson Anyals

BUNGOMA

Receive my warm greetings in the Lion of Judah. We were displaced and only recently have I been able to resume my education and return back here. My spiritual life has benefited from what you have done for me; please continue to guide me. We have remained watchful for our Master and we fully understand that our endeavours will be revitalised by Him.

Bro. Wycliffe Wasike

I greet you in the Lord. Thank you for your letter, which I got recently. You said that you intend to delete me from the list of those who receive *Gospel News*. Perhaps as you have not heard from me for some time you may think that I don't like the magazine. I like it very much and it is through me that you get many readers from this end. I therefore still need *Gospel News* to enable me to preach the Word of God to others.

Bro. Clement Fwamba

My family and I are enjoying life happily in our King, Jesus Christ. Many, many thanks for the books I have received. I am happy and looking forward to learning more about the Gospel. In our homeland of Kenya life is becoming harder, for example, the cost of 2 kg of maize flour is 100 khs. The government has tried to reduce this price but up to now this has not been possible. I hear that price increases have also occurred in many other countries. In America people voted for change and they know that they have succeeded but I know that things are still becoming harder and this shows that the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is near. As we are expecting Him to come we need to learn more about the Bible so, brother, please help us.

Bro. Maina George Wabwile



Bro. Wabwile with his friend Moses.

Recently we had a Bible School where we learnt some wonderful lessons about the growth of ecclesias composed of brothers and sisters, young and old, who have been called and chosen to serve God. We read in 1 Cor.3:1-4, 16 &17 of the qualities we should be trying to demonstrate in our ecclesias such as the following:-

1. After baptism we should endeavour to grow from being babes in Christ to become a holy temple of God and try to keep it pure in every way.
2. We should have a strategic plan and vision for the ecclesia.
3. Young and old, brothers and sisters should all make a faithful stand in our mission work and preach the gospel to bring people to the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Boniface Juma

In Kenya now, the harvest of food crops is good in my area and we thank God for that. Even though there are great reports of malaria in the country at present, I hope that with Christ's help we can pull through all this; the sooner the better. I do not lose heart in the preaching field and exhort you also not to lose heart. I would particularly request some reference cards and cards on biblical topics and maybe some magazines and pamphlets relating to preaching sessions and conferences on biblical topics to guide us on our way to the coming Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. I now have trouble reading my Bible due to eyesight problems caused by typhoid fever last year so I would be grateful for some reading glasses.

Bro. Martin Situma



Bro. Martin Situma

CHWELE

We were so glad to receive your informative letter and really appreciate the help extended towards our group project, which will help us to build up some stores and also to sustain our project in future. We are praying to God always to give you good health and long life as you keep on helping us spiritually and materially while Christ tarries. His Kingdom shall be for ever and the righteous shall leap with joy when they see Him. We are courageously preaching the good news to many we are meeting every day and we have a good response and hope they will turn from darkness to light and so will receive the crown of life at His coming.

Sisters: - Jackline Wanjala, Doricus Manasseh and Emily Walwanda

DAGO

The Devil and Satan are thorny subjects here in Africa, where the majority of people and even some so-called Christian sects are still not aware of the truth on this subject and believe it to be a very big force competing with God in all aspects. The book you sent me has reached me at the right time to help in correcting people's beliefs on what the Bible actually teaches on this subject. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

KATITO

I am pleased to inform you that I have returned to the rural area, although I am homeless and still reside with a brother. The situation here is tense as there is unemployment, famine and drought of an unprecedented scale. Our weathermen predicted El Nino phenomenon rains all over Kenya but they are not accurate and many areas do not even see a day of rain.

The language of the Bible is often misinterpreted to mean different things and to ultimately alter the root meaning and its usage. However, the Greek word, which was the language of the times, for baptism, is 'baptiso', and plainly means to dip, immerse or sink. It is a symbolic act in itself whereby one is identified with death and resurrection. Under the water the sinful body is 'buried' or crucified with Christ, and 'raised' or resurrected with Christ when the believer comes forth to newness of life as God's child. In this regard truly professed followers should teach and emulate what Christ and his followers taught. Changes of names had their significance in the past, e.g. Abraham (Gen.17:5), Jacob (Gen.35:10) etc. In this context we are very grateful to our Christadelphian pioneers for having studied the original language in which our Bible was copied i.e. Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Bro. Lawrence K. Owiti

KIBERA

I have just come to realize that most of the people who want to join us in the service of the Lord don't do so because they say that our church is too boring. The sermons are okay but there are no musical instruments to accompany our singing. There is a need to praise the Lord with songs accompanied by musical instruments. David, a young shepherd, praised the Lord using his harp. Anyway, this is one of the things we could rectify, in order to keep the church from losing some great people, and at the same time, make a service livelier. Typewriters are not in use currently because computers have been introduced in the world today. We should also change with the present current system of communication and version too. For this, I am requesting our brothers and sisters, wherever they are, if they are in a position to assist us in any way possible,

to get musical instruments in our churches. I, myself, want to do an outreach of the Word of God but don't have a microphone and other items needed in this work.

Bro. Samuel Maruta

Comment: There are a number of ecclesias who would like some musical instruments; if anyone has any surplus instruments, we would be delighted to have them. MH



Bro. Maruta with his three children, Ram, Liz and Tony

MIWANI

A slip of the tongue can be revealing and instructive. We were reading in Matthew ch. 7 for family devotions, when we came to verse 16, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." The person reading accidentally substituted the word "faults" for "fruits". It seemed funny at the time, but as I pondered the misstatement, I began to think that there might be more significance to it than it seemed at first.

Try this experiment: take a list of your ecclesial members and take a moment to think of each one in succession. Notice the first thought that comes to your mind for each one. Is it a fault or a fruit? If we emphasize each other's fruits, it will foster appreciation for the brotherhood, it will make it easier to encourage each other and we will be more likely to follow their good example.

However, if we focus on each other's faults, we will become cynical and eventually we will consider everyone a hypocrite. We will become discouraged as we become more and more disillusioned with the ecclesia. James writes, "confess your faults one to another". While we do have a responsibility to be sensitive about sin in the ecclesia we must not become too critical about each other. All of us will have some faults as long as we are on this side of eternity. Let us know our brothers and sisters by their fruits, not by their faults, because it is more fruitful to be fruit finders than fault finders.

Bro. Peter and Sis Jane Omony

MOMBASA

If God hears prayers, why is it that many times we pray sincerely for help in a matter and do not get it? Paul earnestly besought the Lord thrice that he might be delivered from the thorn in the flesh inflicted upon him, but his prayer was not granted, (2 Cor.12:8). He was informed that the thorn was necessary, (2 Cor 12:9). His action was an example for us – that is why for Christ's sake he delighted in weakness, insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for when he was weak, then he was strong. (2 Cor.12:10).

If therefore, our prayers are not granted, we should conclude that their denial is part of our needed preparation for a place in that glad morning when "sorrow and mourning will flee away" (Rev.21:4). "I reckon", says Paul, "that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us". (2 Cor.4:17).

Brethren and sisters, we must train ourselves to take this view completely; sufferings are needful (Heb.12:7-11). “And we have the word of the prophets made more certain and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts (2 Pet.1:19). This word of prophets states as follows, “The redeemed, without exception, will come out of great tribulations” (Rev.7:14, Acts 14:22). The tribulations will differ in different cases and different times, but tribulations are tribulations and are needful with moral objects in view. They may be “grievous”, as Paul allows, but if because they are grievous, we ask for them to be taken away, and they are not taken away, shall we dare conclude that our prayers are not answered? Not at all.

John gives us the answer to the question at hand – “This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will he hears us” (1 John 5:14). If we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him”, (1 John 5:15) for we could never wish God to give us anything that was not “according to His will”. Even our elder brother Jesus Christ has given us an example on the subject. He prayed earnestly to be spared of his terrible ordeal, “yet not what I will, but what you will” (Mark 14:36). Sufferings and prayers are to be answered by God. In this case they are part of the prayers of preparation, the necessity for which on that day we will see clearly. (2 Cor.13:12).

Bro Walter Wanyama Wasike

NAIROBI

It has been a long time since I last communicated. I have many Bible questions, I will try to pass them to the next visiting brothers we have.

Bro. Zachary Oluoch

NAROMORU

I have enjoyed the office work that I have been doing on a temporary basis since leaving school. I am looking for suitable employment, which uses my secretarial skills and gives me the opportunity of developing them as in bookkeeping or sales promotion.

Sis Angelo Chege

NDHIWA

We met with the Kenya Committee and did the elections for the South Nyanza region and now we have a new committee. I was elected as welfare sister. This year has been the toughest year I have ever seen single-handedly. I am glad I received some colouring books from Bro. Walker, as I have 100 pupils who therefore need a lot of materials.

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. Having someone who understands is a great blessing for us. Each one of us is God’s special work of art; He works with whoever fears Him. Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not. In time we can accept a great loss if we have somebody to bring us through it. God sends friends and companions to love and support us. Thus I believe that one day, with the struggle with the Acocks Green children, God will answer my prayers and the children will rejoice in Him.

*For the joyful birds prolong the strain,
Their song with every Spring renewed*

*And the air we breathe and falling rain,
Each softly whispers God is good.*

When faith is strong, troubles become trifles. There can be comfort in sorrow because in the midst of mourning, God gives a song, so I believe that God will give a song and joy.

Taken separately, the experiences of life can work harm and not good. Taken together, they make a pattern of blessing and strength, the like of which the world does not know. So I call on you, O God, for you will answer me, keep me in the shadow of your wings.

Finally love-

*Where there is love the heart is light,
Where there is love the day is bright
And where there is love there is a rejoicing song
To help where the things are going wrong.*

Sis. Emmy Aseyo

We thank you for the books you have continued to send through Sis. Millicent and we do need some copies of the Kiswahili *Bible Basics*. We are always pleased to receive one ecclesial copy of *Gospel News* and wish to request an extra copy. Please send us leaflets, newsletters and books that will strengthen the brothers and sisters of Ndisi Ecclesia.

Bro. Ukiru Jacktone

SINDO

I have enjoyed your service since 1999 and I do appreciate and pray for the *Gospel News* magazine to continue doing the work of God's message until the coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to establish the Kingdom and award us eternal life. The Bible promises us eternal life so we must therefore continue to live with Christ till we die in Him. We must follow the patriarchs of faith in Hebrews ch.11. They died in the Truth so that we, the Gentiles, can be glorified together, Heb.11:13,39,40, Romans 2:7. Mark 16:15,16, Titus 1:2, John 20:31. Unless we acknowledge the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, there is no eternal life, salvation or immortality, John 17:3.

I will talk about example as the best teacher. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the head of Christianity and he won victory over sin and death. He is the author of our salvation, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He is our mediator and advocate. Rev.1:18. He died and was raised to life, given immortality and power over the earth and heaven. We were baptized into His Name with a hope of being like him when he comes to rule and reign on earth.

The book "The Real Christ" teaches us to test whether we follow the right Gospel or we worship God or Baal. When you are baptised in the water you come out of false or fake Jesus and come to the real Jesus, the Truth – John 14:6. Acts 10:38. "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." V.42, "And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be Judge of the living and the dead." We must follow the real Jesus who put away sin by the sacrifice of himself – I believe in the Real Jesus who destroyed the works of the devil, human nature. He fulfilled and made the impossible possible by doing the will of the Father. Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith.

Bro. John Owalo Onani

SUNA MIGORI

I am taking this opportunity to thank you so much for the magazines I received indicating the signs of the times and also the cards, which are of much importance to me. I wanted to know from you if I can answer the questions and send to the address shown, or to you, or if I just read them for my biblical strength?

Bro. Samuel Masara

Oh! Brothers and sister, be aware of sin, because if we look back at the Israelites' lives we see that the Lord had a reason for letting enemies stay in Canaan. The Israelites needed to learn how to fight in war, just as their ancestors had done. Each new generation would have to learn by fighting the Philistines and their fine rulers, as well as the Canaanites, the Sidonians and the Hivites, who lived in Lebanon. As in the present world God has left bad people to tempt us, because although God has the power to destroy bad people, they are left so that we may know that the first followers of God were trained to overcome temptation. So my brother, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested.

Bro. Nicholas Odhiambo



Bro. Nicholas Odhiambo

I am doing fine preaching the gospel to the needy. I have moved to a nearby hospital, where the work is a bit much but I am settling down slowly. Thank you for your supportive prayer together with my brethren who had heard what had happened to me during the past violence in Kenya. Finally, I was very happy to read my article in *Gospel News* together with those from other brethren all over the world. Pray for me to gain more strength to overcome the devilish waves of this perishing world.

Bro. Benjamin M. Mwatu

TONGAREN

I always thank God for what He does in our lives. It is good that Tongaren ecclesia is now a lightstand for God's truths and I pray that God may continue to guide us in his truths so that we may attain that coming Kingdom. My letter is only to notify you that Box 259 now no longer exists so all letters etc. should be addressed to me at Box 83 Tongaren.

Bro. Isaac Kapa

TURBO

I am very thankful for all your godly efforts of enriching me with spiritual food and I will be happy to receive more selected books and also some more copies of *Bible Basics* and some *Bibles* both in English and Swahili. We have had the opportunity to learn about the following subjects with Brothers Peter, Trevor and David at the Kanukuywa Ecclesia- The Signs in

John's Gospel, Who are the Christadelphians? and The Unity of the Brethren. These teachings changed my mind and the whole of our Ecclesia. Therefore, our brothers and sisters at Turbo Ecclesia hereby urge the brothers who taught these subjects to send us copies of the whole lectures, notably on "The Signs of John's Gospel, "Who are the Christadelphians?" and "The Unity of the Brethren". Also we require, if possible, "Wrested Scriptures", and books on Timothy and Titus, for our ecclesia.

Bro. Emmanuel Milimo

news from libya

I am very happy as one of your students, whenever I find a problem in the Bible. But please, if there is another study available, let me have some to continue my study.

Nelson Agyemang

news from malawi

We're delighted to announce the baptism of Brothers *PAUL, GERALD, DELYSON, BEBI-SABI, STANLEY, INNOCENT, JIMMY* and Sisters *SALOME* and *FLORA*, all currently staying at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp. They are originally from Congo and Burundi. May the Lord be with them all the journey through, to His Kingdom.



Photos: The constant search for firewood and water takes up the lives of many women and children in the refugee camps.

I decided not to attend any church until I could start our Christadelphian group on 31 October 2009. Our Mission is to proclaim the good news about the Kingdom of GOD here on earth. I was once serving as an elder with the Jehovah's Witnesses that is why I enjoy preaching despite the condition of poverty /refugee I am in. I believe God is answering my daily prayers. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity towards the poor in spirit.

Bro. Innocent

CHIWALO

Adam and Eve sinned because they disobeyed God by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and so eventually died. If we believe the Truth, we should strive to obey God's Word and in God's mercy we will be granted a place in His Kingdom. By grace we will rejoice together in the Kingdom – may it be soon.

Bro. J. H. Momola



Bro. Momola

EMBANGWENI

I request that you do not delete my name from the mailing list, as I wish to regularly receive *Gospel News* and the magazines you have been sending me for some considerable time.

I agree with you that due to advancement in technology many people are using the internet and emails. However, in my case, I don't have access to this but am now using our Ecclesial secretary's mobile phone (Bro Morton Mkandawire).

I have enclosed a photo of members of our Ecclesia.

Bro. Cleverson Ngulube



Mbawa Ecclesia

GONDA

Thank you for sending me 'Present Day Events' and other magazines which I feel are essential. They help us to know more about events in these last days and things which are happening in the world, - especially in Israel. Please do not give up sending me these magazines, which increase our spiritual knowledge.

Could you please send me Bible Basics in Chichewa.

Bro. Diverson Folley

As of now I feel better and still keep taking the T.B. tablets until I finish the number of days I was told to use them, and not to work hard: this will be accomplished soon, God willing.

I am very thankful for your note concerning the increasing costs of postage, which is stimulating more people to use the internet. I would like to use this method, but I am unable to do this as I have insufficient money each year. If God will bless me with more money I could do this, and I know that with God everything is possible, according to His will.

Bro. Robert Folley

MITUNDU

I thank you very much for your letter asking me to confirm if I wish to continue being sent the *Gospel News*. In the Lord Jesus Christ, I hereby confirm this. Please continue to send me the *Gospel News* – do not delete my name from the mailing list. Being one of the members of

Badwa Ecclesia, where I gather with other brothers and sisters, we find the *Gospel News* is of great help to us.

We wish you every blessing on your work as we all wait for the appearing of our great Brother Jesus Christ.

Bro. Ralph Jackie

MZIMBA

The photo shows where I preached the Word of God together with my family team.

But here I am facing a lot of challenges: I always go out evangelizing door-to-door, visiting the patients in hospital, those in prison and many people are coming to hear of Jesus through that method. I do go far away from my home. Sometimes I sleep in the field due to lack of transport.

Thank you for sending me a book and *Gospel News*. I want to say how we appreciate the wonderful ministry that has made a difference in many lost hearts.

Here in Malawi we are eager to preach in many ways; open air fellowship, crusades, door-to-door evangelism and home calls, but we don't have enough material such as books and free gospel tracts which could make the ministry go further. So please assist us.

Bro. Alfred Josi Kondowe



Alfred Josi and family

SALIMA

We have been going through the book of Proverbs, amongst other books. It is full of guidance on what we should do to live a practical life on this earth. Emphasis is given on the need to ask for wisdom, Prov.1v.1-5, 4v.1-6, 5v.1-6, 7v.1-5. Also we are advised to avoid indolence, Prov.6v.6-11, 10v.4, 13v.4, 11, 19v.15-16. Solomon says a great deal on the upbringing of a child, of the dangers of being a tale-bearer etc. In short, king Solomon is playing back what he asked God to give him in 2 Chron 1v.8-10. God approved of what he requested and added to him riches, wealth and honour (2 Chron.1v.12). Even a Gentile King like Hiram was convinced that the Lord made heaven and earth, and loved His people (2 Chron.2v.11-12). Maybe it was the wealth that made king Solomon acquire so many wives and concubines, which was an abuse of wealth.

Another abuse of wealth is with us right now. We hear of global economic downturn or melt-down, or credit crunch. It has so many interesting names. Could it be that those in the world didn't ask for the right wisdom first? Or is our wealth causing man to react as in the prophecy in Luke 21 v.25-26?

Bro. Ignatius Maluwa

SUNA

Well I am fine under the Lord's guidance and very much happy to thank you for the book *The Real Christ* I received from you, indeed it is good, we do discuss the topics with my family. Thanks a lot. We realize we are short on the English Bibles, could you please kindly send us two English for adults and two for the Sunday School. God bless thee abundantly. My postal address Bro. SAMWEL MASAWA. P.O. Box 1040. SUNA-40400. KENYA.

TSANGANO

We enjoy Gospel News and it helps us to change our bad habits. By this magazine we feel we are together with you. Because of your letters and other gifts which you sent us, we feel stronger, as we know that any problem we face we can ask other people who will help us, by God's grace. Please forgive me for my poor communication.

Bro. Peter Mbingwani



The Mbingwani Family

ULONGWE



Agines, Jasiteni & Alranfe Chifundo

ZOMBA

I am glad since I have received a new bicycle from my friend who lives in the United States of America. You can see him in the picture standing together with me.

I believe that everything is possible because of your prayers. I also thank God because you have sent me *Gospel News*.



Bro. Nathan and Lameck

I believe, and with faith in God, trust you are feeling fine.

I would like to thank you for the books you sent me: *Bible Basics, a study manual and Revision Studies*. I am happy with your teachings. I declare that from now onwards, I am a member in your ministry. I went to the mission and we discussed my baptism, which is a very crucial thing in my life.

Brother, I would like to ask you if it is possible to send *Bible Basics* in Chichewa language? Here I have four people who want to work hand in hand with me spreading the gospel through our Christadelphian Church, and they do not know how to speak or read English.

I have sent a picture to you of when I was in the city of Zomba. I am on the left of the disabled person, to whom I was giving soap. I just want to tell you about this man – he uses two rods to propel his bicycle.

Bro. Lameck Niwawala



Bro. Lameck Niwawala and Mwabwino

news from mauritius

Health and blessings in the Name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who will return as promised 2,000 years ago, to reign as King, High Priest and rewarder! I hope and pray that you are quite well. I suffered greatly in the past. I had hypo glycaema, the level of sugar was lower than normal. I stayed in hospital for 9 days, was given insulin while various tests were being done. Sometimes I became unconscious and fell down. We do not fear tomorrow, for God is already there.

We are already well into another year. The bygone year was disastrous. Flu, Aids, Cancer or other viruses are present to decimate us. Live in the Lord, die in the Lord! “When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey Him, for the Lord your God is a merciful God; He will not abandon or destroy you.” (Deut 4:30-31).

Bro. Lilkan Ancharaz

news from mozambique

Greetings to you in the hope we, as brethren and sisters, share together. In the time when you live alone and very isolated, there is nothing more precious than to have a visit or letter from a Christadelphian brother or sister. I write this to inform you that all your letters have reached my hands, but truly things are hard for me.

Last year I requested you to send me Portuguese *Bible Basics*, but suddenly you stopped giving other material, as previously in Zimbabwe. This envelope I am sending someone to post via Zimbabwe, not here in Mozambique, where it is very difficult to post paid envelopes. It is a year and nine months now without my having a breaking of bread with my family in Christ, and no communication with my family in Zimbabwe.

In terms of preaching work, Mozambique has not received much attention from the Christadelphian brotherhood for various reasons. The campaign in 1975 which removed the Portuguese colony from power, was followed by war and Civil war between factions that lasted until the end of 1992, and it was really unsafe to go there.

In the days of Jesus' ministry he was asked by his disciples, 'Why speakest thou to them in parables?' The background to Matthew 13 is the second year of Jesus' ministry. There are great numbers of people coming to see and hear him, but without any understanding of what he was about, or any real faith in him. The Pharisees and leaders of the people sought to catch him in his words and in his actions at every opportunity. In this series of parables, Jesus begins his teaching of the Kingdom of heaven. Abundant sowing, scanty growth, as one commentator puts it.

Moses made a request of God, 'Show me thy Glory' (Exodus 33:18). The Lord responded, 'I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the Name.' Hidden in a cleft of a rock, Moses saw and heard the character of God proclaimed: 'Merciful and gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, and will by no means clear the guilty.' Exodus 34:5-7.

Bro. Emmanuel Maugente

news from nigeria

ABA

I am your sister in Christ ELIZABETH C.OJIKE, I am requesting the *Bible Basics* book just to improve in my studies about the Bible. Actually I was baptised on 19th of November 2009.

Sis. Elizabeth

I have received all the correspondence you sent me and I appreciate and also thank God for his maximum protection and knowledge He bestowed on you like Aholiab and Bezaleel, to whom He gave wisdom to work on the tabernacle. I am interested in the books you send me and I still need them, more especially the English *Bible Basics* for the proclamation of the Gospel message.

Bro. Elijah Eze, Jnr.



Aba Ecclesia

ENUGU

Thank you for the booklet you sent, it helped me to understand more precisely the issue of miracles these days. In Nigeria, if a church is not performing miracles and healing people, or even distributing anointing, as they call it, nobody will worship there. What people like these last days is where their problems will be completely solved. I thank God for the understanding we have concerning God and His Word in the Bible.

I am negotiating seriously with a local radio station to start our preaching. Very soon it will take off. I personally need your prayers for me to activate this because our people listen to and enjoy

radio programmes more than television. When it takes off, I will inform you. I will need preaching materials from you.

I need an explanation of Daniel 10 v.12-13. I brought out the question at our last fraternal gathering held at Enugu, but the answer wasn't satisfactory. So help! I also need information about the first and second resurrection.

My first son, a medical student at University, was immersed last month: the second son at University equally is studying hard for immersion. Please pray for them – their names are Obinna and Chinwendu Iweha.

Bro. Emmanuel Iweha

IJU-ODO

We received your letter, but it was almost two months before we did so. But it is not bad, whether late or not. Iju-Odo brothers and sisters say Hello to you, and to the brethren.

About the friend you mentioned to us here, we are quite close and near to that friend, although I don't know him. I wrote to him with our address and phone number, but we have received nothing from him since, either by phone or letter. But everything is in God's hand.

Bro. Joseph Kummi

ISIALA

I am your younger beloved brother Chika. We have about 23 members at Isiala, including five brethren, but I am the only presiding brother in our Ecclesia.

We have no books that will help us to teach our friends in our outreach gospel work, and should be glad if you could send us some material.

Bro. Onyeri Chika

OMAFIA

It is such a pity that we have to face all that we are passing through in this life, but we know that 'when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.' (1John 3:2). 'And God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, pain and sickness will be no more.'

I so much thank God for hearing our prayers and thank Him again and again for your recovery.

Thank you so much for the books you sent, and there is still a need for more.

Bro. Uka Egwu

news from sao tome and principe

Here my dream is to open a PO Box and interest the local people here in studying the Bible through the correspondence course. I am in contact with some brothers in Cameroon still.

Bro. Victor Offiong

news from sierra leone

Greetings and regards from the Christadelphian Bible Mission, Wanjama. As our first year of communicating with you, please kindly help us with some Biblical materials for the Ecclesia's use, like:

- Bible Concordance
- Bible Basics
- Gospel magazines and journals – for Sunday School use
- My Book of Bible Stories, etc.

Please, the above listed materials are greatly needed in this ecclesia. As you know, the coming of Christ Jesus is getting closer and everybody was charged with this responsibility of learning more about the Truth and preaching (Mark 16:15).

Bro. Lanson Foday

Comment: Whilst we send out as much literature as we can, the CBM also sends out secondhand Christadelphian books via Bro. Malcolm Cross, Grange Farm, East Cottingworth, York, YO42 4TB, U.K. Sunday School material is available from Christadelphian Sunday School Union, 1400 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9LG, U.K. & Christadelphian Sunday School Association, P.O. Box 261, Enfield Plaza, SA 5085, Australia.

news from south africa



Bro Roger & Sis Pauline Lewis, visit to South Africa from New Zealand. STANDING: Bro Leon & Sis Joan Shuker,, Bro Moiloa Matshane, Bro Martin Munyangai, Bro John Shez,), Bro Sandy Smith, Bro Roger & Sis Pauline Lewis (NZ), Sis Leonie & Bro Paul Verster, Bro Emmanuel Mpambo, Sis Berdene Sinclair, Bro Pradeep Kana, Bro Jacob Lewis (NZ). KNEELING: Bro Zechariah Mulozhedzi, Yvonne Muller, Bro Travis Sinclai.

news from tanzania

LUGUFU

Things were so bad at the Lugufu refugees camp, as we were not permitted to go out of the camp as usual. Finally it was closed in September 2009 and we were all transported and relocated to the Nyarugusu camp. I shall post you some material for printing in *Gospel News*.
Bro. Isidore Mwibeleca.

TANZANIA PREACHING CAMPAIGN

A few brothers and sisters from Kenya joined up with some from Tanzania on a house-to-house preaching witness.



Contacts in Tanzania: left Bro. Michael Juma, holding the CBM manual.



Top left: Bros. John and Michael of Tanzania – seated left Bro. S. Masarra.



Bro. Michael Juma, Johana and others of Kitembe sharing their copies of Bible Basics.

SINZA

A happy family in Sinza:



Sister Anna with her four-year old, Marilyn, and right, Winnie aged 14.



Nancy standing with Marilyn seated

news from uganda

BUSIA

I would like to mention two issues: you told me that if I am connected to the internet I will find much interesting information which can be read and downloaded from Carelinks Ministries Website, www.carelinks.net: Secondly, alas I do not have a computer and the internet café and printing is very expensive.

I qualified as a secondary school teacher with a diploma in education, but up to now I am not employed. It is seven years since I qualified. The problem in Uganda is that people with diplomas are not considered in the job market. That is why I wanted to go for a degree course at the University. I am leading a miserable life because of this.

Bro. Ojara Dennis.

Comment: We gather in Uganda many with apparently good qualifications are unable to get a job as most jobs seem to go to the relations of top people irrespective of qualifications. This makes me wonder if it is always worth the sacrifice and struggle of going to University. MH

DOKOLO

We are very grateful for the hard work you are doing in spreading God's word all over the world. We have dozens of students in our area preparing for baptism and we need more literature to help in their instruction and so I am asking you for lots of *Bible Basics* to help meet this demand, so that they may obtain salvation – any help would be really appreciated.

Bro Paskweli Odur.

KAMPALA

I hope that everything is well with you. We are still OK, only praying for the quick return of our Master, Lord Jesus, to restore peace in the world, which is full of problems brought about by human governments.

I requested you to send us three books, one for me and others for the members of the ecclesia. I therefore wish to thank you for the books which we have received. In the near future if needs be, I may request some preaching materials.

I really want to thank God for the tremendous work you are doing in spreading His word.

Bro. Stephen Ogenga

KABERAMAIDO

Thank you again for your word of encouragement to us. As a parent to his children whom he loves very much, I have understood that it is good to have an email address and it is the quickest way of communication, rather than the post office. So I enclose for you my email address – please make it known worldwide. Email: opbosco@yahoo.com

Please pray for us – we have started a group in our Ecclesia with a few members (10 people) to preach the gospel. We use the book, ‘Where there is no doctor.’ It is helping us very much to reach our community through preaching: we teach the gospel, the Word of God, to give spiritual guidance and also help with the physical needs of the people. In addition to that, could you please help us to get more teaching material?

Bro. Opio Bosco

KIGANDALO

We live in a world of staggering religious diversity. One recent survey identified 19 major faiths and some 1,000 smaller religions worldwide. This variety offers people unprecedented religious choices, so it matters which religion you choose. Some people say that different religions are like different roads leading up to a mountain – to them it does not matter which road they choose, since all lead to the same place. They reason that there is only one God so this means that all religions ultimately lead to him.

But do all roads lead to God? Jesus Christ said to his disciples, “Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt.7:13-14). Was Jesus really saying that some religions lead to destruction? Or was he teaching that only unbelievers are on the broad road, while those who believe in God are on the narrow, ‘difficult’ road that leads to life?

Immediately after Jesus had said that there are only two roads, he said to them, “Be careful of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but really they are dangerous like wolves” (Matt.7:15). Later he said, “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Matt.7:21).

If someone is called a prophet or claims that Jesus is Lord, it is reasonable to think that he is a religious person, not an unbeliever. Clearly then Jesus was warning that not all religions are good, and not all religious teachers should be trusted. So it’s the right time, brothers and sisters, to look carefully at the religions which are growing up every day. But note their actions, their beliefs and their examples. God bless you all.

Submitted by Bro. Samuel Onyango



Bro. Samuel Onyango

MBALE

Accept the greetings of all members from the Ecclesia who have found *Bible Basics* of great value. They are really pleased with the truth they have learnt from that book. It has really surprised those who thought they were Christians and from such I get very many requests from friends who need the book.

I am happy to inform you that the literature you have been sending has done a lot of good to God's people. The used literature sent to me has really helped many and there is still a need, if God will kindly help you with this.

I was pleased to receive the parcel of *Bible Basics*, and I am happy when I read the book entitled 'The Real Christ,' which I am still studying.

Bro. Boniface Buyeyi Masakala

Mbale Photo Captions:



Bro. Teeka from Kenya speaking at Butitu



Baptism of Bro. Dismas in Lutagso Stream



Sisters attending the blessing service for the new baby of Sis. Robin Nandutu.



Brethren Boniface Masakala, Francis Makosia and Paul Boyd at a workshop.

NSAMBIA

Jesus said, "I am the door; if anyone enters by me he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9). 'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no-one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). "Therefore I said to you, that you will die in your sins, for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). I am very happy because I am going to Jinja for our youth camp.

'And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him' (Heb.5:9). 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by this grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus' (Romans 3:23-24). 'Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them' (Heb.7:25). 'Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved' (Acts 4:12). 'For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Thess.5:9). 'But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption' (1 Cor.1:30).

'(Jesus) gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself his own special people, zealous for good works' (Titus 2:14). 'We give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the son of His love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins' (Col.1:12-14). 'For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost' (Luke 19:10).

'We must walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma' (Eph.5:2). 'And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation"' (Rev.5:9).

Bro. Mangeni Rogers



Bro. Mangeni Rogers

news from zambia

CHAMBISHI

I would like to let you know that Innocent Kalyoka Ng'ambi was baptized by Bro.Denis of Ndola recently. We pray, God willing we will work together and form ecclessia in Chambishi soon

Bro Christopher Mwewa

I have received 28 copies of the *Bible Basics* books and thank you very much for your evangelism and your words of hope; please may it continue. My prayer is to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that He will control all things according to his purpose. My wife Ann greets you and wishes you the best of health. Please give my regards to all who are called to the coming Kingdom of our Lord Jesus.

Bro. Kalyoka Ng'ambi

CHINGOLA

My living has become worse since I last wrote. The fact is, that since I was evicted from the house that I was renting I have not yet found another house for renting because of lack of money. My family is not with me at all as my wife and children have gone to her parents and I am with my young brother in the flesh.

Bro. Pinoty Chimbele

CHINSALI

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed in he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Rev. 1:1-3. The book of Revelation is a prophecy written by Jesus. As such it follows on from the previous prophecy given by Jesus, the Mount Olivet prophecy. In Matt. 24 and Luke 21, these chapters deal with the fall of Israel in AD 70 and the times of the Gentiles. Revelation deals with the times of the Gentiles until the return of the Lord Jesus. Note that by “the times of the Gentiles” we mean the period during which the land of Israel is occupied by the Gentiles. This is still continuous today.

Bro. Edwin Mfula



From right to left – Bro. Charles Kayula, Chinkumba Ecclesia, Bro. Edwin Mfula, Mandona Ecclesia, left, holding a sheep, a shepherd, at Fringilla Bible School, 30th July – 3rd August 2004.

CHIPATA

We are all waiting patiently for peace to come on this evil, violent world, even come now Lord! I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you very much for the letter that you sent which contains good news and encouraging words. My wife Diana and I are still enjoying your magazines, which others are borrowing; please continue sending them to me, together with any other spare books and pamphlets, like “The Fruit of the Spirit”. As you know, I had plenty of books but when Chinsali ecclesia started, I left most of them and shifted to Kapiri Mposhi and then again when I came to Chipata.

Just to think about some of the Scriptures, we have to study them carefully otherwise we will go astray. Let us try to build, not to destroy. Our Bible teaches us to ENCOURAGE one another, 1Thess.5:18. In v.14 it says in my version, “Now I exhort you brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.” In v.15 we read, “See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. We are all on a journey, like the Israelites, and we have to check in our heart if we are

reacting to circumstances as they did. If anyone is, is it our duty to push him or to pick him up and encourage him? Hebrews 10:19-25 will tell us what to do because THE DAY IS APPROACHING.

Diana, my wife, and I, together with my children, Caroline, Beatrice, Junior and Phillimon, late Nelson's last born, have joined me to send spiritual greetings through the Lord's love.

Bro. Alfred Bwalya

FRINGILLA

Greetings in the hope of Israel we share. I have received the book about a sustainable organic farming course and a dictionary. I would like to have a book on vegetables and rabbits because as you know our economy is biting if you have no employment so if I find some funds I may start a project. These days I am not in good health as I am suffering with asthma.

The period in which we are living is in the last days, read 2 Tim.3:1-5. As real Christians we have already started seeing the signs, hence we need to avoid or challenge these times as we see things happening exactly as it is written. However, as Christians it is our humble duty to preach the Word of God everywhere and serve the spiritually dying people. Let us spiritually uplift our neighbours, friends, schoolmates and everyone. If we do what God expects us to do then we will have fought a good fight. Let us fear the one who kills the soul rather than the one who only kills the body. Lastly, I would like to announce to brothers and sisters and especially those who are interested to know my phone number, which is 0978 288 188 and my PO Box No. 63, Fringilla, Zambia. The code number for Zambia is +026.

Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa

GARNETON

I am sending warm greetings in the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Please do not delete me from the *Gospel News* mailing list as I am so interested in it and I want you to continue sending the magazine every time. The magazine means a lot, not only to me but also to my family members, especially my wife, who is a Bible student and I am her tutor. She is happy when she reads the news from brothers and sisters around the world and how Christadelphians are carrying the word of God around the globe. This all encourages her and she is asking for baptism and, God willing, one of the C.B.M. representatives will come and interview her.

Finally, the New King James version Bible I was using has been stolen so I would be grateful if you could send me another Bible, as I do not now have one.

Bro Emmanuel Mubanga

KABOMPO

Warmest greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is love in Christ to allow me to translate the book "*Introducing Bible Basics*" from the English language into the Luchazi language. Such love in the Lord has overwhelmed me and it is like medicine and oil poured on me, the least of the least in our brotherhood, for I did not expect you would even consider me to undertake this noble task. Yes I know I can, for there is nothing impossible with God. His mighty hand will guide me. Pray for me my beloved brother for I hope, God willing, to complete translating the book in three months time and then send the translated materials to you for printing as we are doing the Birmingham statement of faith.

The Sunday School is going on well but I have not yet received Sunday School materials from the CBM. U.K. In this respect I need especially Sunday School books with pictures to tell Bible stories to help them to understand, since I teach them in Luchazi. When sending these they should use my address, not any other, for it appears that some materials meant for Malolwa Bible students have been diverted elsewhere, so they may have been used at someone else's address.

Many thanks for your love in Jesus Christ even to the people at Malolwa. There is no government school yet at Malolwa but a community school, run by the community, from grade 1 to grade 4 and I am one of the people who organized assistance from the government in the form of education materials. This is therefore an opportunity for me as it is the same pupils that I teach the Scriptures to on Saturday and Sunday. They are aged from 6 to 10 years and are doing well in understanding the Scriptures. Pray for me that this work is blessed.

Soon, when the Lord returns from heaven and sets up his Kingdom, we shall no longer suffer diseases; even the mortal population we rule will enjoy its health benefits – no hospitals, no war, no famine, but abundant good health, abundant food, etc. I have put the Latvian project names on my prayer list to enable me to pray for them on a daily basis. May the Lord bless them all.

It is sad that there is growing in the United Kingdom a strong anti-Christian flavour in many of the political decisions made in the country which are really part of the time of trouble spoken of by the prophets and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is in fact true because even the number of people attending churches is dropping in contrast to those attending football matches and musical dances here in our country. This is a time like the days of Noah and Sodom. The Lord said that many are called but few are chosen. Happy are we, brother, because our names are written in the Book of Life in heaven.

On the issue of setting up a stall, I am pleased to inform you that I have set up a stall at Malolwa at the farm for essential commodities, such as soap, detergents, salt, sugar and mealie meal as well as cooking oil. I have obtained a stall licence from the local council and it would be a good idea if you could post more materials for free distribution so that as the boy sells items, he also gives at least a leaflet to each customer or selected customers who are able to read or write English. I have been doing this already but am faced with the problem of photocopying. God willing, it is my desire and prayer that the Lord will provide me with a photocopier machine and also a computer and printer so that I may even be connected to the internet. Pray for me that God our Father gives me strength to work hard and diligently to save money to buy these machines fit for the last age we are in. Nothing is impossible with God.

Bro. Reuben Musole Kaambeu

KABWE

I received the parcel on 26th October 2009 and it was nice also to find that my photo appeared in the *Gospel News* and also to have the book "*The Real Christ*". Continue sending me more books to read if it is possible for you to do so.

Bro. Greenwell Kunda

KAFUE

I would like to inform you that I do not have internet or e-mail therefore you need to use my postal address. For sure, I would like to receive regular “Signs of the Times” and doctrinal information and “The Teaching of Jehovah’s Witnesses” and to assist, where you can, with preaching material.

Bro. Josiah Siame

KALOMO

Thank you for your continued effort in spreading the good news through *Gospel News* and other Bible literature. We are benefiting from your tireless efforts and may Our Omniscient God continue to bless the work.

Bro. Alfred Mututwa

KAMUCHANGA

Let us see what is happening around the continent. It is really terrible to see what is happening in the world and it is telling us that the hand of God is at work and everyone should accept this. To prove this we should accept what Paul wrote in 2 Tim.3:1-4, where he mentions some very important issues, the daily activities of mankind. He says, “Understand this, that in the last days there will be times of difficulty, for people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, slanderers, without self control, brutal, not loving God, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God”. This is what is happening; all prophecies are being fulfilled. Jesus said, “Truly, I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass away till all these things be fulfilled.” Matt.24:34.

In 2 Tim.3:4, says “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”. If we look and see what is happening today around the world we see this is the case. I give an example in my own country; it is very sad to see at a shopping complex or centre there are many bars or taverns, you cannot walk past 3 or 4 shops without finding a bar or some sort of pleasure house. You find these places fully occupied with different kinds of people, men, women and young ones. Many people have chosen to go to these places rather than to a church. Again we see around the world, from the T.V. how people go to watch football, spending their time and money there, being lovers or pleasures rather than lovers of God.

In Matt.24:36-39 we read of Jesus saying to his disciples, “But concerning that day and hour, no man knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the son, but the Father only.” Warning them again he said, “As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Surely many people will be caught unaware because they feel free and give much of their time to pleasure which God does not want. Surely the time of Noah is almost the same with us today. What can we do now? We should run away, the Day of the Lord is at hand, because we are seeing many things happening to human life that have been foretold. Jesus says in Matt.24:42, “Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord is coming.”

In Gen.7:11, we read, “In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.” All living creatures, including man, were swept away,

except Noah's family (because they did not love the pleasures as those did). Even today many shall be caught up with pleasures, unaware that Christ's coming is at hand. Therefore we are warned by Christ Jesus finally in Matt.24:45-51, "Who then is a faithful servant and wise, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, my master is delayed and begins to beat his fellow servant and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come in an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Bro. Katongo Davies Mulenga

KAPIRIMPOSHI

Warm greetings of peace and love in the Lord. It was great to hear that you have received my letter and all the photos I have sent to you so that you can see how the servants of the Lord are doing as the day of his coming approaches. In the last letter I wrote to you we requested three English Bibles, NIV version. There are some brethren in our exhortation plan who do not have Bibles so it is very difficult for them to prepare some topics without reference chapters.

Bro. Chisosa Ostine



Bro. Chisosa Ostine's house and his wife, Sis. Aginess

KASAMA

Please help me by finding out the syllabus from London City and Guilds for my son Joshua Willie Ilananye, as he is keen on building engineering and would like to do a building engineering course. I send my love and appreciation for your support.

Bro. Joshua Mushili

LIVINGSTONE

Warmest greetings of love and peace in Christ. I am sorry for being silent for a long time due to difficulties I am facing in this present world; however, God is in control and I am back indeed strong in the Lord, the only certain hope in life. I have to express my sincere thanks to you for granting my request and I look forward to receiving some notes on my questions and other spiritual material. I really appreciate all the wonderful things sent to me about the Bible, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The events of today are a sign that this world is not perfect; nearly everyone wants to be rich and be proud of his wealth.

In the past God blessed some of his servants with material wealth, King Solomon being a good example of that, (1 Kings 10:23). Solomon lived in luxury and that sort of life always endangers a person's relationship to God. That is why God warned him to be careful how he lived from then on and wanted him to remember that obedience to His commandments is more important in His sight than all the best and biggest things one can have, (1 Kings 9:3-5). He blesses those who please Him, (Prov.10:22). Jesus taught that narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it, (Matt.7:14). Our task is to grow from the natural ways

of men to spiritual principles (Col.3:16). We must trust in God's promises and we shall be blessed and empowered to gain the good things of this life and rewarded as well as we look forward to Christ's return.

With sadness, but in the hope of the resurrection, we inform you of the falling asleep of Bro. Elijah Zulu. After his baptism he was active in ecclesial work.

Bro. Cephias Sikanyika

I was delighted to receive a letter of thanks from Brother Caphes Sikanyika for the carpentry book that I sent via yourself. He enclosed a photo and I hope that you receive it with this e-mail. I shall reply to him and I hope that we can create a relationship. With love in the Truth, Bro. Roy Soffe.



Bro. Caphes Sikanyika

LUSAKA

Thank you so much for the endless support you have shown me. My prayer is that we can continue to labour together for Our Master and do everything in the interests of our brothers and sisters as they continue to read and write more articles. I am well, despite struggling to find a job which I will call my stepping stone as I try to make a living and I hope that the God I serve will never disappoint me even though I am unstable until now. Please continue to send me books that will help me to stand firm in the Lord. Please include me in your prayers so that I may find a job. I thank CAT for the King James Bible, which has helped me to understand some of my studies.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi

MUFULIRA

Greetings in the same hope we have in Christ. Thank you for your letter and also for the book "The Real Christ", which Bro. Duncan has written and was sent to me. Also thank you for that letter which you sent for me to Bro. Graham Clements and the two coupons.

Bro. Charles M. Daka

NDOLA

Thanks to the Lord for your letter and the parcel and I pray for His good hands to be upon you up to the end of time. In Zambia we are all well but the bad thing is that unknown people entered into my room and got away with my shoes and clothes and my book "Where there is no Doctor".

I thank the CBM Zambia for giving me the opportunity to accompany Bro. Arnold Kunda of Lusaka, Matero Ecclesia to visit Bro. James Kahjinga of Mwinilunga who reported that he had 20 students. To our surprise on arrival at The Boma we did not meet one of those students for three days. It was a disappointing journey as it was fruitless.

I was also given another opportunity to visit brothers and sisters in Kabompo and I accompanied Bro. Denis Kombe of Ndola. It was a fruitful journey but we lost one of our brothers in the Lord, Bro. Charles Muhupu, who has fallen asleep in the Lord. As we read in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." And v.18 says, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen.

Bro. Harris Ndong'a Mulongesha

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

Congratulations to Duncan and his wife Cindy for having a baby girl. I am very pleased to learn that the meeting hall at Latvia, which holds seventy people, was completed. We thank our Heavenly Father for providing guidance and protection.

We are with you all in our prayers, though separated by long distances. Thanks to God for your quick recovery from your hospitalisation. Once again I would like to thank you very much for your invaluable help. I have received the book, 'The Real Christ.' May God bless all your efforts to bring the news to all nations.

Bro. David Banda Yelulani

BINDURA

I thank God for His calling. I received God as my personal Saviour in 1998 at Muriel Mine. God called me to the Truth and I responded – the darkness which was in me was outshone by the light that shone and lifted me high to become a child of God. I have helped many people to shun the darkness, and then suddenly the mine closed and God directed me to Redwing Mine, Penhalonga in Mutare.

This was not a natural transfer but it was a spiritual one between me and my God. Before I accomplished my teaching ministry there was another call at Mazowe mine. At Redwing I stayed for three weeks. Now at Mazowe it's been nine years and God has used me in winning some to the Truth, and has even shown me that I can do more in the teaching ministry. If we stick to God's Word, He will never forsake us.

Now God has called me to Bindura for a purpose; after I went to Ngezi area for greener pastures, when I thought physically that it was ripe, spiritually God diverted me to Bindura where I am set to live, God willing.

I am now meeting regularly with Bro Cliff Madziyo and Brother Joseph Wlucheri for fellowship. May God bless my new home. Remember we were commanded to preach the gospel to all nations. As Mashonaland Central Co-ordinator I have planned to visit all the brothers and sisters in the province, God willing. I know that with God nothing is impossible.

Bro. John Wise



Bro. John Wise & family members at Mazowe.

BULAWAYO

Why at the time of the last Supper, when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, were the women not washed on that day?

A Students question

Comment: There is no mention of Sisters being present at this meal. Jesus said, 'Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you' (John 15v.3). Paul refers to the Word of God as the cleansing agent in our lives, 'That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the Word' (Eph.5v.26; Heb.10v.10-22). All races, male and female, are united to Christ through belief and water baptism (Gal.3v.27-29). So, you have, as it were, already been washed by your acceptance of the Word and baptism (1 Cor.6v.11). MH

CHEGUTU

I would like to thank you very much for the great work all your people are doing in spreading the word. Meanwhile, I have regained my health and I am endeavouring to find employment and work for the upkeep of my family. I pray that God willing I will accomplish this mission

Bro. Richard Phiri

The Gospel has been going on well here, although things are not yet stable at the moment. I have been trying very hard to do my best to spread the Word so that people in our area know who are the Christadelphians.

The message that Paul wrote to the Corinthians was true, (1 Cor 11v.17-34)

and it's happening in our meetings. Also when I look at how some of us take the emblems, it seems to be in a wrong way. We overlook the message and at the end, why do we blame someone? Verse 17, 'In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you.' v.19 'No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.' Yet why take the emblems when there is a dispute among us, be it socially or at our meeting? We are quick to think that the emblems will make us pure, when in our hearts there is hatred. First we must purify our hearts, then we are able to face the Lord's Table.

Verse 27: 'Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord'. This verse makes me tremble when I come to face the table and my mind runs around to see if I have any black spot that will make me unsuitable to take the emblems v.28: 'A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.' It is our duty first to see to it that we are pure, and then take the Supper. But do we do that, or do we carry on because we don't want to be seen not taking the emblems by the brother or sister next to us? Rather, let us remember that God sees us. v.29-

30: 'For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.' The Word says it all, but do we actually want to do what it says? Now let us heed the warning given by Paul, first examine ourselves, repent and pray for forgiveness and then partake in a worthy manner of the emblems of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus.

Bro. Farai Phiri

CHIPINGE

Greetings in the sure hope of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

I am sorry this letter is short, but please see the enclosed photos of our Village Bible Education Centre.



Bible students pause for photography. We normally do our Bible studies under the trees because we don't have a good place to use as a study room.



Left to right: Sis. Evelyn and a Bible student who has been marvelous in her Bible studies, following Bible Basics and is now waiting for her interview.



This is how we show people what we are offering, and our aim is to make our beliefs known throughout the village.



We are building a two-roomed house which, once finished, I will move into from the thatched house, and use the 2nd room as a study, God willing.

The Truth meets with small success here as elsewhere. As brethren of Christ I think we should cease to hide our light under a bushel, so that men might be attracted by the glimmering and be drawn to the blessed light of life. I always ask myself this question, "Can I expect to get into the Kingdom if I do nothing and live like the rest of the world?" Our duty is to let the truth be known and leave the rest to God, who gives the increase.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

As I was preparing to go to Rimbi, I was shocked to hear the sad news, that my grandmother, who was at a fragile age of 104 years had died, so felt I must go to help my father with everything wanted for the funeral. We had a great loss with my grandmother's death.

Bro. Farai Makandeni



Bro. Makandeni, his wife Florance and their daughter.

CHIREZDI

I want to thank the Lord who gave me this chance of sharing the good Word. How are you all, Brothers and Sisters in Christ worldwide? I do hope and pray all are OK and your families, in the mercy of our loving God.

‘The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.’ One day He will fulfil the desire of those who fear Him. He will also hear their cry and save them, that is, if we remain faithful to Him like Abraham, Noah and others in the Bible who remained humble to Him. These were His good, faithful friends who feared Him, so let’s be like them. Read Psalm 18:18-21.

We are naturally sinful, Brothers and Sisters: why do we break God’s law? Breaking the law means we are living in sin. If we can shun sin, then we can keep God’s law and then we will have grace and mercy, so as to live as Jesus Christ did. Jesus was tempted and yet did not sin, and so he kept God’s law: he then received grace and is now living in God’s presence. Why not us? Although we are of sinful nature, let us conquer it by keeping God’s law and praying for strength to do so and forgiveness where we fail.

Nowadays people are worried about what they will eat or drink, about sleep or clothing. Read Matt.6:25-34 and you will get the answer. Matt.18:8-10: let’s not be caught in this way because we will be judged. If we live like the Apostle Paul, surely all will enjoy life in the Kingdom at the last day. I could say more, but the word I would like to leave with everybody is, let us pray to God each day, for one day we will meet in the capital of the world, Jerusalem, when the world will be ruled by our sinless Immanuel, Jesus Christ.

Here in Triangle ecclesia we are OK and would like to thank the CBM for their help. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters in Christ for the good being done. Currently the situation in Zimbabwe is calm, but there is a problem still with cash – we are using foreign currency USD, which is at times very difficult to obtain.

Bro. Mobie Siziba

CHISHUMBA

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we must praise God because He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and His grace stands for ever. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. By God’s grace we are given morning, evening and night; and the moon and stars at night to light the whole earth. The Lord God is our Saviour – we must praise Him. If we look in our Bibles at Psalm 136, we see such words.

Brothers, please send me *Gospel News*. Here in Chishumba our ecclesia is growing. I was baptized on 16th August 2009, and I praise God. We shall meet together in Christ.

God the Creator made us and the creatures great and small. When I think about God's love I am afraid of getting lost: I pray to God in the morning, evening and at night because the Bible is my guide. That's why I praise God, for giving us His Son and allowed him to die for us to take away our sins. How great is God's love, Brothers and Sisters! These are the last days, and we pray for all Christians to be happy.

Sis. Rangi Mauzhent

May I first thank God for sparing our lives. In Chishumba Ecclesia two brothers and one sister fell asleep, namely Bro. Patrick Hwakwani, Bro. Norman Kamutikaoma and Sis. Mercy Mbirimi. We held memorial services for them all. 'Thank you' to the Brothers and Sisters who volunteered to feed the people on every occasion.

On the other hand, we have had nine baptisms, namely Bro. David Mapfungautsi, Sis. Chenai Chikwata, Bro. Sebastine Chikwata, Sis. Edzai Kanyoro, Bro. Isaac Mbirimi, Bro. Tarasika Shambamuto, Sis. Winnet Mapfungautsi, Rejoice Chikwata, and lastly Mobie Ziwera. Now after all these baptisms we thank the late Bro. Norman for having taught most of these new brothers and sisters.

To all Brothers and Sisters: we should always remember it is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail.

Bro. Lamiel Mazvaramhaka

CHIVI

Thank you for your letter and spiritual encouragement you sent me. I did wrong by marrying outside the fellowship: yes this is bad and such a sin that even removed the Jews from the face of the Lord. Brother, help me, what can I do to regain my spiritual strength, which I used to have? – as I feel that to be disfellowshipped one loses out on faith and truth. I feel lost and wandering. I am meeting others each time, but feel discomfort in my mind and strength.

I have sinned against God and all my fellow brothers and sisters. I do not want to live like Saul: I have discovered that Saul remained as king after his sin, but the spirit of God departed from him and an evil spirit tormented him. (1 Sam.16v.14). So I do not want to be tormented by being outside the fellowship for so long. My wife is learning the Truth and I think, with help from God, I shall be happy one day, when the Lord answers me.

My brother, life is hard and each time things are bad I pray to God, so that He will help me. What I think is that God wants me to be very honest and gain His spiritual food.

Dzingai Sumburera

Comment: We are thrilled that Dzingai has been received back into fellowship and his wife has now been baptized. MH

HARARE

All the *Bible Basics* and other books were received safely. But the first book received called 'The Real Christ' is the book which adds to some Christians' Biblical knowledge, is food for the spirit and is a book that everyone who is seeking the truth should read and understand. It is not a book such as a novel, but a book carrying God's Word, therefore it takes time to read it carefully and understand it.

In my reading I'm selecting the most difficult parts for me – just to mention a few, e.g. 'Did Jesus create the earth?' 'The Real Cross Today'; 'Finding Meaning in everyday experiences,' and also 'Who was Melchizedek?' To me these parts and others are very useful.

Since I met Bro. Duncan in 1988 I have only seen him on three occasions in Zimbabwe, but to date I can still recall his face, though it was in his mid-youth, and his preaching is well remembered.

My health these days is just pain clinging in my legs, backaches and other parts of my body. In 2004, Brother Swain brought me some tablets for these cramps and pains and they stopped until the beginning of 2009. As the cost of living and health care is hard to obtain, I'm just really in the Lord's care. I have been missing fellowship with others for about nine months. Things are not settled, and though people are talking about it, I know it will never fully settle unless the Lord Jesus Christ comes to earth soon to establish the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Maxwell Mlakah

With sadness we learnt of the death of our beloved Brother Fred Milburn who is now asleep in the Lord. We shall be with him when Christ returns, but we greatly miss him. His illness and death came as a big shock to the Truth's community in Zimbabwe.

I did enjoy reading some literature which you sent some time ago. I handed some of the booklets to our brothers and sisters and they also enjoyed reading them. But now since I am left with almost nothing to read except my Bible, can you please send me some literature if you have any spare? I would be happy indeed.

We all have to put the cares of this world aside and put God first in our lives.

Bro. Alexio Kajowe

MUTARE

Thank you so much for the educative papers and Present Day Events and their meaning. I was pleased to hear that the article which I sent to you will soon be published in *Gospel News*.

Bro. Gilbert Tevere

TRIANGLE

I am very eager to study the Bible to prepare for the second coming of our Lord here on earth. Our journey to that destination is full of obstacles, but what it needs is a devoted heart to God, which will overcome them. Our only hope is in Jesus.

We have a big class of students at our local Secondary School. I used to visit them frequently, doing lessons and Bible discussion. Now there are thirty-seven students who are willing to commence the 40-lesson course.

Bro. Tavaremba Mugova

ZUMBA

I am delighted to report the baptisms of the following brothers: Never Lughton, Munyardzi Msitell, Evans Ridi and Amidu Gopore.

Zumba Ecclesia is growing larger: we thank our Heavenly Father who is making the harvest possible. Preaching is going very well. We can sing almost all the songs in the CBM Yellow book. We want to bring many people to God through singing. With God and faith nothing is impossible.

Zumba Ecclesia has 8 brothers and five sisters. Our new brothers need prayers so that they can be strengthened for their travel to the Kingdom of God. The following magazines are of great value for preaching and daily learning of God's principles: the Gospel News; the *Christadelphian Magazine*; *Glad Tidings*; the *Bible Missionary*; the *Testimony*; *Faith Alive and Bible Basics*. May the Lord bless those who are contributing toward the publication and distribution of this literature. My last message is the following poem:

*It's good to read the Word of God, rather than moral-corrupting newspapers and novels;
It's good to listen to the Word of God rather than to rumours and gossip;
It's good to sing hymns of worship, rather than immoral songs;
It's good to dance to the Lord, rather than to the ways of the world;
It's good to be with those who mourn, rather than with those who are partying.*

Bro. Obert Wiki

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from belarus

SMALYANY

You are always welcome here, and I so love reading the Zvezda magazine. I am of one mind with you so much.

Sis. Nina

news from bulgaria

We see from TV news that it is very cold in Latvia... Having you always in our hearts and prayers. we send you all our warmth now! living with the hope that He will send the Lord Jesus soon - the world cannot go on this way longer, as we see...

Bro. Lyuben

news from estonia

I am working here with one man whom I am interesting in the Gospel. I would wish to take him to the Bible School in Ukraine so he can meet with others.

Bro. Mark

news from finland

Through all I have been through I can say that Jesus is my Lord and I am faithful to Him. I still have many problems even here but I thank God for helping me so far.

Bro. Masoud

news from france

I am looking for Bro Deogratias Karegea, maybe he is now in South Africa. I am now living in Paris. He was my room mate in the refugee camp in Swaziland.

Bro. Nsanga

news from israel

I am rather isolated here, by my old age and now my illness. I do very much pray for you and think of my brothers and sisters.

Bro. Vadim

My cousin who lives with us now has Parkinson's, it's very distressing for me to see others getting so old, and to realize I too am aging. I am so very, very thankful that I have the hope of living for ever when Jesus returns. I remember the day when Duncan and Cindy baptized me into Him, I often think of it.

Sis. Anna

news from italy

NAPLES

We always remember you in prayer and in our hearts. Thanks for the books. Our ministry is slowly pressing ahead and the brethren send greetings.

Bro. Festus

news from kazakhstan

We here are thinking of you at the Bible School. We all would so love to have come, but it's just impossible. We will be sending just one brother from here. As you know, there is so much opposition here to us, please, pray with us against all this.

Sis. Elvira

I want to send my greetings to all, and my best wishes to you all as we are awaiting the coming of God's Kingdom.

Bro. Marat

I just wanted to inform you that I remember you all, and think often of the happy times we had when Sister Ludmila Kuristyina was alive, although thanks to her we here can look forward to the return of Jesus with understanding and hope.

Sis. Balpysh

I have to tell you with sadness of the death of my father at the end of November last year. Things are now very hard for me, with money, with trying to get the house written in my name, and knowing that one by one I have lost my family. I believe in God and in Jesus, truly I do.

Sis. Lena

news from latvia

We're delighted to announce the baptism of *AIGARS, LUDMILA, AINA, EDUARDS, VALERIJ K, AGRIS, ANITA, VALERIJ B, VIKTOR, VOLODYA, VALYA, LARISA, INESA* and *NATASHA*; and at the refugee camp, Brothers V and S. May the Lord be with them all the journey through, to His Kingdom.

In Latvia it is now minus 20 degrees! All asylum seekers are completely frozen. I try to do on Sundays what I can for feeding people; I hope that people are satisfied.

Sis. Jena

I have had so many problems, including difficulties from my former church. I am thinking of trying to get a job abroad, please pray for me in my plans.

Sis. Katya

I am writing this from Germany and so looking forward to returning home in March. My hope is in our Lord and I know that whatever happens, He is with me and has a purpose prepared for me. When I came here we were promised 1000 Euros / month, but they say there's not enough work for us because of the financial crisis, so in total I am paid only 207 Euros / month after all the deductions, of which we were not informed.

Sis. Vaira

I find myself more willing to hear the word of God than to speak it to others. I excuse myself because I consider myself to be shy, and excuse myself because of age, illness etc. But I know that I must try to be more sharing with others of the Gospel.

Sis. Irena

Again I send my greetings to you all, and remind you again that I would so love to be with you, but it is too far for me to travel from Kraslava to Riga, after my operations I really don't go out anywhere. But I read the magazine from cover to cover, several times, and think of you all.

Sis. Valeriana

news from lithuania

It's really impressive what's being done in Haiti, baptizing, caring for people. God bless you.

Bro. Valdas

Here the financial crisis means I am working very very much but for small pay. May God bless you all and us all.

Bro. Albinas

news from macedonia

I am holding on here. I very, very often think of you, and pray for you, and hope that Jesus returns soon.

Bro. Kicho

news from malta

I am grateful for all the information which I was pleased to receive from you. It is so packed full with so many articles, and together with the book, 'The Real Christ', I can say they are so uplifting for our personal lives. I have read and studied them in depth and I commended them to assist the searching souls to understand the Bible better.

Sadly, however, I'm astonished at what I discovered about the amazing deliverance of Brother Robert. How our brothers were under degrading and inhumane treatment in Latvia, and how long-term refuge detainees were either released undocumented or faced deportation after they had been detained. In the amazing deliverance, I also discovered how the Latvian authorities absolutely refused to give their documents to immigrant/asylum seekers over there. They have forgotten that we are also human beings like them. Their attitude and behaviour toward immigrants/asylum seekers is indeed outrageous and terrible.

Concerning the sending of *Bible Basics* to the refugee camp here, I can say it is preferably better if you can send a copy which will enable any interested readers to understand the Bible better. I must say I am enlightened and have come to a greater understanding of God's Word.

Bro. Solomon Oylnlade

news from moldova

DUBOSARY

I am unable to get to the School this year because my daughter has a job and I have to look after the grandchild. But it gives me time to read the Bible a lot, a few verses at a time. I was reading the final chapters of Revelation and thinking how wonderful the Kingdom will be when it comes.

Sis. Tamara

news from poland

We are very worried here because our brother Valentin went missing, he only recently got married. If anyone knows where he is, please let us know.

Bro. Henryk Budzialowski

Because of the economy here I am going to work in France, please pray for me there.

Bro. Marcin

news from russia



We are delighted to announce the baptism of Sisters VERONIKA and ALEVTINA. Veronika is the daughter of our Brother Andrej and Sister Tanya and has been well raised in the Truth for many years. May the Lord be with them all the journey through, to His Kingdom.



Photo: Sister Veronika being greeted after her baptism by her parents

EFREMOV

Brother Boris continues to decline in health, but we so love him and one of us goes in to see him each day. The sisters do all cooking for him. Now that Aleftina has been baptized, we have another helper. The example of Boris played a part, so it seems to me, in her conversion.

Bro. Oleg



Photo: Brother Boris puts a sign on his "Bible Reader's Calendar" each day to show he's read his Bible readings for that day; his health is failing and it is with great effort he attempts to read each day.

KAZAN

We in our ecclesia here are preparing with eagerness for the Winter Bible School. We talk about our plans to attend every time we meet, on Sundays and also during the week.

Bro. Alexei



Photo: Br Alexei and members of Kazan ecclesia at the Ukraine Bible School

Since the death of our dear Sister Ludmila Kuritsyna, I have been meeting at times with our deaf Brother, Andrej, and going for walks with him in the park near to his block. We have even broken bread there. I find I am often getting ill, when I used to have strong health. Anyway, I look forward to meeting at Bible School.

Bro. Viktor

I am planning on coming to the Bible School, and am preparing a presentation about how I came to the Truth. I am 72 years of age now and living by God's grace.

Bro. Anatoly

KHABAROVSKIJ Kraj

My granddaughter is out of her coma after the car accident but very sick. All medicines are so expensive. I thank God that she is still alive even though she doesn't go to school any more. Maybe God can still use her, and me.

Sis. Galina

PS Assistance has been sent to our Sister.

MOSCOW

I am looking forward to meeting all brothers and sisters at the Bible School in Poltava. This is such a significant meeting for me, to be there with my true family in Christ.

Bro. Igor

PETROZAVODSK

Nastya and I have now returned here from Leningrad Oblast, we are so disappointed to have missed the Bible School in Ukraine. We remain with God and miss you all.

Bro. Kostya

ROSTOV Obl.

I am nervous to travel far from here, but this means I am lonely here too. I am with you all.

Bro. Robert

SARATOV

As usual I am anticipating very much the long journey to Bible School. I am so looking forward to being with my sister [in the flesh] Nina again, Bible School is the only time we get to be together. I pray God gives us both the health to get there.

Sis. Raisa



Photo: Sisters Raisa and Nina together at Bible School

SHADRINSK

I am preparing for my Winter pilgrimage to the Bible School. Probably I will be the oldest person there, but it is a joy for me to travel to be with you all in Christ. Thank God I still have health enough to go for several days by train. It's changing the train in Moscow which is my least favourite part of the journey.

Bro. Pavel



Photo: Bro. Pavel participating in the Bible School play as Philemon

SHANINO

I sometimes wonder why my life has ended up so bitter. I have tried to do good to others but there was so much evil that happened to me, and now I am old, sick, still not without problems. All I can say is that the ways of God are not searchable. I feel Him more and more in my life, I see He wants me. I have many conversations with myself, where I come to this same conclusion.

Sis. Tamara

TOMSK

I have now been relocated here. I took with me a copy of *Beyond Bible Basics* and am studying this carefully. My health is now better, for which I give glory to God.

Bro. Sergej

news from serbia

BELGRADE

My fascination with Bible numbers continues. The Bible is truly the word of God, although I have believed this for many years, I never tire of finding more and more evidence for this. It is the great pin in my life.

Bro. Vladislav

news from turkey

I am now living in Antalya; maybe I won't now return to Russia, this will be my home. I miss you and think of you whenever I read the Bible.

Sis. Anna

news from ukraine

DONETSK

We have now moved from Kharkov to Donetskaya Obl. Lena's health continues very weak. And we still mourn the disappearance of our son Sasha. Only through our Bible readings do we keep ourselves sane, even if we have read some of the verses tens of times, they still only grow in wonder and power.

Bro. Vasilij & Sis. Lena

KIEV

Thank you so much for your efforts in educating me and other people at the Bible School. Truly the Bible is the only way out of our problems in life.

Bro. Vladimir

POLTAVA

I returned from my time in France all OK. I very much look forward to the Bible School!

Sis. Veronika

ZAPOROZHE

I am so sad that this year I couldn't come to the Bible School. I was thinking of you there so much every day you were there. I had wanted to bring a relative of mine to the School but some things happened which meant I just couldn't make the journey.

Bro. Misha

news from united kingdom

We're delighted to report the baptism of our friend and *Bible Basics* contact DAVE and would like to thank the Blackburn ecclesia for their assistance and loving cooperation in this matter.

News from the Americas

news from haiti

We're delighted to announce the baptism of *ESMATH, MOITEAU, PATRICK, FITO, LUCKNER, AMOS, WILFRED, WILLIERE, ABSOLU* and *KENZI*. May the Lord be with them all the journey

through, to His Kingdom. Soon after their baptism, the earthquake struck... see report elsewhere in this issue.

news from jamaica

KINGSTON

This shows that I have received your letters and magazines to date. Thank you very much for sending same – I read them, then either pass them on to any interested person here in the Home, or send them to the Meeting Room for those who wish to read them. You do not seem to know much about Jamaica as a part of the Brotherhood, or do you not think of us here as a part of your Mission Field?

I was baptised here in Kingston in 1957 by Bro. Alan Eyre and have been a member of the Kingston Ecclesia ever since; apart from five years in the UK where I did service at the Home and Hospital in Acocks Green, Birmingham (being a trained nurse). There I worshipped at the various meeting halls. I am now 96 years old and have been living in a Home for the Aged for five years. My complaints are: high blood pressure, Osteo-arthritis, Pernicious Anaemia and I have suffered two strokes, so can no longer stand or walk. But thanks be to God, my other faculties are alert, except for a stomach condition which prevents me eating most of the usual food-stuffs. I live on a small pension from the Government and a little help from Brothers and Sisters.

Sis. Daisy Allen

Comment:

I have a high regard for the Jamaican Ecclesias – having visited three times. We do not get much news from Jamaica for *Gospel News*. So Jamaicans, please write so that we can know how you are and if possible, send some photo's. MH

Harvey River



The Ecclesia outside the Ecclesial Hall with a sister from Canada.

Mount Pleasant



Sis. Iris Thompson outside Round Hill Ecclesial hall.

news from trinidad

George wrote last week to say he is enjoying computing lessons at nights and that he is making prison officers shirts in the daytime, so he is kept busy.

Bro Glyn and Sis. Helen Pyper.

News from Asia

news from burma

I am a friend of Bro. Ron Hill and Terry, Christadelphians in Australia. When they came to Myanmar we had a seminar and good fellowship with them. With the permission of Bro. Ron Hill, I have translated the following material into Burmese and I have printed it.

1. The Kingdom of God on earth
2. Life after Death (?)
3. The Divine Origin of the Bible
4. Christ is Coming
5. Jerusalem the Holy City
6. Miracles of the Bible
7. Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Mr. Van Cung Tum

news from china

We're delighted to announce the baptism of GUANG, ZHU, TIANYU, WANG, RITA, SHARON and JOSEFA. May the Lord be with them all the journey through, to His Kingdom.

Here are just a few of the emails we received after the all-China Bible School in December:



"Give glory to our Lord. Your action is great for baptism. I believe that we live for ever together in God's Kingdom on earth when Jesus returns".

"I back home safe and work in office now. Thank you very much for everything and especially the chance you give us to be saved by our Father in heaven through the baptism. I hope the seed you plant in my heart will become bigger and bigger and one day grow to a big tree. I will tell you my feeling and my stories in the following mails. The life with God and Jesus is now within my heart".

"I am back home safely now, just wanted to thank you for the good work you have done for me and for us, I really learned a lot from this seminar, and I will definitely share the material with others too... thank you again".



Photo: With the baptismal candidates at the all-China Bible School

news from myanmar

I have just now come back from the journey, I went first to the Delta and again I went to the Tauleeng village in the Chin state to share God's word and introduce the good news to the people. I thank God for your prayer support. It is very interesting there, because people are traditional Christians but they don't know about the Bible; and so they are very interested in the study of the word of God. I had the opportunity to share again there the Gospel and I really thank God for sustaining me, and providing me what I needed. I could also help some people physically and I gave a little rice and shared some rice to those who do not have to eat. Next time I will be back to the Tauleeng village and conduct a Bible camp but I don't know yet when... pray for me. Now I need to get some Bibles in Burmese and the Chin hill language to give those people.

Bro. Suumpi.

Comment: Recently *Bible Basics* has been printed in Burmese.

news from nepal

Please don't forget us here in Western Nepal as we are trying to do the service of God and Jesus in Truth.

Bro. Narenda

News from Oceania

news from australia



We have many people throughout Australia who've contacted us and are studying *Bible Basics*. We've been in contact with KIRSTY for three years now, and we're grateful to Sister Belinda Burns for visiting with her. We're delighted to announce that soon after the Carelinks conference we were able to baptize her into the Lord Jesus, and have put her in touch with other local brothers and sisters.

news from new zealand

TAURANGA



Yesterday we had the baptism of Juanita. She is our first contact, from the TV Seminars, to be baptised. It was lovely to have six of her family come, along with eight brothers and sisters from out of town and all our small ecclesia (except for one sister who spent two weeks in hospital - we visited her afterwards). Juanita is married with a 10 month old baby, 26 years old and Maori. She is so enthusiastic, even though she gets a lot of very strong negativity for choosing to follow scripture.

After the baptism and Meeting she asked to say a few words of thanks. She spent 10 minutes thanking her family for coming, those who ran and attended Seminars, etc, and outlining her faith in the promises and Kingdom. She pleaded with all to read the Bible and accept what God says in it. Not to make the Bible fit their beliefs, but to let it free to hear God speak.

It is the biggest Meeting we have ever had here in Tauranga! It was lovely, with a wonderful shared lunch afterwards (we always do that on a Sunday). We had two other contacts from the Seminars come to the baptism and Meeting. Both are very keen and once doctrine is fully cemented will likely be baptised in the next year. One of the contacts offered to video her baptism and the Exhortation. It is his baptism gift to her. It was a good injection of enthusiasm into the Meeting and the singing was good. We only have a small Ecclesia (12 baptised previously) with normal weekly attendance being seven baptised and our children. Often we have up to 11 baptised each 2 to 3 weeks - as some members live a good distance away and only travel in each 2 - 3 weeks.

I had been visiting Juanita weekly for 4 - 5 hours at a time. We'd discuss scripture, way of life, questions, other issues, etc. We also got to form a friendship. She was like a sponge, but checked everything very thoroughly before accepting it. It has been the last two months that doctrines meshed together. One never knows where God can open hearts and lead the way. The Seminars have been good for our own children. Especially with James being able to encourage Thomas. Thomas is 27, attending Seminars and Meeting weekly and well on the way to baptism. I've been very specifically praying for each of our 10 contacts every day. God does answer prayer - but not always right away, or the way we think. We have to get in and do our bit as prayer is not sufficient to develop faith - people need the scripture and someone to guide them. With love in our Saviour,

Bro. Mark & Sis. Mary Simpson

KABOMPO ECCLESIA (ZAMBIA) 2010 ACTIVITY PLAN

INTRODUCTION

A meeting was held in the ecclesia to plan activities which will take place in 2010, God willing. The meeting was chaired by Brother Goodson Kufuna and attended by interested brethren. They resolved that during the year 2010 maximum effort be placed on preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in Kabompo district and agreed to name this as a "Sowing Seed Project" (SSP).

Five centres were chosen, and the CBM will be asked to assist fund the project, less 20 per cent Kabompo ecclesia contribution. The Sowing Seed project preaching activities will be held twice at each of the centres per quarter and the team leaders and dates were fixed as follows:-

KATENDWA WEST PREACHING ACTIVITIES

Brother Goodson Kufuna team leader, will be accompanied by Brothers Richard Masuwa, Kenneth Chinjamba and Wellington Mukuma on the following dates:

In the first quarter on Saturday, February 13 and Saturday, March 13.

- in the second quarter on Saturday, April 10 and Saturday, May 8.

- in the third quarter on Saturday, July 10 and Saturday, August 7.

- in the fourth quarter on Saturday, October 9, and Saturday, November 6.

KATENDWA EAST PREACHING ACTIVITIES

Brother Reuben Kaambeu will be the team leader, accompanied by brothers Wellington Mukuma, Richard Masuwa and Goodson Kufuma.

- in the first quarter on Saturday, February 6 and Saturday, March 6. - in the second quarter on Saturday, April 3 and Saturday May 15- in the third quarter on Saturday, July 3 and August 14.- in the fourth quarter on Saturday, October 2 and Saturday, November 13.

KABULAMEMA PREACHING ACTIVITIES

Brother Wellington Mukuma will be the team leader, accompanied by Brothers Kenneth Chinjamba and Goodson Kufuma. - in the first quarter on Saturday, February 20 and Saturday, March 30. - in the second quarter on Saturday, April 17 and Saturday, May 22. - in the third quarter on Saturday, July 17 and Saturday, August 21. - in the fourth quarter on Saturday, October 16 and Saturday, November 20.

KABOMPO CENTRAL PREACHING ACTIVITIES

- Throughout the year every two weeks on Sundays. By an ecclesial team, visiting Bible Students and preaching and distributing Bible message leaflets to many others, as sowing the seed activity in Kabompo. A timetable will be drawn up each month. This is Kabompo ecclesia's initiative and should not be a burden of CBM national committee or U.K. committee. That is, it will be financed by the local ecclesia and also through voluntary efforts to sow the seed in Kabompo.

MALOLWA PREACHING ACTIVITIES

Brother Richard Masuwa will be the team leader, accompanied by Brothers Reuben Kaambeu and Wellington Mukuma. - in the first quarter on Saturday, February 27 and Saturday, March 27. - in the second quarter on Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, May 29. - in the third quarter on Saturday, July 24 and Saturday, August 28. - in the fourth quarter on Saturday, October 23 and Saturday, November 27.

The members prayed that the Sowing Seed Project in Kabompo may be used by our Heavenly Father to bring many into the flock of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Chief Shepherd and Saviour of man from sin and death. They appealed to other ecclesias in Zambia and worldwide to pray for the project in Kabompo.

Be Righteous In All Things

It is fearful to think how many of us live in daily unrighteousness in what we call 'little' things, and then venture to approach God in prayer and the Lord's table without confession. His ears are open to the righteous.

Do not forget that nothing so arrests the attention of the world and makes it believe in the reality of Christianity as righteous acts that are to one's own disadvantage. For there is no disguising the truth. You cannot serve God and the flesh; you cannot fear God and be heaping up riches for yourself.

You may love money, and many a seemingly good opportunity, but if you walk strictly in practical righteousness, eternity will be the greater. If you enjoy and trust in 'the grace of God' that has brought you salvation, remember and practice its lessons, and see that you live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Search out all the wonderful Old Testament promises made to the righteous man, and remember that you are not heir to these even spiritually, unless you walk in practical righteousness.

Happy indeed, is the man who standing before God in the righteousness which He has provided, walks before his fellow-man in that practical rectitude which adorns the grace which we have received.

Bro Henderson Sosola (Lilongwe, Malawi)

God's Judgement and Mercy

When Christ returns, he is going to be given authority and power from God to judge this world. He is going to separate the righteousness and lovely deeds of the saints from the wicked. We all know that Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

There were all sorts of sins done in Sodom. The Lord decided to tell Abram about Sodom (Genesis 18:20). God explained to Abraham how bad the city had become. Hundreds of years before this, God told Noah that he would punish the world with a flood (Genesis 6:13). We also read later in the Bible that God sent Jonah to Nineveh to tell the people that he would overthrow the city if they did not repent of the sins (Jonah 1).

Our God is kind, loving and compassionate to His creation. He does not make any judgement without first warning, and He still warns us today to turn away from all wickedness. During Old Testament times, the Lord never did anything without first telling His prophets about it (Amos 3:7). In our time we do not have prophets as in the Old Testament, we do not speak direct to God, but we have the Bible to guide us to walk spiritually and help us attain salvation at Jesus Christ's impending arrival. Let us pray for God's kingdom to come soon. When Jesus comes, our hearts shall rejoice and our eyes shall see him.

Bro Farai Makendeni (Ratelshoek, Zimbabwe)

Raising Adolescents

The Role of Understanding

Suppose you were visiting a foreign land and you do not speak the native tongue. No doubt communication would be difficult, but not impossible. For example, a phrase book could help you to learn basic expressions of the language. Or perhaps someone could translate for you, so that you would be able to understand others, and be understood by them. Parents raising teenagers may sometimes feel that they are in a similar situation. Not only the language of adolescents, but their behaviour may be difficult, but not impossible, to comprehend. The key is for parents to try to interpret just what is happening during this natural, but often confusing, stage of growth.

Behind the Behaviour

A youth's desire for independence is not always a sign of rebellion. Remember the Bible acknowledges that in time "a man will leave his father and his mother" (Genesis 2:24). To prepare for greater responsibilities in adulthood, young people need at least some experience in making decisions.

Like little children, teenagers repeatedly ask, 'Why'. Now, however, a brief, simple reply may not end the discussion. The apostle Paul wrote "When I was a babe, I used to reason as a babe" (1 Corinthians 13:11). As young people develop their ability to reason, they need more extensive explanation so that their 'perceptive powers' can be obtained.

Whether it occurs early, late or at the right time, the growth spurt of puberty makes many overtly aware of how they look. Girls may greet curves with excitement or with apprehension or with a mixture of both; add the discovery of acne and make up and it is easy to see why teens may seem to spend more time in front of their mirrors than in front of school text books.

Secrecy can be dangerous (Ephesians 5:12). Privacy, however, is different. Even Jesus saw the value of seeking out 'a lonely place' for isolation (Matthew 14:13). As they grow, youths too need some personal space and they need adults to respect that space. A degree of privacy helps youths to learn to keep up standards, a vital skill that will serve them well after childhood.

Similarly, learning to establish friendship is a part of growing up. True, bad associations can spoil useful habits (1 Corinthians 5:33). At the same time, however, it is the Bible which says "a true companion is loving at all times, and a brother is born for when in distress" (Proverb 17:17). Learning how to form and maintain healthy friendships is a vital skill that will last throughout adulthood.

When confronted with any of the above situations, parents would do well to acquire understanding so that they do not misinterpret the behaviour of their teenagers. Of course, understanding needs to be coupled with wisdom, the ability to respond to a situation in a way that will produce the best results.

Good Communication Is Vital

The Bible tells Christians to be “swift about hearing and slow about speaking” (James 1:19). While this is good advice when dealing with children of any age, listening as well as hearing is particularly important with adolescents. And it may require great effort.

A Changing, Developing Person

There is no doubt that parents of adolescents face a daunting task. At times, they will likely shed tears of frustration as they strive to bring up their children “in discipline and mental regulation of God” (Ephesians 6:4).

In the end, effective parenting is not about controlling, but about teaching and instilling proper values (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Easier said than done? Absolutely. Strive to apply Bible principles. Always be reasonable in what you expect from your children and never give up your place as primary role model in their life. “Train up a child according to the way for him; even when he grows old, he will not turn aside from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

How Much Freedom?

Perhaps the most frequent cause of conflict between parents and adolescents has to do with the issue of independence. How much freedom should be given to a teenager? Sometimes an inch is given and a mile is taken!

Obviously, unrestricted youths reap bad results. Indeed we are told that a boy let loose will cause his mother shame (Proverbs 29:15). Youths of any age need firm guidance but parents should be consistent in their handling of the family (Ephesians 6:4), and there should always be love. At the same time young people need a degree of independence so that they will be prepared for the making of decisions.

Learning from Bible Examples

Evidently Jesus, as he was growing up, was granted a measure of independence by his parents and he did not abuse the trust that was accorded to him; on the contrary, “he continued subject to his parents as he went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favour with God and men” (Luke 2:51,52).

Bearing the Consequences

“Good it is for able-bodied man that he should carry the yoke during his youth” (Lamentation 3:27). One of the best ways of bearing responsibility is to learn the truthfulness of the Bible by experience. “Whatever a man is sowing, this is what he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

Although they have good intentions, some parents mistakenly shield their teens from the consequences of unwise actions. For instance, suppose through frivolous spending, a son gets himself into debt. What lesson will be taught if dad and mum simply pay it off for him? On the other hand, what lesson will be taught if the parents work out a plan for him to pay off the debt himself?

Parents do their children no favours when they fail to allow them to learn the consequences of irresponsible behaviour. Rather than prepare for adulthood, this only teaches them that someone will always be there to bail them out, clean up their messes and cover up their mistakes. It is far better to give teens opportunity to reap what they have sown and learn how to work through their problems. This is an important aspect of having their powers of perspection trained to distinguish both right and wrong (Hebrews 5:14).

Bro Nelson Anyals (Ahero, Kenya)

THE SOWETO LIGHTSTAND (South Africa)

Soweto, once the home of the violent uprising against apartheid and once a no-go area is now a thriving sprawling town of 3.5 million people. It was here that the heroes such as Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Tutu lived and it is now really exciting that an Ecclesia has been formed there, and we pray for them in this great venture. The following are details submitted by Sister Leonie Verster. MH

We are excited and delighted to announce the formation of an ecclesia. For the last year Soweto has been a satellite ecclesia but now, thanks be to God at work, it has “landed” with 10 enthusiastic founder members committed to making it a vibrant Lightstand. There is great potential in Soweto as preaching activities have indicated and we ask for your prayers that it will grow to God’s glory and bring the light of the true gospel to many who are perishing, often through having been misled by the “prosperity theology” of many huge Pentecostal churches in Soweto. .

Sunday 15 Nov was a significant day for the ecclesia with the first baptism in Soweto itself. It was a heartwarming experience to witness Bro Derrick Banda put on the saving name of Jesus and then to be given the right hand of fellowship by the “father” of the ecclesia Bro Elijah Rabaji. Wheelchair bound Bro Elijah has been wonderfully faithful since his baptism 13 years ago and it is for him, his dream come true to know there is now an ecclesia and the truth has taken root. Bro Daniel and Sis Maria Makhado have transferred from the Yeoville ecclesia as have Bro Paul and Sis Leonie Verster from the Kempton Park ecclesia.

A “Learn to Read the Bible Effectively” was presented for 8 Tuesday evenings in Oct /Nov. The attendance of the brethren has been excellent and there have been a group of 5 regular visitors. We welcomed Sis Debbie Payne (Pinetown) to one session.

Bro Obed & Sis Betty Mafifi were welcome visitors on 29 Nov and we thank Bro Obed for a very thought provoking exhortation.

If anyone has friends or relatives in Soweto that you would like us to contact please do so by fax 0866183665 or telephone 011 4523681.

We send our love in Jesus and warm invitation to visit the ecclesia.



Keen Seminar attendees



Baptism of Bro Derrick Banda



Bre Elijah the right hand of fellowship and some fatherly words of encouragement.



Soweto suburban sprawl



Bro. Elijah being baptised in 1994

Historical Reminiscence: In the early 1990s Elijah Rabaji had a serious accident with the heavy lorry he was driving, resulting in his being paralysed from the waist down. At that time he was not interested in the Bible. The CAT had advertised in the Soweto papers and he applied for the correspondence course and was later baptised by Duncan in 1994. His baptism was difficult, and all obstacles can be overcome to obey God's commands and he had to be carried from his wheelchair into the water. I visited him sometime after and he praised God that he had been so injured as this is what turned him to think about God, without the accident he doubted if he would have ever come to a knowledge of the Truth. MH

Sister Leonie Verster

Responding to God's Call

Reading the Bible every day, you will find God calling you to His will. Are you responding to His call or not? You have the duty to respond to this call as Abraham did. He was called by God, and he responded to that call (Genesis 12:1; Acts 7:3). Are you responding to the word of God every day? For you to serve in response to God's call, you ought to hear and believe God's word, and continue in faith. Remember the day you repented and were immersed in water. That was your sign of response to God's call, when you started a new life in Jesus Christ, God's only-begotten Son.

Look at Noah - by faith he responded to the call of God to prepare the saving ark (Hebrews 11:7). So your repentance and baptism are signs of answering God's call to the saving of your life, by

the death of your old life in Adam and the start of your new life in Jesus Christ. All of you drew your motives closer to God: that is what Abraham did (Hebrews 11:8).

Living in a family that resists God's call does not necessarily deny you anything. Remember that Abraham lived many years with his father Terah.

God requires certain qualities in you which he reveals in Micah 6:8. Your response to Him is a sure sign of possessing these good qualities which lead on to eternal life.

God is waiting for your answer through good works (Acts 17:30). It is time for you to answer God's call (2 Peter 3:9).

Bro Tavaremba Mugoya (Triangle, Zimbabwe)

Let us Give Careful Thought to Our Ways

In the first chapter of Haggai, the Lord urges his people to consider their ways (vs5-6): "Now this is what the Lord Almighty says, 'Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much but have harvested little. You eat but never have enough. You drink but never have your fill. You put on clothes but are not warm. You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes in it'".

Now when we consider our ways we will always know what the Lord requires of us, even as Joshua was told by the angel of the Lord: "This is what the Lord Almighty says, 'If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts and I will give you a place among these standing here'" (Zechariah 3:7). The Lord wanted Joshua to follow His pathway to teach and judge wisely.

Samuel also wisely addresses the people of Israel on how he has shown them the way: "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and grey and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the Lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these, I will make it right" (1 Samuel 12:1-3). He goes on again: "Moreover, as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you, but I will teach you the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart, for consider how great things he hath done for you" (verses 23, 24).

The psalmist appeals to the Lord: "Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not hand me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence" (Psalm 27:11,12). "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will counsel you and watch over you" (Psalm 32:8).

When considering the ways in which we should live, King Solomon gives us wise words: "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul" (Proverbs 16:17).

Isaiah gives his vision: "And a highway will be there: it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it, it will be for those who walk in that way; wicked fools will not go

about on it” (Isaiah 35:8). “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will have a voice behind you saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it’” (Isaiah 30;21).

Jesus sums up the careful thoughts that we should have as we seek the truth: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me’ (John 14:6).

Even David asked the Lord to show him the way: “Show me your ways, O Lord teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour” (Psalm 25:4,5).

Bro & Sis Phiri (Chegutu, Zimbabwe)

You Are a Soldier in God’s Army

“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:3). The army is a place of discipline and toughness. When you enlist in the army, you are subject to the directions and instructions of your commanding officer. A soldier in service does not do what ordinary civilians do, he is used to a barracks lifestyle. He wakes up when the whistle is blown, he endures tough physical and mental training and he is always at the disposal of the commanding officer. When it is time for war, he cannot give excuses: he gets his kit together and marches to the battle front.

When you gave your life to Christ, ie through baptism, you were enrolled as a soldier in God’s army; you have been in uniform from that hour. That means that after your baptism, you have been qualified as a serving soldier in Kampala Ecclesia (or any other ecclesia). “No-one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs” (2 Timothy 2:4).

When you realise that you are a soldier in God’s army, then you should begin to understand that you are called to a life of spiritual discipline. It is no longer a case of doing what you feel like doing, what you like doing, or what you want to do. You should learn to take instructions from the Lord Jesus Christ, who is your commanding officer. Going to church or meetings for the memorial service no longer become optional but essential. Prayer becomes part of your daily lifestyle, and soul- winning becomes vital. Indeed, you are an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ. Indeed, you are more than a conqueror; the devil of human nature has been defeated, but remains full of deception. That is why you must be on your guard. “For struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Keep your uniform on and stand firm in faith as a good soldier in God’s army. Further readings: 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8.

Bro Stephen Oganga (Kampala, Uganda)

Peace on Earth?

True Christians have been called out of this world which is steeped in the tradition of Cain. That calling out is not, of course, meant to be physical, but to be in heart, mind and spirit. As the spirit of Christ lives in them, Christians are to depart from the self-centred philosophy of caring for themselves only.

Jesus Christ lived and taught a way of life different from the natural way of mankind. It is God’s way, based on the sure foundation of love. It’s a different way of thinking, a different approach to life. It’s a philosophy of life in stark contrast to what we read of the way of Cain: “Do not be like

Cain, who was of that wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous".

Following in the footsteps of Cain to this day, brother rises against brother to exploit and to abuse. Today, as throughout history, the blood of the innocent cries out to a listening and caring God in heaven. Cain ridiculed the idea of being his brother's keeper, but Jesus has called his disciples to reverse Cain's destructive course as his spirit guides them to become their brothers' keepers, indeed peacemakers who love their neighbours as themselves.

The parable of the good Samaritan depicts a way of life emanating from the heart of flesh that Jesus offers in exchange for our hearts of stone. This Samaritan did not see the world as his enemy. He saw it as composed of brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandfathers and grandmothers, of people in need. Like the good Samaritan, true followers of Jesus Christ see themselves as their brothers' keepers. Christians are to go to the world, to share the great truths of Jesus Christ in word and deed, not selfishly holding the mystery of the faith to themselves.

Jesus certainly saw himself as his brother's keeper. He gave his life for his brothers and sisters. In the parable of the kingdom in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus describes this theme as central to the judgment day, as the criterion to determine who will or will not be in his kingdom. Verses 44 and 45 tell the story well: "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you? He will reply, 'I tell you the truth whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me'".

"Peace on earth, good will toward men". All real Christians are devoting their lives to this hope, this calling in Christ now, even as they look ahead in hope to the glorious day when all mankind will share peace and good will with them.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Who Is My Neighbour?

Successful human relationships, whether global, national, regional, communal or individual, have been, and remain, our greatest challenge. From the beginning of man's journey on this planet, the extent and the quality of each person's responsibility toward his neighbour have been a central issue.

Societies have developed laws and codes of conduct to govern behaviour, to protect the innocent and weak and to ensure honest dealings and respect for life and property.

It is no surprise to law-abiding people, though, that laws are broken. It is no surprise that greed, disregard for others and selfish indulgence of the senses take place. After all, if these were not likely, no laws would have to be made to discourage evils. Society's laws attempt to govern behaviour from the outside. But the Bible speaks of a law to be written in the heart, a new and different way of thinking manifested in conduct that benefits rather than harms others, This law is God's law of love, written into the minds of true Christians by the reading and understanding of God's word.

Jesus Christ taught the way that leads to successful relationships from the inside out, his teaching creates a new heart and mind, a new attitude toward life and toward fellow humans (Galatians 5:24-25). Christians who practice this way of life do not take advantage of others. They strive to be fair and reasonable in dealings with others. They are not sexually irresponsible. They do not indulge in illegal acts or drug abuse. They are considerate and take care not to place the lives or property of others in danger. They value successful relationships because the love of God dwells in them.

Going to church and talking about spiritual topics are all very nice. But God looks on the heart. He is interested in what is on the inside. What is on the inside will produce fruit on the outside (Galatians 5:16,17). Jesus said that it is quite possible to look spiritual on the outside, but inside to be a whitewashed tomb, to be full of everything unclean (Matthew 23:27).

“Love your neighbour as yourself” Jesus commanded, echoing the admonition given to the Israelites centuries before, recorded in Leviticus 19:18. This is the principle governing all successful human relationships. But it is growing increasingly unpopular as more and more people around us focus on personal, political or financial advantage. People actually want to be treated with honesty, respect, consideration, fairness and kindness. But many want these things without wanting to give them in return. True Christians understand that their calling in Jesus Christ has responsibilities towards God and others. As they respond the word of God helps them meet those responsibilities, bringing about successful relationships through His love planted in their minds and bearing fruit in their lives.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Making Your Ecclesia What It Should Be (Gal 3:28)

The Christian ecclesia is a fellowship of believers who are united in a common belief and understanding of God’s word. Love is the binding force of this fellowship and an expression of all it believes. Without the dynamism of love, no organisation can exist that calls itself a church and it cannot fulfil its function as part of the body of Christ. An ecclesia that lacks love is easily recognisable, it may have the trappings of feverish activity but it no longer cares for people.

While the ecclesia of Christ is a divinely appointed organisation, it is composed of very ordinary men and women. Yet these people are, according to the Master, the ‘salt of the earth’. The living Christ inspects those who are, by his grace, living within this ecclesia. Their loyalty to him must exceed their allegiance to any other organisation, yet within the boundaries, they manifest such love that those who come into contact with it may be drawn memorably to the Lord of the church. Through the love manifested by the local ecclesia, men and women may wish to come into meaningful fellowship with Jesus.

Make your ecclesia a place where the warmth of Christ’s love is felt. This can only be possible when each, as an ecclesial member, radiates Christ’s love through all their actions.

Bro Faria Makendeni (Ratelshoek, Zimbabwe)

The Stones Cry Out

“I tell you, that if these (disciples) should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out” (Luke 19:40). The Bible is constantly under attack from critics, strangely many of them Bible scholars, who claim that its message is unreliable or even fictional. They simply brush aside the Bible’s own claim to be the inspired word of God, which occurs in many passages, for example:

- Moses: “I (the Lord) will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say” (Exodus 4:12)
- David: “The spirit of the Lord spoke by me and his word was in my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:2)
- Jeremiah: “The Lord said to me, ‘Behold, I have put my words in your mouth’” (Jeremiah 1:9)
- Jesus: “As the Father taught me, I speak these things” (John 8:22)
- Paul: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Peter: “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21)

It is important to realise that the Bible, among many other things, is a historical document – its records are not ‘once upon a time stories’ but are set in specific historical times, for example:

- Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt at the exodus
- King David defeated the people known as the Philistines
- King Hezekiah’s faith delivered the nation from an invasion by the Assyrians
- Jesus conducted his ministry in a province of the Roman Empire.

Many of these accounts have been dismissed as ‘myths and legends’. Yet for over 200 years archaeology in the lands of the Bible has been steadily filling in the historical and political background, and confirming the overall accuracy of God’s book, and the reliability of its text. And the process continues today.

Bro Martin Barasa (Baraton, Kenya)

Salvation

The Bible is a book written for everyone who wants to be saved, who has been called to the Kingdom of God. The Bible is a revelation of intentions of God’s plan to save mankind, and is a book which reveals the secrets that were set by God to save those who are willing to be saved. If one wants to be saved he has a free will to choose either to be saved or not to be saved. God calls and it is up to us to respond to the call or to ignore it. If you ignore, God will also ignore you. And if you accept, God will also accept you. Every day God is calling people to His kingdom.

“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called” (1 Corinthians 1:24,26)

The people who are called to the kingdom are all people, Jews and Gentiles. Not many of the wise of the world respond positively to the call. A Jew does not accept Jesus because a crucified Jesus is a stumblingblock; the Greeks do not accept Jesus because a crucified Jesus is foolishness.

We are still sent to preach Christ crucified, and those who hear what is preached and respond positively will still be saved. “And he said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15,16). “He that believeth” implies that it is a personal free will to accept or not, and he said that those who accept and are baptised, will be saved and those who do not believe will be damned. So it is a personal choice, to be saved or not to be saved. Free will: no-one is forced.

I urge you to read Ezekiel 33:4,5,8,9, so that everyone should know his position, either to take heed or not. As I am writing, I am taking my own position and you, the reader, have two positions: positive and negative, and if you choose positive, you will be saved. If you choose negative, you will be damned. Remember that we preach Christ crucified, still a stumbling block or foolishness to some people. But this very same man, Jesus Christ, is a power of God and the wisdom of God. So wise people choose the wisdom of God and take the power of God to themselves. By doing this, wise people accept Jesus Christ to be their saviour; they become a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a peculiar people. They will then show forth the praises of him who called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. In time past they were not a people but are now people of God; they had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy (1 Peter 2:9,10). All these benefits come to us if we are baptised.

“If you deny Jesus today, he will deny you” (2 Timothy 2:12). “The best thing that we have to do is: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). But remember: “God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezekiel 33:11). God wants everyone to be saved (John 3:16). Respond to His call positively to be saved. God is for everyone, Jews and Gentiles (Galatians 3:28-29). We are heirs according to the promise, if we are baptised.

Bro A D Liwawa (Neno, Malawi)

Special Feature: The Truth In Haiti 2009 – 2010

Carelinks email out weekly news updates on the work of preaching and caring; if you're on email you can request them by emailing info@carelinks.net . Here are some of the reports about Haiti as they've been released; as you read through them, surely you can perceive the hand of God at work.

We're delighted to announce the birth of the first ecclesia in **Haiti**. For some time we've been in contact with *ESMATH*, a zealous Bible student and Bible Basics contact who had been through many churches in his search for truth. Brother *Charlie Klennert* of the Tacoma, USA ecclesia has had a lot of phone contact with Esmath, and it became evident that here indeed was a very sincere person who had come to a full knowledge of the Truth. During the course of our contact, Esmath became increasingly convinced of the error of the Trinity- when he started teaching against it in his church, he was eventually chased out. He started meeting with a group of friends who had also become convinced that the Trinity isn't a Biblical doctrine. This group meet regularly at Esmath's home. Esmath had been a lay pastor of a church and so has many contacts. He and his group have made a complete break from all Trinitarian churches. Here are extracts from some of the emails:

"I organize meetings for some friends who believe in the true Gospel ... a lot of good people are scattered among the false religions and drinking the bad milk of trinitarian doctrine. I need your prayer because the true Gospel should be exploded in Haiti where a lot of so-called pastors are working simply to gain money but they do not really care about bringing people to the true hope of the Kingdom of God.... I urgently need to be baptized... I see how ever since 1988, gradually God was at work open the eyes of my heart to see the real truth..."

Brother Duncan went to Haiti in November 2009 and found this group as good as they had sounded by email and on the telephone. Their non-Trinitarian position had been confirmed for them by the aggressive rejection they'd all received from the churches they'd attended. And so finally we all gathered for the baptisms at a beach near Carrefour. *ESMATH* was first to be baptized, and then he proceeded to assist with the baptisms of the other brothers in the group: *MOITEAU, PATRICK, FITO, LUCKNER, AMOS, WILFRED, WILLIERE, ABSOLU* and *KENZI*.



Baptism of Esmath and then the rest of the group

Since leaving Haiti, we received the following email from brother Esmath:

"Peace and Grace be unto you in the name of Jesus our real example. I was so glad and blessed to receive your message this morning and immediately printed out some good documents that can surely help me in my teaching regarding the word of God. I have just created a new name for the ecclesia, this is "Eglise de Jesus Christ -Lieu de verité" means: Ecclesia of Jesus Christ- Place of truth. We are having Bible study tomorrow and Sunday we are starting with our first Sunday service together as baptized brothers. This will be the inauguration and a lot of people in the area are invited to take part, either Pagans or so called Christians from other churches. We count on your prayer, so that the real gospel could be preached fearless for the glory of the Ministry of God our heavenly Father".

HAITI

We reported previously the baptism of 10 brothers on this island, and the formation of an ecclesia meeting at the home of brother Esmath. He has a disused car port in his home, where we gathered together after the baptisms:



Esmath has reported how word has spread throughout Port-au-Prince that now there's a non-trinitarian group who aren't Mormons and aren't JW's... and that people have been flocking. That disused carport has been crammed with as many chairs as he can find, twice / week, for Bible studies. And many have to stand. Here are some pictures of the same small space where we met after the initial baptisms. It's an amazing 'before and after' sequence:



Esmath and his wife are expecting a baby any time now and are moving out of that place. We'd really like to assist them in renting a meeting place for this dynamic new group. Seeing Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries, the locals cannot contribute very much. We'd like to lease a place for a year, which would need around 2000 - 3000 US\$ for a year, depending upon the extent of local weekly contributions. Of course, this isn't an absolute necessity, but it certainly will enable the Lord's work to go yet more powerfully forward.



Funds were raised and sent to Br Esmath. However he received the very day before the huge earthquake that destroyed Port au Prince, where the group are; leaving 200,000 dead and 1.5 million people living on the street; one of the greatest disasters of recent times.

Here are the first emails we received from Esmath:

“I simply come here to let you know that We are all alive by the mighty name of God . we are all staying and sleeping in the street because all the houses are destroyed with everything. I have been wearing one cloth for 3 days but I am alive. my testimony is wonderful because when the earthquake occurred , I was on a motorcycle coming back from work, the motorcyclist died immediately and I am alive. all the people from the ecclesia are alive, but facing very difficult situation. Brothers , do not stop praying for us.[later]Brother, you we form a family right now. I have nothing to hide to you , seriously the need is enormous, I do not know if I have to start from the head or from the toes. even the government is powerless from that situation. I have already contacted all the members of the ecclesia , they lost everything but they are alive. Brother, you can do what is necessary”.

More funds were sent by Western Union, and Brother Nick from the UK managed to get to Haiti via the Dominican Republic and identify needs and express on behalf of us all our love and support. The journey was very difficult as there were no civilian flights allowed into Haiti at the

time. Brother Esmath's cousin has a field and some buildings where the ecclesia and their families are now living and meeting, and we've done what we can to send assistance for this. Brother Esmath emailed during Nick's visit:

"Hello Brothers,

Thanks to Our God we are swimming in his grace inspite of what happened . I was with Brother Nick last night... We have already bought a generator for 600\$ US and Paid yesterday to provide light in the ecclesia because there no electricity. I bought food and water for them and I am going to buy some others things to cover the locale because it begins to be too small for my people. I am persuaded that Brother Nick will be at the ecclesia Sunday and he will report to you what he sees. Thanks for having us in your mind, May God bless you!... I took some other pictures last Saturday while providing food to the needy orphan children. I have taken some pictures together with Brother Nick who came from England to visit and work with us... Thanks to God this week was an exceptional week under the power of God. We thank God for sending our tireless Brother Nick who decided to come to Haiti in such difficult situation, it is only the Love of God which could do so. Mosquitoes persecuted him a lot but he accepted to stay with us in the yard. Regarding yesterday morning, the service was nice and Brother Willièrè led the service and Bother Nick delivered a very spiritual message while I translated. The place was packed and the place is already too small . There were 118 people attended the service!. Please keep on praying, so that the real Gospel of Jesus Christ will be spreading in Haiti. May God bless you all so much !"



Photo: Visitors and brethren at the ecclesial gatherings which are attracting so many people- 118, when they were only 10 a mere 2 months ago! Note how they are meeting under sheets, which won't be any good in the forthcoming rainy season. Hopefully the heavy duty canvass we're sending over will be better.



Photo: Orphan children cared for by Brother Esmath with food provided for them on a makeshift table; the generator purchased to provide electricity



One very urgent identified need is for tents. We have purchased some smaller tents and sleeping bags, and at the time of writing have just obtained a small ex-army canvass marquee [large tent]. These have been couriered over.

Here's a report from brother **Nick Cox** about his recent visit. We are deeply grateful to our brother for making such an extraordinary trip and showing at first hand the grace of true fellowship to our brethren in Haiti.

"It was two weeks since the earthquake ('the event' as Bro Esmath and Absolu referred to it), but as I set off I still didn't know exactly what the purpose of my trip to Haiti was. I wanted to provide spiritual support to the brothers there and I hoped to show by my visit that the worldwide Christadelphian community loved them and cared for them. It was still unclear whether money transfers to Haiti were working yet so my visit would provide an opportunity to pass on some of the donated funds to be used by the brothers to help in their difficult situation. But despite all this what practical help was I going to be? Well, it was in God's hands and thankfully my wife Rachel not only supported me but also reminded me how Abraham had had to rely on faith when God told him to up sticks and go into the unknown.

There were no commercial flights to Haiti so my plan was to fly to the Dominican Republic which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. I would then hire a car, pick up funds via a money transfer and then drive to the border crossing at Jimani where Bro Esmath would be waiting.

Twenty four hours later and the plan had worked. God must have been helping because it was a ten hour drive on the worst roads and dirt tracks I've driven on. With few or none existent road signs I quite literally had to drive by faith. I arrived safely at the border, parked the car, walked through the gates, past the armed guards and just there on the other side was Bro Esmath and Nixon (who is due to be baptised but due to 'the event' it's been put on hold). After hugging and greetings I asked what the plan was now. Esmath had it all planned, as far as he was concerned the purpose of my visit was to show to the brethren and the many visitors to their church just how much our community cares and the best way for them to see this would be by my presence at Night Prayers which they hold every Wednesday (it just happened to be Wednesday) and also to be there at the service on Sunday morning which would give me a chance to meet some of the brothers who had left the Port Au Prince after the earthquake.

My worries about leaving the hire car behind soon vanished as our first taxi was riding pillion on motorcycles (no helmets and the driving was extreme on roads that were worse than in Dominican Republic). I had thought that maybe I'd be able use the hire car to ferry much needed provisions from Dominican Republic to Haiti but as we approached the capital it became clear from the street markets and shops that food and drink was available (there's a stream of refuse running through this market). Even where we were heading to in the Carrefour district, which was quite badly affected by the quake, the markets were open and busy, but even so there was no clean water and no electricity so Esmath had used some of the money that had been sent to purchase a generator which came in very useful at night prayers and the evening bible classes that the church hold.

What became very apparent as we drove through Port Au Prince to the Carrefour district was that one of the main issues facing thousands (including our brethren) is the need for somewhere to live and sleep. Many houses that weren't destroyed by 'the event' are not safe to live in, so people are living and sleeping outside under makeshift tents in the road or wherever they can find a space. The sheer number of tents I saw made me think of what the Exodus would have looked like. Esmath is one of the more fortunate ones in that he's living and sleeping in his cousins yard. The same yard where the church services are held is now doubling as an open air home.



There's a kitchen area,



a sleeping area,



and a shower area (bucket of water for washing), a hole has been dug for a toilet.

Despite these circumstances a hearty meal was awaiting when I arrived. Night prayers began at 9pm, it would have been sooner but the generator was too noisy so it was used to charge up some batteries and then these were used to provide quiet electricity for the lighting. The brothers and visitors and a few children carried on in prayer, worship, exhortation and preaching until after 1am and then found whatever they could to sleep on (doors, board or chairs). I hope the person whose bed it was that I slept on didn't mind too much.

The following day I let brother Charlie Klennert know that tents would be a useful aid in the short term and that a proper toilet in the yard is probably essential as I fear disease could become a major issue. Because of the conditions in the yard Esmath didn't want me staying there and to be honest with 30 mosquito bites swelling up I was relieved when the 3rd hotel we went to was open and had vacancies, although maybe God was trying to tell me something when I got food poisoning after my first and only meal there.

Saturday morning was children's time at the church, some of whom are orphaned. They enjoyed games, singing, quizzes and rice and peas (with a bit of goat thrown in). It's hard to know what lies ahead for these children (it would have been hard enough for them before 'the event') but at least they are getting a little earthly and spiritual food thanks to the brothers.



Sunday morning was the church service and the spiritual choir of young men and women (including Bro Williere) sang beautifully and movingly, even though I couldn't understand French Absolu told me the gist of what they were singing.

Esmath had asked me to give a talk as it would mean so much to them and I just hope that it did help in some small way the 50 plus people that were there. It feels like I ended up doing so little to help and that I have been the one that has received so much by this visit rather than me being

the one doing the giving. Absolu, Esmath and Nixon dropped me back at the border in Esmath's cousins car and we said our good byes.

I'd like to thank God and Jesus who has preserved our brothers lives and blessed me with the chance to witness their strength in faith and their zeal and love for the one God of the Bible. I'd also like to thank the brothers in Haiti for making my stay so memorable.

May we all as one body share their pain but as members in Christ let us find a means of sharing in their joy and helping them to rebuild until Christ comes.

Bro Nick



Photos: Clothing package sent from Br Marcus being distributed at the Sunday meeting

What True Belief Means

We thank the Lord that salvation is true and achievable. If it were not so people would not continue coming to our service to hear the Word of God. But the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ produces results in the lives of men and women. Those who look upon Jesus and his Gospel as a failure, as a dead issue, are people who have not put the Gospel to the test.

There are terms and conditions which people must keep to get any results from their prayers. The conditions are clear in the Bible. People who have neglected the teachings of the Bible often want something modern – something scholarly, something educational. The Gospel is much more than that: It has power to rebuke all the influences of darkness in man's life and put something into his soul that helps him to live in harmony with the teaching of the Word of God.

The requirements for salvation have never varied or changed. God brings us face to face with the same facts that He did two thousand years ago. In Acts 16:25-31 we read: 'And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them.' Verse 31 'And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.'" This is the condition upon which we are saved – believing on the Lord. The prison keeper had two special prisoners that night, and it was God's will and mercy that Paul and Silas were imprisoned, for it resulted in the salvation of the prison keeper and his family.

Please note: it was at midnight when Paul and Silas sang praises to God. They didn't have to wait until Sunday morning for a man to come and give out hymn books. Their hearts were in tune with the God of Heaven regardless of them being bound hands and feet with chains. When they sang the songs of praises something happened. The God of Heaven visited that prison house. It began to shake and quake: the doors began to open, the shackles and stocks became loose and they were free. It was a case of God's will being fulfilled. He came to set those captive souls at liberty. When the keeper found out what had taken place, he came trembling and fell down saying, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

That question has been upon the lips of people right down to the present day. The answer is: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.” In the first epistle of John 5:1 we read: ‘Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.’

A real Christian is counted as being ‘born again,’ not of this world, one who is committing sins, but one who is living a pure life, whose conduct is such before the world and people recognize this about him. God deals with people the same way today – He saves people who ‘meet the conditions’ just as Jesus did in days of old – and the Lord will save all who truly believe, repent and obey God. ‘Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.’ (Luke 13:5)

Bro. Gift Lungu (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

James - A Unique New Testament Epistle

A Bible student, John Martin, has this to say in his foreword on study notes about the book of James:-

“The epistle of James is one of the earliest writings of the New Testament. It contains no mention of Gentiles in or out of the Ecclesia, but is addressed to the ‘12 tribes of the Diaspora’ (dispersed Jews). Although written in precise Greek, it is strongly Hebraistic in its tone; abrupt, powerful, and full of the colourful language that enriches the writings of Moses and the prophets. As for the author, he has been described as ‘a Jew who never ceased being a Jew’, although he became a Christian. James is a Grecized form of Jacob. Like Jacob of old, James offers his fatherly advice to the 12 tribes who are scattered abroad.”

The epistle is unique in the New Testament as it is aimed at a dual audience: 1) The whole Jewish nation; 2) the newly emerging group of Jewish Christians. Yet its teaching and lessons apply to both Jews and Gentiles for all time.

“Born Again”

James touches on a number of first principles but we take just one example, being born again. In John 3 Jesus declared to all who wish to please God, “You must be born again.” John 3:3 AV: “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...” and v.5: “Except a man be born (again) of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

So we have to start a new life; have re-birth, if we are to be in the kingdom of God. James says the same in chapter 1:18, speaking to baptized believers, he writes (NIV) “He (God) chose to give us birth (a new birth) through the word of truth.” It is belief of the truth which causes men and women to be baptized – to be born again by total immersion in water, and then rise to a new life in Christ, with all their past sins ‘washed away’ (book of Acts).

Trials

In chapter 1 we read that to have our faith tested by trials and tribulations is a good thing, because it develops “patience,” or endurance and fortitude in our characters, so making us better people.

Chapter 3 – the Tongue

This chapter points out the disasters caused by evil gossip. Ch.3:6: 'The tongue is a fire – a world of iniquity...' etc.

Chapter 4 – Greed versus Humility

The early verses of this chapter paint in some of the worst excesses of uncontrolled human nature – war, greed, murder, adultery; and it also warns against friendship with a world that has no time for God. The remedy is in verses 7-11, - to repent in humility, to “humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.”

The Wisdom from Above

In chapter 3:13 this is first described as “showing a good way of life, with works, and with meekness of wisdom.” Much charity work today is done chiefly for self-glory. It should be done quietly, unobtrusively.

James continues to say that “the wisdom from above is first pure.” Purity of doctrine is vital, BUT IT IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS. It must be followed in a “peaceable” manner (not with arrogance) ... it must be “gentle,” “easy to be entreated” (approachable), “full of mercy and good fruits,” “without partiality” (not giving some special treatment in the brotherhood, whilst ignoring others) ... and “without hypocrisy.” “and the fruit of righteousness is sown in PEACE of them that make peace.”

For baptized believers, this is the aim. (It is a high standard.)

...to sow fruits of righteousness, such as “love, joy, faithfulness,” (Galatians 5) and to sow these fruits in peace, and in a peaceable way.

Bro David Webb (UK)

Courage

- This is the ability to face danger without fear. The Bible lists numerous remarkable stories of men of courage. Let's have a look at the account of the battle between the Philistines and the men of Israel, called at Socoh in Judah, during the reign of king Saul. Israel had constant attacks from her enemies like the Amorites and the Philistines. The Philistines' might had come from the weapons they made, as we are told in 1 Samuel 13:19-22. The men of Israel had also their secret of valiance! But the words of the Philistine, Goliath, stating that whoever prevailed against the others in battle would make the defeated army to be their servants, made the Israelites and their king very frightened. (1 Sam.17:8-11)

But David, the youngest amongst Jesse's sons and only a young shepherd who had known no war, crosses the battle line to face the Philistine, a champion who was well armed and had known war from his youth. (1Sam. 17:33). How wonderful that David, (as he told king Saul,) had struck down both a lion and a bear, the fiercest of wild animals, and had suffered no harm (v.34-37). He was confident that the Lord who had saved him from the animals would keep him safe when confronting Goliath. King Saul told him, “Go, and the Lord be with you.” David, full of confidence and courage, went and killed the Philistine, Goliath, with a stone from a sling.

Another example is in the book of Acts, 21:10-14: this is when Paul was warned by the prophet Agabus that if he went to Jerusalem as he intended, he would face considerable danger and harm. In spite of his companions and friends also seeking to persuade him not to go, he insisted that was his mission. Paul answered them, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be only bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." v.13 Surely it was the Lord's will that led him, and he did not seek his own path, but followed the command of the Lord.

Read other remarkable stories of courage like:

- Moses and Aaron confronting Pharaoh – Exodus 5:1-4; 10:24-29.
- Ehud killing Eglon – Judges 3:15-30.
- Gideon against the Midianites – Judges 7:1-24.
- Jonathan against the Philistines – 1Sam.14:1-14.
- Daniel in the Lions' den – Daniel 6:1-23.
- Apostles facing the Sanhedrin – Acts 4:1-22.
- Saul preaching in Damascus – Acts 9:20-25.

Those commanded to be courageous:

- The Israelites, by Moses – Deut.31:6
- The Israelites, by Joshua – Joshua 10:25
- Solomon, by David – 1Chronicles 22:13; 28:20.
- Peter, by Jesus – Matt.14:27
- Paul by the Lord – Acts 23:11

What about all of us? See Hebrews 3:6 and 1Corinthians 16:13.

Aspects of Courage

When do we need courage?

- As we face dangers and difficulties. For example, after Moses' death, Joshua took over the mantle to lead the people from the wilderness over to the Promised Land. It was a hard task all the way until the land was conquered from their enemies (Joshua 1:6-9). We too should overcome difficulties which arise in our lives and be strong in the faith. (1Cor.16:13)

- As we struggle to attain everlasting life in the coming Kingdom. (2Cor.5:1-7) We can be led by the Spirit in faith so that we are no longer burdened by the needs of our mortal life.

Bro. Lawrence K' Owiti (Nairobi, Kenya.)

If You Believe in God He will Help

1 Samuel 17:45-46

‘David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me and I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.”

Here we see that David believed and had faith that God would guide him and give him power to conquer the Philistine soldier Goliath. The Philistines selected him as their champion – the one fit to fight all comers. But we must trust in God, as David did here, and God gave him the power to conquer.

Psalms 33:4-9

‘For the word of the Lord is right and true, he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice, the earth is full of his unfailing love. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth: he gathers the waters of the sea into jars. Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke and it came to be, he commanded and it stood firm’.

The hands of our Lord are pure and he is waiting to welcome us into his Kingdom. No-one will enter it who is unholy, so now is the time for us to review our lives before God and confess our sins. No matter how long we have been in the faith, we must confess each day through prayer. If we don’t seek forgiveness our places in the kingdom will be lost in the last day.

‘Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved, except through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (Acts 4:12) Rom.12:1-2: ‘I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as living sacrifices, holy, and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.’ ‘Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.’(v.11-12)

Bro. Weston Kamota, (Magunje, Zimbabwe)

Brits Abroad

Once again 3 of us from Maidenhead set off to Latvia to do some building work on the ecclesial buildings. This time we had one or two surprises apart from the building work.

We arrived in Riga on Sunday in very cold weather with a biting wind, we were freezing, only to be told by Duncan that a convert had asked to be Baptised in the river that morning. He had some sympathy for us but we had to admit he had ‘top trumped’ us. Riga is a beautiful city with some of the buildings dating back to the 13th century

We made our way to the hall on Sunday evening to meet Duncan after he had driven back from the bible school in Naukseni (approximately 180km to the north of Riga). He informed us that there wasn’t any hot water in the ecclesial hall. The reason for this is that the ecclesial hall is in

the basement of a tower block, where the heating is distributed by the local authorities and some of the residents couldn't afford to pay their heating bill so the whole building was cut off. This can last for years. This was the first surprise and the first job...install a hot water boiler.

First thing Monday morning whilst planning the jobs and the listing the materials needed, we met a brother from a meeting in Copenhagen (denmark) who had come to Latvia to run the English classes which Duncan had organised to take place at the ecclesial hall while we were there. We were to find out very quickly that sadly he was in the process of having a complete nervous breakdown, this resulted in him being admitted to the local lunatic asylum. This place was apparently like something out of the dark ages, with nurses shouting at the poor patient's who seemed to be herded together willy-nilly in various states of distress, a place to keep unstable people off the streets rather than a place of care. Fortunately between Duncan and the Danish embassy it was possible to get the Danish brother flown home to his very distraught, wife who was expecting their second child. The Danish brother was never far from our thoughts and prayers all week.

The English classes started on Monday evening as planned with Duncan taking the place of our Danish brother. 11 or 12 people came regularly throughout the week, 4 or 5 ladies taking two buses and 1/12 to 2 hours to get to the hall. They wanted to pay to hear more lessons! These ladies belong to other churches but explained that they were not happy there. Having had a discussion after the class one night, they thought that Christadelphian meetings may be a better fit for them and said they would attend on Sunday.....success!

After the set backs of Monday, on Tuesday morning, having bought the boiler from the diy store, we set about plumbing it in to feed the kitchen sink and the baptismal bath. At the same time we put in a shower and tiled the bath. Additionally shelving units to take all the bibles and books were built and the kitchen floor tiled and skirted. Many other smaller jobs were also carried out.

On the Tuesday afternoon we visited the Asylum seekers refugee camp, which is housed in an old Russian concentration camp. No one locally knows it is there and it looks like a prison.

We had a service and broke bread with the two brethren held there, they seemed very happy to see us. Brother Walter, big and strong is 25 and 2 years ago was a first division Cameroon football player. He gave a lovely exhortation, while Brother Yeasu, an older contemplative man from Eritrea (Ethiopia), sat and listened. It was a moving experience.

For those who read the carelinks emails you may remember the recent release of Brother Robert who was held at the camp for 2 years. He is now living in hope in Naukseni to the North, although he is without an identity and could be re-arrested and returned to the camp at any time.

The Solicitor who is representing these brethren as to their human rights has been so overwhelmed by the brothers faith she then enquired further and in time she was baptised.

Also pastoral work is being done in a women's shelter. Here, normally elderly ladies are allowed to stay overnight but have to be out by 8:00am with all their belongings. They are literally bag-ladies, finding respite in the shopping malls or the station before they are allowed back into the shelter at 7:00pm. A number of these have been baptised and attend the meetings.

A brother John Aldersley and his daughter were staying in Riga, helping out with bible school, and visiting brethren and sisters in the very poor parts of eastern Latvia. In one house it was

noticed that what looked like sticks were being stored in the cellar. These sticks were in fact carrots and root vegetables, their provision for the winter.

While we were there, John's daughter announced she wanted to be baptised and when she rang her mother with the news, her brother said he was ready too. More good news.

At the end of the week we travelled 180km north to Naukseni in the country. Naukseni is a bible school set up by Duncan where they regularly have 30+ people attend for a weekend. Along the way Mark insisted we looked out for Stork's nests.

The house/Bible school is a large 17th century German built house with a nice garden, some out buildings and backs onto the river. Currently there is an ex-7th day Adventist family living there who has pretty much been ex-communicated by their family and community for changing faith to christadelphian

The 4x4 was laden down with tools and materials to frost proof the well and some internal pipes. The winters there can get down to -35°C, sometimes more.

While Mark tried to find the well with divining rods, Adam & Chris boxed in the main incoming water pipes.

Raymon, the ex 7th-Day Adventist, was preparing wood for the log stoves for the winter. He and his wife have 8 children (only 6 shown below). They have not shaken off all the Adventist practices like opposition to contraception. Inconceivable really. They made us very welcome with some traditional Latvian food.

Brother Robert as mentioned earlier is also staying at the bible school while his human rights and asylum case is being worked out.

Their cellar is full of carrots, root vegetables, cabbages and the like for a long hard winter. They have worked hard on their allotment.

It is worth remembering that the food was priced roughly the same as the uk, so it was tough to live considering a doctors average wage is 400 pounds per month

After a long hard week, sometimes working till midnight and eating at 1am, we drove back to Riga to leave for England.

Your Brethren,
Chris and Mark and fellow traveller Adam 'Dove boy' Quinn

Testimonials

Mark Leadbetter

We left a dedicated team behind, prepared not only to give up all to spread the gospel, but also to look after these folk with medicine, shelter, fuel, food and pastoral care. They really appreciate what maidenhead ecclesia is doing for them and are truly thankful. We took 45kg of blankets, sheets, wool, knitting needles, buttons and the like. So thank you very much for all your support. 33 people were at the breaking of bread in the riga hall two Sundays ago. A remarkable achievement and testimony to the effort put in and the support given by others, especially our ecclesia and its members.

God willing I shall be going out again next year. So I shall probably make an appeal for things needed before then.

Maidenhead ecclesia have been very generous in their financial help, but those who come need to be aware that it may be mainly own financing, as we should not presume upon financial aid.

So I hope this gives an overall picture of the way of life out there, their trials and the sterling and dedicated work put in by various people. There have been over 20 baptisms in the hall since the work this May 2009.

The Latvian economy has collapsed and the government have reduced salaries by 30% but the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ and very importantly, its practical considerations are spread, thank you all and thank you Lord Jesus.

Adam 'Dove boy' Quinn

My time in Latvia was an eye opening experience, it was very enjoyable and if I was asked, I would go back and help tomorrow. I felt my time was well spent and I am grateful for the experience. It opened my eyes to a different way of living.

Chris Hodge

A fantastic week of great fellowship, many moments of joy and so many sobering experiences to remind us just why we went there. I really felt we made a difference. I was reminded of the most generous blessings I certainly feel we have living in the UK, not having to worry about health care, where our next meal is coming from or having a roof over our heads.

Revelation 17

Part 1

This chapter describes the great whore, an immoral woman arrayed in purple and scarlet and having a golden cup full of abominations and having the name 'Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth'. She is sitting on a scarlet beast with 10 horns. These horns are said later to make war with the Lamb who will overcome them (v.14). The 10 horns will hate the whore and burn her with fire (v.16).

The Guidelines

First of all we must remember the guidelines given to us in the first verse of Revelation which were, "to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass", that is, to say, historical events, which would affect their lives. The revelation would also be 'signified', that is, given in symbolic language rather than in literal terms. This style of revelation has been used many times before in the Scriptures.

For example, in the prophecy of Ezekiel, God's people, Israel, is described as a prostitute because they had corrupted their worship of God by adopting the worship of pagan idols which was the practice of nations living around them. They had also sought the assistance of the Assyrians when they were threatened by other enemies. This is the allegory in chapter 23, "There were two women...and they were mine, and they bear sons and daughters. Thus were

their names; Samaria is Aholah and Jerusalem Aholibah. And Aholah played the harlot and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours (v.5) ...With all their idols she defiled herself. Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers...(These slew her with the sword) (v.10). And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she..." (v.11). The rest of the chapter is couched in similar language.

This example from Ezekiel's prophecy illustrates the way God sometimes uses sexual immorality to describe a departure from the true worship of himself. It is suggested that it is this principle that is being employed in the 17th chapter of Revelation. The description of a great whore stands for a religious institution which had corrupted its originally pure worship of God.

The decline in the early Christian Church

The apostle Paul, who was responsible for establishing the Christian Church in Corinth wrote to them in an endeavour to maintain their purity in doctrine and practice. On one occasion he wrote, "...I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor.11:2). Here the church is described as 'a chaste virgin'; a woman who is suitable and desirable as a wife for her husband; who in this case is the Lord Jesus. Her chastity signifies her purity in doctrine and practice.

However, in the course of one of his missionary journeys Paul had occasion to address the elders of the church in Ephesus with the following warning, "For I know that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch..." (Acts 20:29-31).

The progress of the Christian church during the early centuries was in a world dominated by pagan Roman emperors. Because Christianity grew rapidly in numbers and popularity, the emperor Constantine decided to elevate the Christian church to the exalted position of the State Religion in place of paganism.

To further the worldly interests of the church, Constantine saw fit to preside over a council of Christian bishops and lay representatives to settle matters of dispute in the church. One outcome of these discussions was the promulgation of the doctrine of the Trinity, which some in the church would not accept. These dissenters, being in the minority, were severely treated and persecuted. For this reason they were forced to escape to Northern Africa for refuge. This development is described in verse 6 of ch.12., "And the woman fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days" (v.6).

It is evident that this refugee woman is that party in the church which was intent on preserving purity of doctrine and practice in the ecclesias and "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (12:17).

It is interesting to note the time span that was granted to these persecuted Christians. As is usual in such time periods, by substituting a year for a day we can understand that these Christians were granted a period of 1260 years in which to continue their protest.

Paul's prophecy

In Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians he predicted a falling away from the Truth by the church before the return from heaven of the Lord Jesus, "...That day (the day of Christ) shall not

come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess.2:3-4).

This falling away happened during the early centuries and developed as the Roman Catholic Church down the ages. Its worldliness and immorality is recorded by many historians such as Gibbon in his ‘Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire’.

The Whore’s Regalia

The woman of chapter 17, then, can be seen by her description to represent the Catholic church in her latter day manifestation. Her immorality is representative of her corruptions in doctrines and practices. She is said to be arrayed in purple and scarlet which are the colours of the vestments worn by her clergy and cardinals. These colours also indicate the imperial character of her Popes who had assumed in past ages regal powers to enthrone kings and to depose them.

On her forehead a name has been written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth. It so happened that an inscription used to be worn on the Pope’s triple crown until subsequently removed by Pope Julius III, thus identifying the Catholic Church as this apostate woman. This Church claimed to be ‘The Mother and Mistress of all the Churches’. As she is the mother of harlots, her daughters, the state churches of Christendom, are also harlots which have retained many of the erroneous dogmas of Rome such as the Trinity.



The Popes triple Tiara

One of the abominations is the priesthood organised by the Church to which her devotees are required to confess their sins in the confessionals in order to be forgiven. This practice is contrary to the Bible teaching that Jesus is the only one who can do this work. “Wherefore in all things it behoved him (Jesus) to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Heb.2:17). And again, “But this man (Jesus), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb.7:24-25). This means that the only way believers may have their sins forgiven is by confession to God through Jesus who is now our High Priest and Mediator.

The persecution of ‘heretics’

Sadly, the Woman is said to be “drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (v.6).

Throughout the history of the Catholic Church there have been believers in true Bible teaching who have refused to worship God in a Catholic church and have therefore been persecuted. At first this persecution took the form of their being deprived of their material possessions. Later these dissidents, who were called ‘heretics’ were put to death often in most cruel ways for their faith. In the thirteenth century the Church established a special court known as the Inquisition.

This court was given authority to 'try' cases of suspected heresy. During these days many faithful saints chose martyrdom rather than returning to Catholicism. The Church left it to the secular authority to carry out the death sentences. For instance, in 1231 Pope Gregory IX repeated previous laws ordering the burning of 'heretics' by the state.

In France the Waldenses, who were followers of Peter Valdez, were among those who suffered at the hands of the Catholics. In England the Lollards in the time of Wycliffe also suffered persecution. In 1562 the notorious massacre of the Huguenots took place in France when thousands were slaughtered by orders of the Church of Rome.



Painting of Francois Dubors of the Paris massacre of the Huguenots, some estimate up to 30,00 murdered in France.

This was an era when the Bible began to be translated and printed in the mother tongue of the common people in Germany, England and many other lands. In 1536 William Tyndale produced a New Testament in English. Many of his friends who were found reading his translation were burnt at the stake. He himself was eventually betrayed and imprisoned and later strangled and burnt at the stake

There is no doubt that Tyndale and many others were encouraged by what Jesus wrote to the ecclesia at Smyrna, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: ...be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev.2:10).

Lastly we should take note of another detail in the revelation of chapter 17; this is that the woman was "sitting upon a scarlet coloured beast....having seven heads and ten horns" (v.3). This feature, like that of the history of the Catholic Church, has had many vicissitudes in its development and it is hoped to deal with this feature in Part 2.

Bro. Ralph Green, (Torquay, England)

The Perfect Church

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear
For goodness sake, don't join that church –
You'll spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find that perfect church
Where all excuses cease,
Then pass it – lest by joining it
You mar the masterpiece.

If still you find this perfect church,
Then don't you ever DARE

To tread upon such holy ground –
You'd be a misfit there!

But since no perfect church exists
Made of imperfect men,
Then let's stop looking for it – NOW –
And love the one we're in.

Of course, it's not a perfect church;
That's easy to discern,
But you and I – and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn!

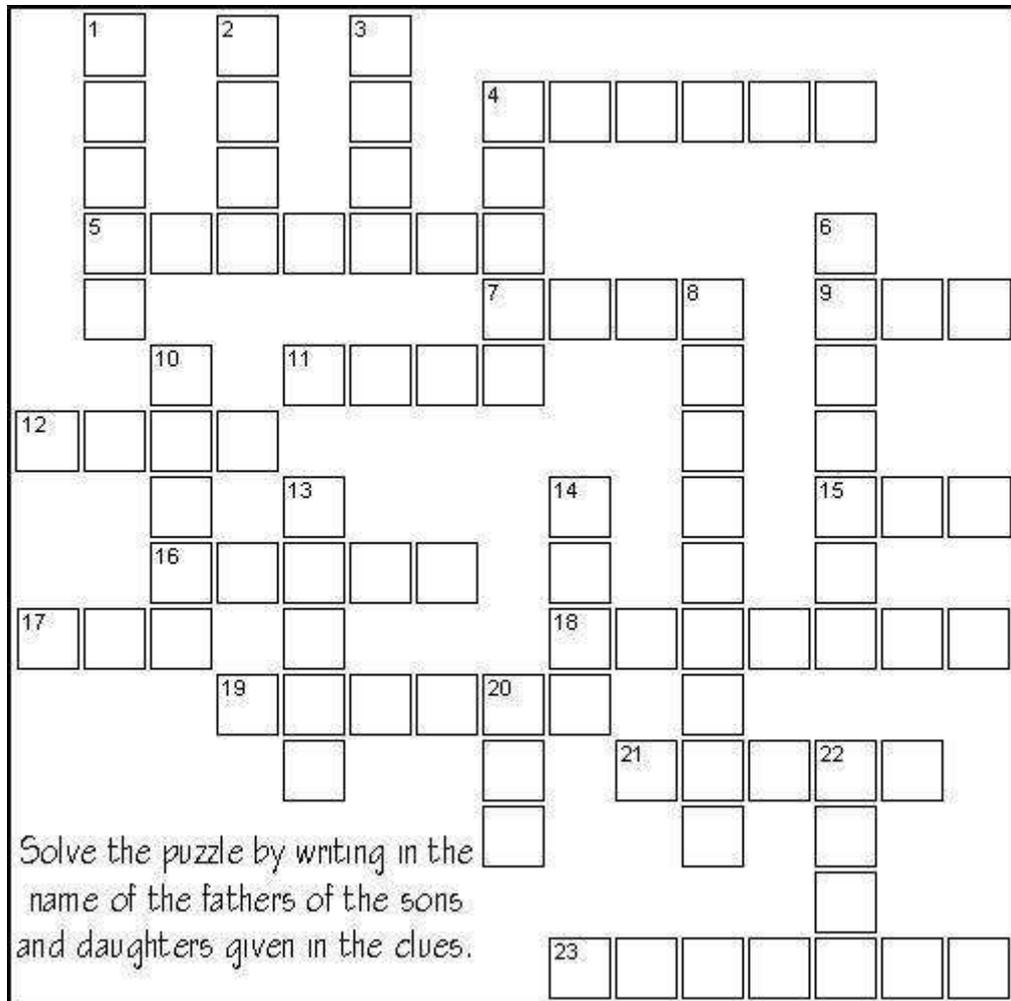
What fools we'd be to leave our posts
In an unfruitful search,
And find out that where problems are
Is where God builds His church.

So let's keep working in THIS church
Until the resurrection,
And then we each can join a church,
Without one imperfection!

Bro. Mike Floyd, PE ecclesia

Sunday, June 20

In 52 Countries Sunday June the 20th will be celebrated as Fathers day, in which fathers will be honoured. Last year the South African Newsletter had the following crossword on the names of sons fathers, which is quite a test on ones knowledge.



Across

4. Ephraim and Manasseh, 5. Rehoboam, 7. Hezekiah, 9. Moab, 11. Nimrod, 12. Obed, 15. Joshua, 16. Esau and Jacob, 17. Jesus, 18. Isaac and Ishmael, 19. Samson, 21. Joseph and Benjamin, 23. James and John, The sons of thunder

Down

1. David, 2. Jonathan, Merab, and Michal, 3. Cain and Abel, 4. Simeon Peter, 6. Samuel, 8. John the Baptist, 10. Absalom and Solomon, 13. Rachel and Leah, 14. Shem, Ham, and Japeth, 20. Jehoshaphat

Keep Awake

We all know that Jesus is coming back to earth to establish the kingdom of God. The day or hour is not known – neither Jesus nor the angels knew. Jesus told the parable of the Ten Virgins to show that some of the disciples today won't be ready to meet him when he comes. So there is a need to be ever watching and prepared to meet him.

Reading the parable carefully, we note that the virgins were not preaching, watching or praying while waiting for the Bridegroom to come. They were all asleep until the cry, "Here is the Bridegroom – come out to meet him!" (Matt.25:6) It's dangerous for a disciple to be in a state of slumber spiritually. Jesus says, "Be dressed and ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can open the door for him. (Luke 12:36) What are we doing to keep the Word of God burning in our hearts so that when Jesus comes he will find us ready for him?

Prayer is closely linked to watching (Luke 21:36). Prayer is a privilege a disciple has – a privilege of talking to their Creator. Prayer makes us strong – for spiritual refreshment a disciple should depend on prayer. Any disciple whose spiritual progress is low must check his praying habits. How often does he pray? Jesus advises us to pray all the time.

It is not good to keep the Scripture knowledge we have gained to ourselves. We must share it with those who lack it. We can do this through preaching to neighbours, or publicly. Our duty is to make followers for Jesus and to prepare people for the Kingdom of God in the same way Jesus prepared his disciples for the twelve thrones promised them for their faithfulness. If we keep on doing this we shall not go to sleep spiritually, we shall be ready and prepared to meet our Lord when he comes.

Bro. Likando ILishebo (Livingstone, Zambia)

As We Grow With the Word of God

We grow with difficulties, and to overcome them we need to ask God to help us. God wants us to love Him with all our mind (Deut.6:5-7) "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you walk by the way and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Do we hear the calling of God? Do we hear God when we read our Bibles? Brethren and sisters, how do we spend our time? 1Cor. 1:26 says, "For consider your calling, brothers, not many of you were wise according to worldly standards; not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth."

Do we have time to read our Bibles? It is our spiritual food and gives us peace of mind. To have peace of mind we need to walk with the word of God all the time. Waiting with all our mind is what we need: read our Bibles and wait, letting it have its full effect, "that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

We children of God have one hope, that of everlasting life on earth. First seek the Kingdom of God, then other things will be added to us. Things which we do may not let us into the Kingdom.

But if we love our Father and His Son, you must understand God's word. If we don't read the Bible we don't love God, and we will not understand Him. If you don't take heed to His word, then we could be failures

Rom.3:23-24: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by his blood, through faith ..." We cannot receive this gift if we do not really believe. Psalm 116:12-13: "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord." Then v.9: "I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living." Be strong because other brothers and sisters, face the same difficulties as those which affect us. Heb.5:7: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence."

The gospel of the kingdom has been preached through the ages. The object was not to give laws and constitutions, but to separate a special people from the nations who would afterwards rule people justly, and in the fear of the Lord and give Him pleasure. They would be renewed in the spirit of their minds and would have put on the new man which is after God's image, created in righteousness and true holiness. 1Cor.6:2: "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to judge the smallest matters?"

We must realize that the things of this world will not give us an entrance into the kingdom of God our Father. 1Pet.5:10: "May the God of all grace who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus... perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Bro. Charles Daka (Mufulira, Zambia)

Unforeseen Problems in the Refugee Camps

Some time ago, I'd expressed concern about a possible decision to close down any number of refugee centres, due to the world financial situation, and the effect of this on our brethren, unprepared for this, in these centres. I suggested that we should take this into consideration and try to take the necessary action of exploring existing safe environments, preferably close to various settled ecclesias, with a view to implementing resettlement of our brethren. As we consider this venture, *we will be remembering that we will not be left on our own, but that our Heavenly Father will be supporting us all the way.* In taking this course of action, we will be prepared beforehand, and our brethren will not be left fending helplessly and hopelessly for themselves.

From reading the scriptures, I have learned that *God spearheads these matters, long before we even think about them, and manages them to His purposed end, because He is in charge of the affairs of our lives, but He desires the participation of His children in His operation.* This is where we come in. For example, the Israelites spying out the land of the Canaanites, commissioned by God through Moses at God's appointed time. Way back in the time of their father Abraham, God had already made this covenant; Genesis 15: 16 "*But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*" Follow the execution of this covenant,

and through whom. During Israel's troubles in slavery, God told Moses, 7 *"I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows v 8; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.* (Exodus 3). Even though he used the words, *"I am come down to deliver them"*, he proceeds to work through Moses, guiding and empowering him, until he convincingly overcame Pharaoh. Like us, Moses did not think he was up to this commission, (Ex 4:11) *And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?* a reminder that God has made us all, regardless of our perceived limitation or disability, and could therefore use us effectively as he will, *because he is the one working through us.*

Then Deuteronomy takes to the scene in ch. 1: 20-21 *And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us. Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged".* How did the Israelites respond? v28, *"Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there."* Moses' encouragement to them, *judging no doubt from his own experience - 29 "... Dread not, neither be afraid of them. 30 The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes..."*. Today, thousands of years later, Israel is in the land, and will ever be, because this was God's purpose which was sure to be fulfilled.

These examples teach us that when we embark on a project of helping our brethren, who are God's children, His saints, God is the one inspiring us in this operation, and will work together with us to the desired end. We must not therefore be deterred by what appears overwhelming to our finite minds and for our capabilities, but strive to focus, *in faith*, on what he desires of us, and His power at work in us.

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