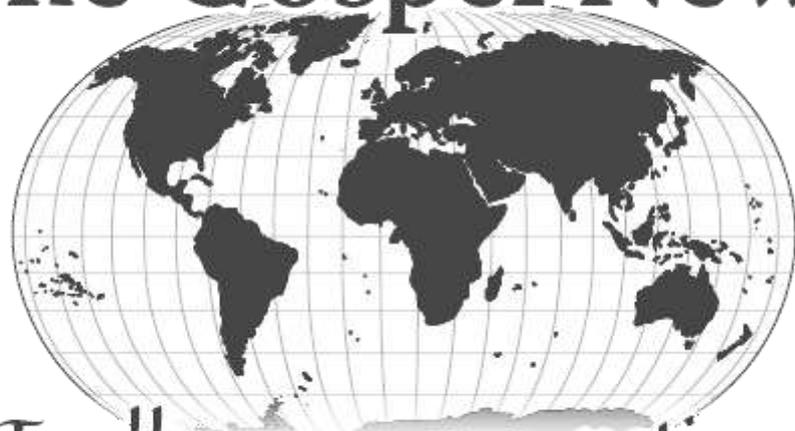


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



Love Is...

Paul didn't just start writing his poem about love in 1 Cor. 13. It's wedged firmly in a context, a clearly defined unit of material about the use of the Spirit gifts spanning 1 Cor. 12-14. Having clarified his own authority and personal experience of the miraculous gifts, he proceeds to show the Corinthians "a more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31). He uses a Greek word four times, although most English translations render it inconsistently. It's worth highlighting the words in your Bible, maybe with a note like "s.w." ['same word'] next to them:

- "Prophecies shall *fail*" (1 Cor. 13:8)
- The Spirit gift of "knowledge shall *vanish away*" (1 Cor. 13:8)
- "That which is partial shall be *done away*" (1 Cor. 13:10)
- "Now that I am become a man [mature], I have *put away* childish [immature] things" (1 Cor. 13:11).

I read this as Paul saying that he used the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit in his spiritual immaturity; but in his maturity, he chose not to use them, he "put [them] away". Paul also writes of how the miraculous gifts will be "done away" when "that which is perfect [complete, mature] is come" (1 Cor. 13:10). He seems to be saying that his personal growth from childhood to manhood, from immaturity to maturity, is a reflection of how ultimately the gifts will be no more when the mature state has come; and he wishes to attain that state now in this life, and thus he ceased using the gifts. He asks us likewise in this context to follow his pattern, to be "mature" [AV "be men"] (1 Cor. 14:20). This connects with how he speaks in Col. 3:14 of "above all" having love, which is the seal, the proof, of the mature state [AV "the bond of perfectness"]. In his own way, John spoke of the same state when he wrote of "perfect / mature love", and how he who fears hasn't reached the 'perfected-in-love' stage (1 Jn. 4:18). Instead of using the Spirit gifts, Paul sold his soul for love; he gave himself over to the life characterized by the kind of love about which he writes so powerfully in his poem. Paul laments that the Corinthians weren't mature (1 Cor. 3:2), and wishes to be able to speak to them as "mature" (1 Cor. 2:6). So often in the decisions we face in life, it doesn't come down to a right or wrong, a yes or no; rather it's a question of what is the mature Christian behaviour, and what isn't.

In the future Kingdom of God, there will be no need for the miraculous Spirit gifts as they were in the first century. Love is "the greatest" because faith and hope will then have been turned to sight and will be no more (1 Cor. 13:13). A theme of Corinthians is the ability of the believer to live on different levels - e.g. 1 Corinthians 7 advocates the single life of devotion to God as the highest level, but goes on to make a series of concessions to lower levels. It seems that in the matter of the use of the miraculous Spirit gifts, Paul is again presenting a higher level upon which the believer of his time could live - a "more excellent way". He wanted to live the Kingdom life now as far as possible. We "have eternal life" not in the sense that we shall not die, but in the way that we in Christ can live the kind of life we shall for ever live, - right now.

The Supremacy Of Love

What Paul is advocating, then, is a conscious outgiving of ourselves to love. Not just being a nice enough person, a reasonable neighbour, partner, parent, a "top bloke", real decent guy, but a love which is actually beyond even that. - A love modelled on God's love, and the love of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us by crucifixion. Paul's poem personifies love as a person-love, e.g., "rejoices with the truth", hopes and endures. We too are to 'be' love. Not just

occasionally, not just in ways which we are accustomed to, which are convenient to us, or are part of our background culture such as occasional hospitality to strangers. "Love is...", and we are 'to be' love, as if our very name and soul and heart is '*agape*'. Before we look at some specific aspects of this love, let's allow Paul to point to us the paramount importance of love. Love is not an option - it's to be the vital essence of 'us'.

Even if we have faith to move mountains - an allusion to the Lord's teaching in Mt. 21:21- we 'are nothing' without love (1 Cor. 13:2). God so respects faith that He may hear the prayer of a believer, even though He considers that person "nothing" because they lack love. In our self-examination we may perceive how God answers our prayers, our faith is rewarded... and think we're doing OK. But it could be that we are still "nothing". It's a sobering thought. Paul goes on in 1 Cor. 15:2,19 to say that faith can be "in vain", and hope can likewise be merely of benefit in this life. But 1 Cor. 13:3 hits even harder home: a believer can give their body to be burned, for nothing, if they lack love. Remember these words were written, albeit under inspiration, by a believer who did give his body to die a violent death, and who had seen with his own eyes the death of Christians. Surely Paul writes with a warning word to himself; that even that apparent pinnacle of devotion to the Lord can be in vain, if we lack love.

Love Is

So seriously did Paul take this that, as I suggested above, he stopped using the miraculous gifts of the Spirit in order to live the Kingdom life of love now, as far as possible. I find it deeply concerning that so many who have committed themselves to Christ are unable to confidently answer questions such as 'What is love?'. To expound the beasts of Daniel's visions is relatively easy - this equals that, that refers to this. But to get to grips with "love" appears to have been given all too little attention. Love is patient / long-suffering (1 Cor. 13:4). But let's not think that patience simply means how we react to forgetting our keys or spilling milk. To some extent, whether we take such events calmly or less calmly is a function of our personality, our nervous structure, the kind of cards we were dealt at birth. I suggest that the long-suffering patience Paul refers to instead has reference to our forgiving attitude to others, rather than applying to whether or not we get frustrated with ourselves. The man hopelessly in debt to his lord begged for him to show "patience" (Mt. 18:26). Patience is about not forcing others to "pay me what you owe me". We all have many people in our lives who are in our debt- more such people than we may realize. We have all been hurt by more people, and hurt more deeply, than we realize. Patience is about bearing long with their immaturity, waiting for them, whilst the debts remain unpaid; rather than demanding that they resolve with us before we'll fellowship them.

Love is not easily provoked (1 Cor. 13:5) - and here we have an allusion to how slow God was to anger with Israel. As their loving husband He stuck with them for centuries, enduring what would have emotionally shattered many husbands if they endured it just for a few months, and putting up with what most men couldn't handle even for a year. God was slow to anger for centuries, and even then in that wrath He remembered mercy, even in His judgments He desperately sought to find a way to go on with Israel in some form. And we are asked to show that same slowness to anger.

Love is not "puffed up" (1 Cor. 13:4). Earlier in Corinthians, Paul has warned that "knowledge puffs up" (1 Cor. 8:1). Let us never kid ourselves that because we "know" some things about God, even know them correctly, that we will thereby be justified. It's not a case of simply holding on to a set of doctrinal propositions which we received at the time of our baptism into Christ. For the day of judgment won't be an examination of our knowledge or intellectual purity. This is

not to say that knowledge isn't important. Paul had been arguing that if we truly know that God is one, that idols therefore have no real existence, that we are free in Christ to eat any meat- then this knowledge should not lead us to be arrogantly insensitive to our brother or sister who has a less mature understanding or conscience. Love is... not like that. Love therefore restrains our own superior knowledge and bears with those who don't quite 'get it' as they should. Again, our pattern is God's attitude to us who know just a fraction of His ultimate Truth.

This love "seeks not her own" (1 Cor. 13:5). This phrase again builds on Paul's earlier argument in Corinthians - that we should act sensitively to others weaker in the faith, not doing things which may make them stumble, according to the principle "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbour's good" (1 Cor. 10:25). This is quite something. All the time, in every decision, action, position we adopt, we are to think of what would be best for *others* rather than what's cool for ourselves. At the very least, this means that we are to act in life *consciously* - not just go with the flow, reacting to things according to our gut feeling, choosing according to what seems right, comfortable and convenient to us at that moment; but rather thinking through what import our positions and actions will have upon others. It takes *time* to think out what will be beneficial for them. And "love is..." just this. This is a way of life and thinking which it's very rare to meet in people. Almost frustrated, Paul lamented: "For all men seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's" (Phil. 2:21). 1 Cor. 10:25 spoke of seeking not our own good, but the good of our brethren - i.e. "the things which are Jesus Christ's". But according to Phil. 2:20,21, Paul felt that only Timothy understood this spirit of not seeking our own good, but that of the things of Christ, i.e. our brethren. The life of love is therefore a lonely life. So few 'get it'.

Summing up, love bears / covers / carries all things (1 Cor. 13:7). This is the language of the cross - the Lord Jesus bearing, carrying our sins, and covering them. If we really grasp this, it ought to make us take a deeper breath. We are being asked to personally enter into the cross of Christ. To not just benefit from it ourselves, admire it from afar, look at it as Catholics glance at a crucifix over the door, pause for a moment in unthinking respect of tradition, and then go headlong through the door. No. We are asked to get involved in the cross, to participate in it, to bear it ourselves. The mind that was in the Lord Jesus at that time is to be the mind which is in us (Phil. 2:5-7).

Our Failure

Faced by the heights of such challenges, we can easily despair. We are not like this, or not like it very often, nor very deeply. But Paul felt the same, even though under inspiration he himself wrote the poem. Paul too realized his failure, the slowness of his progress. When he writes that love is not "easily provoked" (1 Cor. 13:5), he uses the same Greek word which we meet in Acts 15:39 describing the provocation / contention he had with Barnabas which led to their division. Surely he had that on his conscience when he wrote that love is *not* like that. Note how he writes in the first person: "If I have all faith... but have not love, *I am nothing*" (1 Cor. 13:2). It's not only that Paul is warning himself personally; the only other time the Greek phrase "I am nothing" occurs is Paul speaking about himself, also to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 12:11). There's a kind of association of ideas between the "*I am [nothing]*" and "*Love is [everything]*". Unless we 'are' love, we 'are' nothing.

Paul speaks as if he has in one sense matured into "love", no longer a child but a man; yet he writes as if he is still in the partial, immature phase, seeing in a mirror darkly, waiting for the day when he would see "face to face". Likewise "Now I know in part, but then shall I know..." (1 Cor. 13:12). It's the 'now but not yet' situation which we often encounter in Scripture. In a sense we

have attained to the mature state of love; in reality, we are still far from it. Paul is alluding to Num. 12:8 LXX, where God says that He spoke with Moses face to face and not in dark similitude's. Paul felt that he wasn't yet as Moses, encountering God 'face to face' in the life of mature love. He was still seeing through a glass darkly. But some time later, Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he was now beholding the glory of the Lord's face [as it is in Christ] just as Moses did, "with unveiled face", and bit by bit, that glory was shining from him (2 Cor. 3:18 RV). And hopefully we feel the same - that bit by bit, we are getting there.

So let us take Paul's urging seriously: to grasp the utter supremacy of the life of love, to "follow after love", to press relentlessly towards that state of final maturity which is - love (1 Cor. 14:1).

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from benin

When I consider the madness in footballing and other athletics, how people are craving to become good at it, because of the money in it, it calls my mind to an illustration given to us by the Apostle Paul, from the Grecian contests in 1 Cor.2:24, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?" That is a question, then he concludes by saying, "So run, that ye may obtain."

I am talking about the Christian race; in this race we must check out what can hinder us. In Gal.5:7 we read, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that you should not obey the truth?" Doubt can cause us to derail from the track. We read that any double minded man is not fit for the Kingdom. The Bible is our only option.

We read in Philippians 2:16, "Holding forth the word of life; " i.e. the Holy Scriptures, "that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." And the Apostle Paul continued to say in Phillipians 3:14, "I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ"; that is eternal life, nothing is greater than that. But it will not come easily; the goal is our final destination, let our minds always be on the goodies in the gospel and if it is so, then we can be able to care less for all the flashy things we see around us which are temporal.

Another thing we must remind ourselves of is that we are not the first to enter this race, there are those who have gone through what we are going through now and we are privileged enough to have their records laid down for us. The whole of Heb. 11 talks about many of them. So in Heb. 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Then back to 1 Cor. 9:25 we read that "every man that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things", etc. and Prov. 21:17 "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich." See also Gal. 5:23 which refers to "meekness , temperance: against such there is no law."

There is a saying that, “The art of life is to learn how to enjoy little and endure much, because there is much more to life than eating and drinking.” The Bible tells us that one day our body (apart from the Return of Christ) is for the ground, but we know that it does not end there because we are responsible, see Acts 24:25, “And as Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgement to come, Felix (the governor) trembled.” We read in Proverbs about loving pleasure and being poor, not just natural poverty but spiritual, what should be done? See 1 Cor. 9:26-27 where Paul says, “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

So for us to win in this race we need some weapons; first to fight the inward battle, see Rom.7:23 – self control and also 2 Cor.10:4. Then finally the rewards for overcomers see:

Rev. 2:7 Spiritual food to be received

Rev. 2:17 New name

Rev. 2:26 Authority

Rev. 3:5 Robes of righteousness, life eternal

Rev. 3:21 Enthronement

Rev. 21:7 An eternal inheritance.

And so all the promises in the gospel will be fulfilled.

Bro. John Eke Adwe

news from burundi

I would like to inform you that I have been ill, but I am reading the Bible every day with the *Companion* system. Thank you for the Magazine as it enables me to keep in touch with how things are going with Christadelphians. I find I am lacking in energy and long for Christ's return. May the Lord bless and keep you. With love in the bonds of the Gospel.

Mulamba Mshikelwa



Photo: Bro Mulamba Mshikelwa

news from cameroon

On 19th June 2009 I had an accident that I shall never forget in my life. I fell over a pointed iron projection. The Almighty God protected me, but it, speared through my foot. With a cry of Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”, I pulled out the iron by myself, it was 25cm. in length. I was alone six kilometers from the village and my God gave my strength to jump on one

foot right to the village health centre, with blood flowing out, where I was immediately transferred to the Wum General Hospital and the wound was stitched. A week later I am still under their care and do not know when I will be released.

Bro. Peter Kum



Photo: Bro. Peter Kum

WEH

I thank you for the work you have been doing to us here in Weh Ecclesia, and we pray that God will help you and Duncan to continue like this. For I have been reading good books which are able to make me grow more spiritual. Thank you for that book on Miracles. Brother, any books that you see to make me and the ecclesia grow, please send them to us.

Bro Kum Donatus Cheghe

news from egypt

Thank very much for your love and unity in spirit with us here. Please do keep in touch always. Soon will be our ecclesia's anniversary. Please continue to help us in your prayers.

Bro. Ogun



Photo: Sis Besedi, Bro Ogun's wife, with their baby

news from ghana

Praise be to His name, in the wonderful hope we share. I hope you are still sailing with the faith. I am still making a very special appeal to you to kindly assist where the Lord may allow you to. I am on drugs both ARVs and Biopsy injections, but I have almost nothing to eat, yet for the drugs to help me push on, I need to eat, even if it is not well balanced, but something to keep me going. I am now down with hunger and this makes me become weaker. May the Lord bless you.

Bro. Isaiah

news from kenya

AHERO

Greetings from Western Kenya, hoping you are in peace as we wait the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is always a sign of the times in the air – the weather has changed desperately and there is a great decline in the farm output. Kenya alone expected 33,000,000 bags of maize according to a special report (meaning that from our population of 35m people, one bag per man) now the Cereal Board has only half of it and there is no sign of rain – a sign of famine.

God is always interested in his people and God is very interested in Kenya and controls it. My survey is only a thirst for more hearts to give in and incline to the Truth. A nation of 40 million people if compared to a Christadelphian figure of about two thousand people! Many Kenyans own a Bible but are not believers. Believers often meditate and exult in it. Catholics take the lead with many followers who still believe in the trinity, sprinkling of infants and going to heaven, beliefs that are outside the Bible. As Paul writes to Timothy, they will not listen to the Truth.

Bro. Otieno Anyals

BULIMBO

I apologise for the long silence but please pardon me as I was away for quite a long time to advance my career. I am now back at my normal address. Bro. Richard from Bungoma promised to communicate with you so that you could get me a tutor but I have so far not heard from one, please assist me. Bro. Pius Bitalo, Bro. Hesborn Onyinso and Sis. Elizabeth Asikoyo send their greetings and thanks for the literature that you send to us.

Sis. Imelda Makokha



Photo: Sis. Imelda Makokha (in checked dress) being recognised for preaching to students and workmates.

BUNGOMA

Our ecclesia now has 20 members and I would like to request copies of *Bible Basics* in Swahili, *Teach me Thy Way* and *Revision Studies* to assist us with our preaching to those who wish to be baptised. I am looking forward to teaching four students who will be baptised at the end of the year and I will be glad of your support. I also inform you that at the end of this year we plan to open a new ecclesia in Bwake sub-location, God willing.

In Kenya we have seen violence, which has never occurred before since this country existed. Youths who were protesting blocked some of the roads in Kibera and more than 100 were killed; thousands were displaced and buildings were destroyed. In other parts of the country where youths were protesting, police fired tear gas at dozens of them and shot several times in the air to disperse them. Furthermore, this violence is not only in Kenya, but also in Zimbabwe. This shows me that Jesus is coming soon. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us in the Bible that the “last days” generation will witness these signs as we read in Luke 21:9-10, Luke 21:20-27 and Luke 17:30-37. “To this man, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.” Isaiah 66:2.

Bro. Maina George Wabwire



Photo: Bro. Phopiano Otia and Bro. Maina Wabwire

I take this opportunity to thank you for being concerned with replying to my request and for all that you have done for me and other brothers and sisters all over the country. I also wish to thank Bro. Trevor Hughes, who is our linkman in Kenya and who organised the Conference on 10th-12th April. It was very interesting and we got wonderful lessons from Bro. Alan from the talk entitled "David in the Cave". I personally learnt a lot of lessons to guide me from this episode in David's life and how he escaped being captured by Saul. God performs wonderful miracles which show us that He will protect us and lift us up in our lives.

Bro. Boniface Juma



Photo: Bro. Boniface Juma

I have received the letter from you asking about *Gospel News* and I do wish to continue to receive it, thank you.

Bro. Emmanuel Kundu



Photo: Bro. Emmanuel Kundu

Hi brother, I hope you are fine and doing well in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here in Kenya I am also fine. Thanks very much for I got the book you sent me which I hope will do much for me and other brothers and sisters in helping us to have much more insight of the meanings of the words satan, devil and evil. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Bro. Griffin Wafula

CHWELE

Thank you very much for the good work of supplying us with *Gospel News*, as we can read articles from different brothers and sisters from ecclesias all over the world. The economic situation has caused an increase in food prices, which is causing a lot of pain to common people in Kenya. We pray for Jesus' return to establish his everlasting Kingdom.

Bro. Jacob and Sis. Jacklyne Wanjala

I was baptised in 1995. When I received the Gospel I believed the things concerning God's Kingdom, which is to be established on the earth very soon. It has built my faith on a strong foundation for daily life. In addition, by borrowing from Bro. David Wanjala, I have read *Bible Basics* and *Gospel News*, which have good lessons, which are profitable. Thank you very much for your generous idea of sending such literature. This has influenced brothers and sisters worldwide to develop a spark in their minds that causes them to realise a hope for salvation in God's Kingdom. Furthermore, the quotation from Mark 16:15 is being fulfilled.

Finally, it is the first time, with my wife, who is preparing for baptism, that we write to you with joy in our hearts requesting a copy of *Gospel News*. I will be happy to be linked to you so that we also will be strengthened in God's Word as we await the return of our Lord Jesus.

Bro. Jacob Waliaula



Photo: Bro. Jacob Waliaula with his wife Valentine and sons Malvine and Movine.

ELDORET

I am sorry to let you know that on 26th July I was attacked by robbers on my way home and robbed of all my personal belongings; my identity card, cell-phone, torch, plus 1000 ksh. I was not harmed very much although I am now down with malaria fever. Our vegetation has failed due to lack of enough rain. The contacts which I supervise are gradually growing spiritually.

The rule of God's Kingdom, which is soon to come, will be an abundance of peace. Psalm 72:7-8. "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth." Phil. 4:9. "The God of peace shall be with you." We find some hints in Phil. 4:4-5, "Always rejoice in the Lord. Once more I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness become known to all men. The Lord is near." The more we know God the more fully we shall do His will, that in turn will bring us satisfaction and inner peace.

Bro. Jacob Okoth

IKUTHA

To all brethren throughout the entire universe, let us put on the spiritual armour and wage war against corruption. This evil is making the rich families wealthier and the poor poorer. Corruption is making people worship money and forget their Creator. The poor have no rights; modern slavery is based on bribes and corruption in the names of trade and profit. David refused to be given land free from Araunah (threshing floor), to build an altar for the Lord. He gave Araunah his right and paid for the threshing floor. (1 Chron.21:24-25).

We need to inform the world that everything in the world belongs to God. He has provided it to make the world habitable and it is the responsibility of human beings to share it fairly. "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3). People should

not participate in corrupt activities caused by worldly evil desires as we are told in 2 Peter 1:4. Human beings should practice goodness, self-control, perseverance, brotherly kindness, love and godliness. 2 Pet. 1:5-7. It is our duty to tell the world of this great news, saying it openly to the ecclesias, preaching to our neighbours, expressing concern and warning nations to change in the press and world media.

We have to be effective and productive to avoid being short sighted. This world is almost changing to another Sodom and Gomorrah. We need to alert the world that Jesus is at the door, plead with the world to accept Jesus and change. We all look forward to entering the Kingdom of God. May the Lord God of heaven and earth, the God of Abraham, send our Saviour, Jesus Christ, soon.

I send my thanks and appreciation for the copies of *Bible Basics* that you have sent me; I have given one to Bro. Charles Munyi of Ikutha ecclesia and the other nine to interested brothers. Joseph promised to ask Bro. Trevor Hughes to order 15 more copies of *Bible Basics* in English and five more in *Kiswahili*, so that we could use them to prepare the youth in Bible Classes to know about the Gospel. Please inform me how these arrangements are going.

Bro. Harrison Mbebe

KATITO

I am very pleased about the progress made in Latvia and many countries in the Eastern Block. It is also impressive to find Christadelphians even in Egypt and Sudan. Let the Gospel be preached to all corners of the world before the Lord returns. We need Christ so much at the moment. As you know, I am still faced with problems at home and I cannot stay there, as I am not wanted. One morning I was attacked by robbers who stabbed me on my left arm, took my I.D. card and my cell phone, fled and threw the I.D. card by the roadside. I immediately ran to the nearby dispensary for first aid. The wound has healed. Imagine no one came to my rescue as I was shouting for help.

Kenya has shed much blood during the recent violence and has to taste the wrath of God. There have been no rains, no harvests and many rivers are drying up because the forests are destroyed. Even some lakes, like Lake Nakuru that holds flamingos is drying, forcing the birds to migrate, likewise Lakes Turkana and Baringo. The Kenya we used to see is changing its image due to bad government. Kenya is a sick and failed state with corruption at the highest level, lack of security in the towns, unemployment, famine and drought among other problems.

Bro. Lawrence K'Owiti

KISUMU

The main point of this letter is to inform my fellow brethren that my address is now: Bro. Richard Oduma, c/o C.B.M. Kenya, P.O.Box 925, Kisumu, Code 40010. On behalf of Kisumu Ecclesia we ask for your daily prayers. Please continue to send us Christadelphian literature regarding our beliefs. Again we would like to request you to send more copies of *Bible Basics* for our contacts, God Willing.

Bro. Richard Oduma

MAKHONGE

Thank you very much for the books for preaching. They really encourage us in every way as we learn about the Word of God. We wish also to let you know that we are very happy at the way you are doing this work. We are also happy as we were helped to buy a new plot. May God bless you as we are awaiting our Lord's return to establish his everlasting Kingdom on earth.

Bro. Patrick Sawa



Photo: Makhonge brethren constructing a shade on a new plot.

From left – Bre. Jacob Wakhabu, Joseph Khaela, Patrick Sawa, Zablon Murandafu, David Wanjala, Andrew Wakhabu and Moses Wekesa.



Photo: Bro, Emmanuel Sichangi

MBITA

We are very happy that our brethren from the UK have been able to send us funds to help us as we have a famine here in Kenya. May our Lord bless them.

Bro. Daniel Ogembo

As a Christadelphian brother, I would like to ask all our brothers and sisters worldwide to take care of our preaching work to those who have not yet heard the message and to pass on the Truth and faith which we have received. I always try to use my time to preach and yesterday I went to a school for orphans to pass the message on to those who were there. I pray that I may be rewarded when Jesus returns to set up his Kingdom.

Bro. Jared Oketch



Photo: Centre Bro. Jared

MIGORI

Many thanks for the *Gospel News*. May the good God continue to help, provide and protect you. Your fellow soldier in the conquest of self and the advancement of the Gospel.

Bro. Joseph Onyango

MOMBASA

What sins are forgiven at baptism? The sins forgiven us at baptism are our own sins, of which we alone are guilty. As to the sins of Adam which brought death, it is neither scriptural or reasonable to speak of our being forgiven for them. Romans 5:12. The evil springing from our connection with Adam will not be cured, healed or forgiven till death is “swallowed up in victory” at the resurrection. 2 Cor.15:54.

Will Adam be raised? Was the sentence he received to eternal death? The sentence he received was to “return to the dust.” Gen.3:19, which sentence was duly carried out, certainly. The fact of his being clothed with the skins of a slain (sacrificial) animal, shows that he was eligible, with the whole human race, for the salvation to be provided in the woman’s ‘seed’. Gen.3:21. There was nothing in this to prevent Adam’s resurrection if the way were afterwards opened, but if not, none of the human race could rise, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rom.3:23, for all were equally involved in the sentence.

Bro. Walter Barasa Wasike

MUMIAS

I would like you to help me with a Bible and more books, which would give me more knowledge and enable me to teach Christians more about God.

Bro. Rashid Nanjira



Photos: Bro. Rashid Nanjira; Sis. Nanjira

SINDO

I received your letters, religious pamphlets, *Elpis Israel* and letter of encouragement and exhortation for my spiritual growth, which help to make me strong in the faith. I have now been in the faith for 33 years since I was baptised on 21st August 1976. Please remember to pray for me and my family, especially my children, that they may accept the Truth. You know salvation is a gift from God, God calls people to serve him as he called Abraham, Noah, Moses and Jeremiah. He sent our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We have examples of patriarchs of faith in the book of Hebrews ch.11.

Please pray for God’s message to work in my area, called Sindo. I want this message to bear fruit. Jesus said in Luke 17:26-27, “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man. They were eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.” There was another brother here, who died in the Truth, Bro. Richard Laban Olong who was baptised in 1973 in Nairobi. I need your prayer so that this area of Sindo, should respond and join me to reveal the Truth to other people. I believe your prayer will be answered and the people of Sindo will be able to see me as a devout, living witness for the Truth.

Life in Christ after baptism is one of the hardest tests for a brother and sister. Here are some of the experiences I have encountered for 33 years in the Faith. You must read God’s Word daily preferably by using the *Bible Companion* for spiritual growth You must have fellowship together

in breaking bread and drinking wine. You must be a strong witness for the truth and above all you must live a life of sacrifice to serve God for the rest of your life. You must pray for the Kingdom to come. You must accept that you will be tested in your life. You must be able to tell people what you stand for, you must be strong and courageous, your life must reflect the image of God as shown by our Saviour, Jesus Christ and you must show the character of a true Christian.

When you read the Bible try to learn the characters of the people who served God in their life and the benefits they received and those who refused to listen and obey the voice of God and the punishment given to the disobedient. When you go to preach the gospel please respect the faith of others, show that you love them and don't just start by telling them that they don't go to heaven. First make them feel welcome, start by explaining why God exists, that He is the Creator, God is One God and that He loves everybody, whether they are Christian, non-Christian or Moslem. God is love, God is eternal, immortal, merciful and everything belongs to Him. God is the Creator of the rich and the poor, Prov.22:2. God is the cause of good and bad things happening and has a plan for us. The God of the Bible wants us to live together as members of one family. God has a great plan, which is revealed when we listen to His voice through the Bible. God uses everything, including plants, animals and mankind to show His power.

In conclusion, of my 33 years in the Faith, I have not yet received what I was promised, but look forward to eternal life, which God who cannot lie, has promised us, Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began and at the proper time manifested in His Word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ."

Bro. John Owalo Onani

SUNA MIGORI

I am taking this opportunity to thank all those who joined hands to make this Magazine. It is of great help to me and my family and has a lot of Bible teaching. I am requesting if it is possible there is a possibility some copies of *Bible Basics*, as most of our contacts are in much need of them. May the Lord bless and keep you as we look forward to the time when we will all rejoice together in the Kingdom, in the mercy of our Lord.

Gospel News builds me up spiritually and I will also build up others through the same.

Bro. Samuel Masara

We all made the right decision when you went into the waters of baptism. Don't be overwhelmed with the pressures of life. Chance comes to all true Christians at God's own given time. The Bible is our map to follow until we reach our destination. It promises us life now and in the world to come. No other book sees beyond what we have now. It stands alone among other books and calls us to be separate from the world – why worry? Matt.6:33 – "Seek ye first the Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Thank you for the well researched manuscripts on signs of the times; please keep updating me.

Bro. Joseph Onyango

Thank you for the good work of the Lord that you are doing for your own and other individuals' betterment. We pray that CAT will have the ability so that they may reach all corners of the earth with the real message from ALMIGHTY GOD which He spoke and is still speaking in the Bible. I do admire you guys but one day if it is not tomorrow, I will be a giant like you, ministering the Truth to the world.

Bro Ishmael Makwinja

BALAKA

Here in Malawi God's work is spreading nearly all over the country. In Balaka in particular God has blessed us with another five new members and our church is growing spiritually and physically, so please pray for us as we need your help in so many ways such as Sunday School books, Bibles and finance, so that we are able to build our own Church. As of now we are still using rooms at a school. Thank you for the "Present Day Events" which continues to tell us what is happening around the world.

Bro. Micky Mbawe

Those of us who follow Christ in this life will be kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth. We will rule over settlements of various sizes and numbers; one will rule over ten cities and another over five. Christ will share his rulership over the earth with us and princes shall rule in judgement.

When we are tempted, we are forced to choose between sin and obedience to God and often we choose to disobey God. Christ had the same choices but always chose to be obedient; he had the possibility of sinning although he never actually did. We have shown that the seed of David promises in 2 Sam.7:12-16 was definitely Christ, verse 14 speaks of Christ's possibility of sinning.

We must walk like Jesus. We must pray like Jesus and we must pray every day.

The victory of Jesus – "He was in all points tempted as we are yet without sin

The promises of the Old Testament:-

1. In the Garden of Eden.
2. To Noah.
3. To Abraham.
4. To David.

Bro. Lyton John

BLANTYRE

Let me apologise for my silence. It is true that you have not heard from me for a long time. This does not mean I am not interested in receiving *Gospel News*. I like that booklet because it's where we share our faith. Contributions from brothers and sisters help all readers come close to their Master, the Lord Jesus. The only reason for my silence is that I had nothing to share with brothers and sisters. I always say what our Almighty Father has revealed to me and wherever presented, the message should bear fruit. You may agree with me that people need to be told the truth, the only truth that can set them free. This truth is found in the Holy Book –

the *Bible*. The message from this book is straightforward, pointing forward to how we can live in harmony with the Father.

I have temporarily changed my mailing address as I am doing my studies in the city of Blantyre. May I please ask you to send me some copies of *Bible Basics* and other Christian literature and also a *Bible*. Let me not forget to thank you for the support you have been rendering to me. Whenever there is a meeting in Zomba please try to inform me.

Bro. Stuart Bingala

BOLERO

Gospel News takes me round the world and I learn what other brothers and sisters put into action and what they learn from the scriptures, so please continue to send me *Gospel News* and other Christadelphian literature. Could you please send me some reading glasses and I appreciate the prepaid reply envelope you sent. I take it as a lesson to help others so that they feel as I feel when helped.

Bro. Stuart Maramba Gondwe

JALI

Thank you for the work you are doing because as newly developing seeds we need support so that we can grow and mature with the Word of God. I am half way through the book you sent me, *Christendom Astray from the Bible* and I am finding it very helpful. I would be glad to receive a dictionary.

Bro. Lucky Foster Mbalale



Photo: Bro. Lucky Mbalale

LIMBE

I am really blessed with the words of encouragement from you, which are helping me to grow spiritually. I would like also to thank you for the books sent to me, which have helped me a lot and it is my prayer that you will be able to send some books which deal with the Devil and its origin. I want to encourage my fellow Christians to hold fast to the faith which we have in Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, and to do our best to please God.

Bro. Suzgo Simwaka



Photo: Bro. Suzgo Simwaka

LILONGWE

Greetings in the Name of Jesus and I hope you are well. I am a member of the Christadelphian Church in Malawi, aged 29. I joined the Christadelphians last year in South Africa, while I was there searching for a job and I am now in Malawi. I would like to ask you to send me more *Bible Basics* in English, English *Bibles* if possible and Christian booklets.

Bro. Samuel Getiam

MAYAKA

I would like to ask you to join me in prayer about how I can manage to find school fees for my son, as you know that education is a very crucial thing these days. I have sent a photo of myself with friends. I am the one in a jacket, second from the left. It was a study day about Bible doctrines and I was teaching from Heb.11:1-11. These people want to know if it is possible to establish a Christadelphian ministry here.

Bro. Lameck Niwawala



Photo: Bro. Lameck and friends



Part of a substantial congregation at Migowi who, as a group, are seriously looking into our beliefs and considering joining us. Their prayerhouse is in the background and Bro Austin is standing at the far left.



Some of the senior women of the congregation.

MWAMBO

Thanks a lot for the new book entitled "*The Acts of the Apostles*", as well as the news updates. "*Gospel News*" helps to encourage people, give a focus and convert some of them to be born again in the Lord. The new book will help me to know the meanings of people's names and places through the whole book of Acts. So sorry to hear about the falling value of the £, however this points forward to the economic crisis in the last days whereby the Kingdom of God is about to be set up.

Bro. Kenneth Maganger

MZUZU

It has been very nice to hear from you again. I would like to thank you for all that you did for me like replying to my letter and sending me a very nice *Bible Basic* ruler with an envelope inside that letter. I think that everything starting from that letter might be very useful and helpful to me and even to others too. We remain only with hope and trust in Him, the Mighty God, to work on that issue. I am also interested in having a copy of "*The Real Christ*" and also if you could send a copy for the Sisters' Class. This would be very interesting and important for them.

God has been very gracious and He is still loving and caring for us as some parts of this country have harvested a lot of grain, no matter it cannot be the whole country. We expect to have a Regional Bible School but I do not think I will be able to attend because it is right down in the southern part of Malawi and would be too expensive to attend.

Bro. Dutch Mphaya

NAGABU

I would like to let you know that I was admitted to the Chikwawa District Hospital to the T.B. Ward from 16th-29th June. I am now home and feel alright, although I must continue to take medication for six months and must not work hard during that time. Please pray for me.

Thank you for sending me a book about organic farming, and also leaflets which tell us of signs of the times which are being fulfilled, which means that the Kingdom of God ruled by the King, Jesus, His, Son, is at the door. I am happy and give thanks for your advice that I should not go around to other communities. My desire is to follow what Jesus, his disciples and other believers did, and for this reason I pray to God day and night that He will help me and all my relatives. You may also pray for us not to be deceived by worldly people around us and our own lusts, which are, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, which come not from the Lord but are of this world. I would also like to share with my brothers and sisters worldwide, through *Gospel News*, what is happening here in Malawi.

Bro. Robert Folley

NENO

May you please send me five or more copies of *Gospel News* for July – September 2009 as many of my friends have been interested to read it and at the same time see my picture in there. They see it as something wonderful. Also if there are more copies of the leaflets about the Sabbath, Catholicism and others that you sent some time ago I would be glad of those. Now I know what Judaism is all about and when I compare the S.D.A. and Judaism they are parallel but not the same; the way they keep their Sabbath is different.

Early this month I went to see the two teachers who have seven families with them. Unfortunately one teacher has drawn the seven families into another denomination, leaving one teacher and another man who are still interested in Christadelphian beliefs. You see, people are very interested in our books but they find it difficult to be baptised. They read our books and they do not want to part with them and some comment that our books are straightforward as regards the truth. I hope and pray that more will be called by the Lord and accept the truth.

Bro. A.D. Liwawa



Photo: Bro A.D.Liwawa with his reading glasses.

SENGA BAY

I am a new member of the Christadelphians and I do gather with my fellow Christadelphian members at Senga Bay. I have my own address but for the mean time you can use: The Christadelphian World Wide, P.O. Box 2, Salima, Malawi.

Bro. Ishmael Makwinja

SINYALA

Wonderful greetings in the Hope of Israel, which we share. I would like to thank you and confirm that I did receive the “*Present Day Events*” and “*God’s Purpose Revealed in Promises*”, which I found contained some very important material. I would like to request a copy of “*The Real Christ*” and also some copies for our Sisters’ Class as it contains over 400 pages of solid material, very suitable for reading round at a Bible Class.

Bro. Henderson Sosola

ULONGWE

I was baptised in Chinamwali Christadelphian Centre by Bro. Chikape. Can you please help me with a copy of “*Where there is no Doctor*” and also I would like to receive Gospel News and booklets relating to the coming Kingdom.

Sis. Aida Kalingoma

Comment : We have sent out a considerable number of “*Where there is No Doctor*”, which is an excellent book: however, owing to costs, we will not be sending out any more for the time being.
MH

news from nigeria

ENUGU



Photo: The picture was taken at the CYC held at Klarri and shows those who attended from Enugu Ecclesia. We were fortunate to have one of our candidates baptised out of the six baptised during the CYC.



Preparing the Camp meal

ESA-OKE

Please continue to send *Gospel News* to my address. May our Heavenly Father reward CAT for the good work they are doing in the garden of God around the world. We are working and it is the Son of God that can bless our efforts. May He do so when He returns.

OBANLIKU

Gospel News has been a source of encouragement to all readers. We in Nigeria see it as a reminder of the TRUE knowledge of the gospel and also as a guiding rule for true followership towards the end times. How i wish i could contribute in ssome way in propagating this good news. I am encouraged, please keep the flag flying.

Bro David Ugbai

OHAFIA

I receive our *Gospel News* with much happiness. Hearing news about brothers and sisters around the world helps us a lot to keep on moving with faith and constant hope in this isolated area. I therefore appeal for more books. I already have *Christendom Astray, Bible Basics, James and other Studies, Bible Basics for Moslems and The Death of the Cross*; so please kindly send other books to us, if possible.

We have just come back from Aba, where we attended a three-day Bible exposition entitled “The Invisible Hand of God in World Affairs”. In fact the programme was all that we needed in these last days and was for those who really want or seek for the Truth. The lecturers were Bre. T.K. Ndukwe, M.K. Erne, Peter Kalu and Ibeka Thomas. During the activity my two children were about to die, but God said, “No” and used the brethren and sisters to save their lives. In fact, I don’t know what could have become of me without the brethren at Aba Ecclesia because I had no money with me, as I have not received my due salary for some months now. My prayer is for Yahweh to pay back in full the brethren in Aba Ecclesia. To the household of Bro. Ibeka Thomas, I thank you in the love of Yahweh and your loving wife, after whom I have named my daughter (Comfort).

I humbly appeal to the C.B.M. to help us to combat malaria here. We need mosquito nets or anything else to fight the epidemic caused by the mosquito. We are trying our best to reach people through preaching and leaflets and in the end the Truth must surely triumph, so keep praying for us as we do for all brethren and sisters all over the world, till Jerusalem will become a harbour for those who love the Truth. I am suffering from high blood pressure but I thank God that it is coming down to 150 over 102 following the treatment I am receiving, so I plead for your prayers.

Bro. Uka Egwu

UWANI

I want to express my gratitude to you all for the effort of making sure that the good news of the Kingdom of God reaches everybody. As I have moved, please send all my letters, books and other reading materials to my new address – No 52 Nnaji Street, Uwani, Enugu.

Bro. Emmanuel Iweha

news from rwanda

I thank God for giving us the opportunity to have Gospel News and look forward to regularly receiving it.

Bro Constantin Mwagalwa



Photo Brother Constantin Mwagalwa

news from south africa

JOHANNESBURG

I have now packed a copy of *Bible Basics* to send to a Jewish leader here, Joel Rosenberg, also two copies in Hebrew. I am sending him a note today telling him to expect the package. I have cut the "compilers" information off the top of the back cover of the latest *Gospel News* and will enclose it with the note.

Sis. Deirdre Elliot

KEMPTON PARK

Michael Furstenburg has been interviewed and, after giving a good confession of faith, was baptised at the home of Bro. Mickey & Sis. Karen. Michael has shown his commitment to the Truth by his involvement in all the Kempton Park ecclesial activities during the past four months. We rejoice that yet one more has put on the saving name of Jesus and pray His richest blessing on you, Brother Michael.

Henri Viljoen, friend of Sis. Liezl, has given a good confession of faith and was baptised at Bro. Lucas and Sis. Leona's home.

At Soweto: Derek Banda, a Malawian contact of Bro. Mphambo, has been baptised.

We rejoice at the baptisms of our new brethren and pray that they will go on their way rejoicing, richly blessed by our Father on their walk to His Kingdom.

We thank our Heavenly Father for guiding us on our journey to Hebron Haven in the Natal midlands where this year's 'Women @ Well' was held. 12 Sisters from Gauteng drove down with Sisters Leonie and Leona.

We were again blessed with the privilege of listening to Sis Robyn Henry's practical down-to-earth talks.

Our introduction was a "sharing" of personal 'God Moments' in our lives which led to Saturday's look at "the Shunamite woman", "Judah and Tamar" and "Balaam" and the 'God Moments' in their lives.

Sister Robyn reminded us of why we are constantly being pruned by God as our 'gardener' and that we are given choices in life, and that we should always consider the motivation behind the choices we make.

This was such a special weekend for us to "fill up our cups" and enjoy the fellowship and love of our Sisters, both far and near.

A big "Thank You" to all the Durban sisters who went to so much trouble to arrange this special time. We came home truly nourished both physically and spiritually.



Waiting for Sis. Robyn to begin



Sis. Robyn explaining

SOUTH AFRICA

Last year we were coming from Middle Sabi, , Bro. Paul, Sis. Leonie and Sis. Evelyn and myself, with Bro. Paul driving, when some goats crossed the road in front of our vehicle. You asked me a question about the Lord Jesus talking about the goats and the sheep. I don't remember my answer to you but now I think I have the better answer. One thing that we should bear in mind is that Jesus was like us; he grew up in a subsistence community who rely mostly on keeping animals and tilling the land.

Your question was about Matt.25:33, which says, "He will put the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left." Goats and sheep are all animals created by God but their characters are so different. At our plot we have ten goats and my neighbour has over 100 sheep. I have had five years farming with goats and you cannot leave the door of your house open because once a goat gets inside it will help itself to anything that it finds. I left my door open and three goats got into the bedroom and I found them sleeping in my bed. Previously I had read a story in a magazine about a farmer who left 2000 euros on a kitchen table before taking it to the bank. A goat got into the kitchen and ate the notes. The farmer quickly phoned the veterinary service who operated on the goat to take the money out.

So when Jesus talked about the sheep and the goats he was referring to character since goats cannot be trusted. To me, Jesus was saying that those who humble themselves and follow in his

footsteps will be taken to his right hand and those who are unfaithful and untrustworthy, like the goats, will be put to his left and rejected.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

news from tanzania

ARUSHA

I always go to Tanzania and I have been reading of news from Tanzania, especially from Arusha. Sometimes I have to work in Arusha for five to seven days and I would like to trace the Christadelphian Ecclesia there. I would be very happy for this letter to appear in *Gospel News* so that I can attend the memorial services there. My telephone number is +255713938332. I know of a brother there by the name of Thiery Kalonde, Arusha Ecclesia. If you have a telephone number of a Christadelphian member there please S.M.S. it to me.

Bro. Peter Kariuki

MBEYA

I am deeply grateful for your prayers, which helped me so much in this difficult time of my life. I have now reported in Mbeya and at my ecclesia, after being away for many months. All my relatives and family are of Muslim background and as a result they gave me no help. They told me that unless I return to their Muslim beliefs they would not help me. God has helped me. I used very few medicines from the money I got from selling my small poultry project and am now living below the poverty line so have decided to return to the town. I once heard about "Agape in Action" in the Christadelphian "Tidings of the Kingdom of God", and would be grateful if you could give me more information.

Bro. James Mwangomo

Many thank for your letters and *Gospel News*. My God bless you I hereby confirm that I am still interested in receiving *Gospel News* and that my name and address is the same so kindly include address in the new mailing list you are making.

Bro Raphael Mkeya

SINZA

I am grateful for your reminder about *Gospel News* and would like to ask you to please continue to send it to us so that we can share it here as we enjoy it very much. I enclose the names and addresses of 13 others who wish to receive it.

Bro. Ayubu Kilumbi

Photos:



Visit to Mtwara on the way to Masosi and Nanyamba, Southern Tanzania. From left to right Bre. Barrie Sheffield, U.K., Bro. Charles, Bro. Ayubu Kilumbi, Bro. Daniel G. Assey. Photo by Bro. Dick Fenn U.K.



Visit to Mtwara at Masosi Ecclesia. From left to right – brethren with three students who were baptised by Bro. John Makonde and Bro. Gordon from U.K. Bro. Ayubu Kilumbi being baptised.



Sinza Ecclesia during the visit of Bre. Roger Wood and Barrie Sheffield.



Six members of Sinza Ecclesia during the Bible Study and discussion. Photo by Bro. David Smith. From right to left: Bro. Kelvin Timothy, Sis. Pascalina Mumba, Congo, Winnie Ayubu, the first born of Bro. Ayubi, Bro. Daniel G. Assey, Nancy Ayubu, the second daughter of Bro. Ayubu, Sis. Anna, the wife of Bro. Ayubu, Bro. Francis R. Kabelo and Bro. Ayubu S. Kilumbi.



Nancy Ayubu, the second daughter of Bro. Ayubu Kilumbi, age 11.



Sinza Ecclesia during the Bible Study and our Remembrance Service from left to right: Sis Anna (Mrs. A. Kilumbi), Bro. Thobias Abel Mnyina, late Bro. Joseph Monde who passed away and is now waiting for Our Lord, Bro. Ayubu Kilumbi, Bro. Daniel G. Assey, Bro. Kelvin Timothy, Bro. Francis R. Kobelo.

BUSIA

Thank you so much for *Gospel News* and *Bible Basics*, they are improving my spiritual growth in Christ Jesus which is helping me to teach other fellow students. I will work very hard with my tutor, Sis. Mavis Carroll, who is also helping me. I have been elected in our ecclesia as youth representative and to preach the gospel of God. I would like to thank Bro. Richard Alleyne, Sis. Esther and her husband Joni Mannell, Bre. James Coldwell and John Hatfield for the good work they did at our Youth Camp in Jinja, because they preached the good news about exciting Bible principles, which I still remember. I would like to request some guidelines on how to grow spiritually to enable me to lead other young people to the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Mangeni Rogers



Photo: Bro. Mangeni Rogers

In Uganda we are quite okay, but we have a very serious problem of famine. I very much wish to continue to be supplied with *Gospel News* magazine and pamphlets.

Bro. Ojara Dennis

JINJA

Greetings to all brethren and sisters in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus. Well done to respond to the command of our Lord in Matt. 28:19-20.

Do you have the peace, which Jesus Christ promised – the peace which is desired? Psalm 119:165, “Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them.” Isaiah 32:17, “The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.” Whoever consents to renounce sin and opens his heart to the love of Christ becomes a partaker of this heavenly peace. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you”, Christ said. This peace is not the peace that comes from conformity to the world. Christ never purchased peace by compromise with evil. The peace that Christ left his disciples is internal rather than external and was to remain with His witness through strife and contention. Isaiah 26:3.

I am a Bible student who is a learner and spending much of my time searching, studying and discovering through the spirit of prophecy. Rev. 19:10. Without prophecy we are like someone walking in darkness at night. I love to witness and preach because this is the rule of the Kingdom, as grace, self denial and self sacrifice is the teaching of Christ, so I would like these three books to help me, which I saw when I visited someone, *Bible Basics*, *The Last Days* and “Bible Studies with The Giant KJV Bible”. Please also send me some books and tracts for free distribution. Moving in different areas of Uganda giving out these materials requires someone who can support me in the work of sustaining life.

Note also this point. It says that character is the only treasure, which can be taken from this world to the coming Kingdom. Do you believe that character formed in this life co-operating with God will determine our eternal destiny? 1 Cor. 3:9-10.

Bro. Lawrence Mugimba

KABERAMAIDO

Here in Uganda life is very hard; 52 districts are without rain and many older men and pregnant women have died because they have nothing to eat. Jesus speaks in Matt. 24:6-7 about famine, earthquakes and wars and the signs of the end of the age, so we must watch out that we are not deceived by wrong teaching and doctrine. Thank you for *Gospel News* from around the world, which is helpful to us. Please remember us in your daily prayers so that God can send rain to us, as he said in Zech 10:1 that we should ask for rain, as many of us in Uganda live by our farming. The government is trying to provide food, but it is not enough.

Bro. Opio Bosco

KAMPALA

I would like to thank God for your commitment in helping to spread the good news of hope through *Gospel News*. May Almighty God bless the management of the Christadelphian Advancement Trust for the good work that they are doing. I wonder whether it would be possible for you to send to us three copies of *Bible Basics*, one for me and two for the ecclesia.

Bro. Stephen Ogenga

KIDATU

What has our God told us to do in this world? God created man in His likeness and gave him dominion over animals. God is our Father so we must follow what the Bible told us to do as we are expecting Jesus for judgement, Dan. 12:2-3, 1 Cor. 15:22-23. The return of our Lord will bring durable peace in this world. Keep praying for him to come soon.

Bro. Mathias Buguzi.

MAYUGE

I hope you and your families are fine and keeping well. It has been a long time since I last received the *Gospel News* magazine from you; maybe it has got lost on the way. I would humbly request that you re-start sending them because I enjoy reading them, as it develops my mind spiritually in not allowing temptation to disturb my mind.

Bro. Luke Ofwono



Photo: Bro. Samuel Onyango

MBALE

People have received the *Bible Basics* books as containing life-giving facts. They have told me to thank you and have promised to pray for you to continue supplying more copies to them in English and Swahili. I would also like to request, God Willing, for more copies of *Bible Basics* as currently I have eight existing contacts to whom I preach this gospel of truth. Work in Butiru

Ecclesia is going on well and currently we have 36 baptised members. Please pray for us that evil thoughts will not corrupt the minds of brothers and sisters, and pray for the whole of Uganda at this time of famine.

Bro. Boniface Masakala

Photo captions:



Bro. Boniface Masakala



Members at Butiru Ecclesia meeting at the home of our Sis. Tesila Nabalayo, who is an aged widow staying in an old grass thatched house.



A building at Butiru which was completed recently. We request for prayers of all well-wishers of Butiru Ecclesia that God will open a way to meet the needs.



Bro. Housan Matsatsa and Bro. Francis Maweli baptising in River Lutuasoo in Butiru Ecclesia.



Flobia Kilande, Sylvia Milan Masike and Louis Namasmba are very good younger choir members of Butiru Ecclesia who are really interested in meeting every Saturday, with others, to learn hymns from the books.

news from zambia

CHAMBISHI

Thank you, Duncan, for the books you sent me; “*The Prophecy of Daniel*” and “*The Real Christ*”. They have helped me understand some scripture concepts which I did not know before. I do value the brotherly relationship in Christ which exists between us. I told my tutor Sis Sherry Luskin who is in America about you and your wife, Cindy. Glory be to God Almighty for bringing us together as we study His word in righteousness awaiting His coming kingdom. May the Lord Jesus Christ return soon to set up God’s kingdom.

Bro Christopher Mwewa

CHIBOMBO

I wish to open my writing by thanking the contributors of articles to *Gospel News*. We learn a lot of things that happen to our brothers and sisters and we learn a lot from the messages. Nevertheless, I would like to encourage the publishers to continue in their work. Concerning the global economic crisis, we keep on praying for the smooth running of the Magazine.

The only way we can overcome the falling standards of living in most African countries is by working hard in terms of food production. Another factor is prayerful Bible reading daily and remaining faithful all the time. In this vein, God will richly bless us.

The financial meltdown is something that reminds Christians they need to be very careful in their dealings. We have to strive always to do good. Jesus, the Son of God, suffered in this wicked world before he overcame it.

Therefore, as people who are made in the image of God, we need to emulate Jesus and his sufferings if we want a place in his kingdom. If this is what we want, then it is up to each individual to strive to overcome the world.

Bro Ignatius Chilekwa

CHINGOLA

I am very glad to write you this letter and I hope it finds you both well. Thank you for the pamphlets you sent me. Unfortunately the books sent by surface mail have not yet been received. I would like to receive two Bibles for my wife, Florence, and myself. The ones we are using are not in good condition.

Bro Pinoty Chimbele

Comment: Alas, we are finding that Sea Mail parcels are taking up to four months to arrive, but we can no longer afford to send them second class airmail.

KABOMPO

I am now re-united with my wife and children that were a million miles away from home. Peace of mind are now restored, just as I cherish the peace and hope of life in the Lord Jesus until his coming in accordance with the peace and hope of the scriptures (Rom 5:1-5). This has stabilised my faith in God through Jesus Christ, putting to shame the oppressors that could not bear to help me in the spiritual burden that I underwent.

My genetic sister has provided me with Zambian Kwacha to enable me to travel from Kabompo to Senanga and back with my family. Now I am able to enjoy a Biblical marriage. I am now more than happy maintaining my marriage with my wife until Jesus parts us or returns. Nothing is impossible with God, only with man.

Bro Wellington Mukuma

I first learnt about the Christadelphians from a newspaper in 1979 in the city of Ndola when I was staying at 5 Chavuma Road, Kansenshi compound. The newspaper carried an advertisement for a postal Bible course by the Christadelphians. I wrote for enrolment which was free, and in just three weeks I received the first lessons.

My Bible course was shortly terminated as I moved from Ndola to Solwezi and due to the loss of the study materials and the address. But while in Solwezi in 1990, I met a cousin, Mr Michael Samundengo, who was also studying the Christadelphian Bible course and introduced me to Bro Ron Kitchen, then Christadelphian Linkman for Zambia, who enrolled me for the 40 lesson postal Bible course. My teacher was Sis Christine Jarvis of the UK.

In 1994, I was again transferred to Kabompo from Solwezi but this time the word of God planted in me was bearing fruit. I started preaching about the Kingdom of God to the people of Kabompo district. The first person I preached to was the office orderly in my office at the place of work, Mr Joseph Kapimpa who lived across the crocodile infested Kabompo river, crossing the river in his small dug-out canoe every working day.

The gospel of the Kingdom of God was spreading in the honey-rich town of Kabompo through the distribution of pamphlets. I was photocopying using our own resources because of the love I attached to the work of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and to personal contacts regularly.

In July 1998 Bro John Palmer baptised me at Changa-Changa Motel where I was to go from Kabompo. This journey took me two days as most of the 360 km gravel road was in a bad state and I spent a night sleeping on the bus.

Considering the joy and salvation which is kept in heaven for me to be given at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ when he establishes his Kingdom on earth, it is time for me to spend resources, money and materials on preaching the gospel. I must warn people that the Lord Jesus Christ will judge the world so they should pay attention to the Bible. They need to understand God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David so that all nations will be blessed by Jesus when he will be sent as judge and ruler of the entire world. Faithful believers will be priests and kings ruling and judging the world with him from the city of Jerusalem in Israel. This will be the joy of every faithful believer.

The happenings in the Middle East are real and fulfil Bible prophecies, so we believers should indeed watch and look up for the return of the Lord. This is imminent, so let us not any longer love the world but let us love his return from heaven. May it be soon – Amen.

Bro Reuben Musole Kaambeu



Photo: Bro Reuben Musole Kaambeu

My prayer is beyond my understanding, brothers, for the great work of God for helping people to be in the kingdom to come, with real peace. I'm happy to hear that you have sent a parcel to me

by sea mail of about 6 kg, which I hope and trust will be useful to all participants of the North-Western Fraternal.

The ecclesia needs 10 copies of *Bible Basics* to cover all the brothers, including Bro Goodson Kufuna in isolation. Also, two for lending to students, so that in all we need 12 copies as well as 2 or 3 copies of '*The Real Christ*'. It is my humble prayer, may the God of real peace and happiness guide you in His work until we meet in the Kingdom.

Bro Charles Muhupu

KABOMPO

We are sending our love to Duncan and Cindy in Riga and the 30 brothers and sisters at the Riga ecclesia. We are praying for them and their baby that they keep in good health, and that the child will grow in wisdom and grace from the Lord.

I have also discovered that you are the one the Lord used to bring me to the Lord through the adverts you put in the newspapers in the years 1979-1980. You are the messenger the Lord used to call me to Himself. This link is a big one for it also comforts you when you know that the number of those who responded to the adverts grew, for the word cannot return empty but accomplishes what it was sent for.

This exhorts us all that our preaching will not be in vain but the Lord's word we preach will bear fruit, since it is our duty to preach and it is God's grace to choose who He calls. That is why I sometimes cry when I realise that the Kabompo ecclesia's first love has gone down, for out of 13 baptised brethren, only four now are remaining. Bre Charles Muhumpu, Wellinto Mukuma on the side of men and only Sis Cecelia Muhumbu on the side of women, and little preaching is being carried out. There is need to restore our love for the Lord and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God, so that we should not be like the shepherds of Israel who only took care of themselves and not the flock. They ate curds, clothed themselves with wool and slaughtered the choice animals but did not serve God.

The Kingdom in which there will be no famine, no financial meltdown, no war, no diseases and, above all, for us in Christ Jesus we have the prospect of being clothed in immortality, glory and honour, and to help the Lord rule the earth. Please do not be deceived, but know for certain that the Kingdom of God is going to be a divine political empire to be set up on earth at the return of Jesus Christ. He will set up the millennium and he is going to be king of that Kingdom (Rev 20:6).

So let us have joy so that our conduct now should be to live striving to please the Lord because we shall be judged at the judgement seat of Christ to reveal the motives, actions and characteristics of all those responsible to prepare the righteous for the granting of immortality (Rom 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10)

Please pray for us. My wife Meldah has to undergo an eye operation at Kitwe Eye Clinic on the Copperbelt about 500 km from Kabompo to remove a squamous cell carcinoma.

Bro Reuben Musole Kaambeu



Photo: Some members of Kabompo Ecclesia with some Bible students. Kabompo Ecclesia members: Top, left to right: No 2 Haggai Kaambeu, No 5 Reuben Kaambeu, No 6 Meldah Kaambeu (holding our last born son, Daniel), No 7 Kenneth Chinjamba. Bottom, left to right: seated No 1 Timothy Kaambeu, No 2 Richard Chikanda, No 3 Charles Muhumpu, No 4 Denies Njapau. The rest are Bible students except Bro Nelson Bwalya (now asleep in the Lord) who visited Kabompo Ecclesia in 2004; he is standing on my right top No 4 from the left. This was during the baptism of my son Haggai (top left No 2) by the Kabampo river seen in background.

KABWE

I am glad to remain on the list of those receiving *Gospel News* and items. Please continue sending me whatever is there.

We had a fraternal and Bro David and Sis Lynda Nicholls led a regional group meeting in Lusaka. One brother and sister were baptised. Yes, brother, I appreciate and accept the work you are doing is not easy, but always I put you in my prayers. It is nice to hear that the old building you told me about is complete and is being occupied. We meet in a brother's house for our meetings but we are looking for a place where we can build our own ecclesial hall, God willing.

I want to have as many books as possible to read, here in Kabwe Ecclesia.

Bro Greenwell Kunda,

KAFUE

Thank you for sending me *Bible Basics* in Chichewa and *Gospel News* which I am happy to read. The books you are sending help a lot in making us become spiritually self-sufficient. I was very happy the day I received a parcel of books. If I were a bird I would have leapt and flown in the air with joy.

Jesus wants us to be like him, faithful in all our ways, loving and pure in our minds and worthy to be called in truth a brother and sister of Christ. When they said to Jesus 'Your brothers and your mother are outside waiting to speak to you' (Matt 12:48). "He said, 'Who is my mother and who are my brothers;', pointing to his disciples. He said, 'Whoever does the will of my father in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother'".

Bro Jealous Silungwe,

KALOMO

I enjoy receiving and reading *Gospel News*. I get strengthened from the sharing I get with the brothers and sisters all over the world. It is true the economic crisis has resulted in troubling our lives too, and this shows that Jesus coming is soon and we should always be ready.

Sis Juliet Mweetwa,

KAPIRIMPOSHI

Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord, the King of Kings. I feel very happy whenever I receive the *Gospel News*. The books are lovely and wonderful, and we enjoy much information from brothers and sisters worldwide. Please continue sending us more Bible stories and magazines so that we may be equipped, for the time of the Lord is drawing near. I would like also to inform you that Kapirimposhi Ecclesia is growing and we are now 13 members. But some of our brothers who already preach have no Bibles. Please send more books about the word of the Lord.

Enclosed are some photos of our new Ecclesial Hall and we thank our Linkman for Zambia, Bro David Nicholls and other for their support in this project.

Bro Chisosa Ostine,



Bro Ostine Chisosa, painting planks before roofing.



Srs Jennifer Kaluba, Mary Kaluba, Aginesis Chisosa and Maggie Chimfwembe with children having lunch.



Kapirimposhi sisters collecting building sand.

KAMUCHANGA

The Magazine and literature helps me very much in gardening, and farming as well as spiritually. Reading is a problem to me, my sight has become bad. Maybe it's because of working in a factory of explosives – I don't know.

I am very happy to hear all the progress in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, in fact all the world. May God bless it all. I know how Bro Duncan Heaster and I travelled with Bro Graham Mitchell and preached the good news to the people here in Zambia, back in the 1980s. I shall never forget. I am sure that Duncan will also never forget, although he might forget my face, but as for me, I shall never forget.

Bro Katongo Davies Mulenga,

KASAMA

Please do not stop sending me *Gospel News*. I enjoy going through them, and they enable me to know how the world is going on in conjunction with knowing the world economic standard. Therefore, by reading the *Bible* and *Gospel News* I can know how to live and to do things in the society.

I do not yet fully understand the Bible teaching concerning demons. I would like to know more about it. How did the demons come into existence? Is it that someone with demons can make miracles or can they have a vision, and the vision can come to pass? Does it mean that demons are agents of the devil?

What of African witch doctors? What kind of power or spirit do they use?

Bro Kanange J Willie,

COMMENT. I know this is a difficult subject for many. I think the chapter in Bible Basics very helpful on this. We also have a booklet on 'Demons' and more recently Duncan has written a very detailed 460 page book 'The Real Devil' on this subject. Alas it is relatively expensive owing to the smallness of numbers printed and we are not in a position to send it out free of charge to everyone, it costs £6. Available of course free on the internet. MH

KASAMA

I enclose a photograph of the brothers and sisters of Kasama Ecclesia with the Sunday School students. Please kindly send me *Bible Basics* in both English and Bemba, and I would like to have bags of plastic forms to distribute in the area where I intend to operate .

Bro Joshua Mushili



Photo: Brothers, sisters and Sunday School students, Kasama Ecclesia

KASAMA

I send my heartfelt gratitude for CAT's tireless contribution to my growth in the faith of the Lord Jesus. May our Saviour help it to keep on with the same zeal and spirit.

The people that have laid bare hidden messages in their books of expositions had to devote their time and energy in terms of the faith and prayer (Heb 11:6; 2 Chron 7:14) to provide for the new Israel of God (Gal 6:16).

I know that many people receive sacrificial assistance from the CAT. My appeal is, let's make true and honest use of these contributions about God's Kingdom so that, with our Bible beside us, they make us wise unto salvation (2 Tim 3:15). The word of God is incomparably more valuable than anything else and gives joy to the heart (Ps 19:7-11). Let what we get from the Bible change us for the better. To be stagnant in faith could be a sign of badly nurtured reading culture.

Bro Boniface and Sis Christine Simpanzye

KAZOMBE

We are now all under one umbrella, and are partakers of the one loaf in Jesus Christ through fellowship and baptism, we have come together. This is the divine will in the Bible, and it has done its work in bringing us together as brothers and sisters in fellowship.

Could you allow me to be included on the mailing list so that I start receiving *Gospel News*? My wife Josephine joins me in sending warm greetings to you.

Bro Jame Mwanda Kambobe



Photo: Bro Manda Kabunda & Sis Musonda Caristine (Kazombe)

KITWE

I am for the Lord Christ Jesus and the faith in me is ever growing. To whatever place I go, the gospel of our Lord is preached. Now I have a number of students I do coach but, sadly enough, the books are scarce. In whatever circumstances I am, helped or not helped, I am for the Lord Jesus Christ. So, brethren, continue sending *Gospel News*.

I have lost contact with Sis Betty Ashman and Bro Alan Ashman. I would like to pay tribute to Bro Kelly Sumayambola and family, for their effort showed to me in the spiritual manner during my stay in Kafue.

Bro Philip Chilambwe

Jesus said in Matthew 6:28, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothing?" "But seek first the kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you" (verse 33). Brothers and sisters, let us pray for each other until Jesus comes.

Bro Darkwell Mubanga

LUSAKA

Thank you so much for the literature that you sent me, and I am glad because you really make my whole life to be perfect in the sight of the Creator. I am asking you to help me with a King James Version to enable me to understand the language used in the course I am currently doing because some passages are difficult because I am required to use a KJV.

Bro Stephen Siamabi



Photos: Michelo Ecclesia



Michelo Sunday School

MUFULIRA

What will the coming of Jesus Christ be like? After reading the book of Song of Songs 5:2-8 the woman was sick from the love of her bride-groom. We should watch for this period of time. Jesus is knocking at the door, if anyone hears His voice and open the door He will come in and eat with them and be with them.

I received the book you sent to me, *The Real Christ, Gospel News* and the signs of the times pamphlet. We have a weekly Bible study at home every Thursday.

Fred Mumba

Photos:



The building where we hold the Copperbelt Fraternal.



A group at the Fraternal.



Bro Silas Chishumba standing with bro Gibson Mulenga in his arms at the Fraternal.

MUFULIRA

It is time for all Christians to get a vision for teaching the world the gospel of Jesus Christ. God has commanded the church, all born again believers, to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. When Jesus was led up to Calvary, he fell under the weight of the cross (Matt 27:32). The Bible tells us that it is time once again for all people to carry the burden of the cross and ease this continent with the light of God's word, so that all who believe it can.

John appeared baptising in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. I was baptised on 29th June 2008 but I didn't receive the Bible and now I am

one year baptised a sister in Christ. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, and keep you in His loving care, and guide you each day to His Kingdom, with our Lord and Saviour.

Sis Threeser Daka

MUFULIRA

I want to start by saying that we need to understand the people we are trying to reach and win for the Lord. Collecting information is the first step of preparation. Brothers, allow me to borrow Paul's words: "Though I am free and bound to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I become like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law, I become like one under the law, though I myself am not under the law. I become like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I become weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel" (1 Cor 9:19-23).

Brothers, as long as we are content with the status quo, we will not discover God's vision in our lives. Jesus wept over the lost sheep (Matt 10:6). Jeremiah wept over the burden he carried (Jer 3:21).

Bro William Sakala

NDOLA

My family is well except my wife, Lennie, who is complaining of body pains. She was hit by a car in 2008 and was taken to the hospital for medication. The same problem resulted in blood clot. She was put on medication after scanning.

Bro Abraham Changwe

Fellowship in the body of Christ is not an easy thing. The Lord has brought many types of people into the ecclesia. They are not bad people, but we are all a test to each other. "Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands, at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph 2:11,12).

Who made this people? "And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting and the children of Israel also wept again and said, 'Who shall give us flesh to eat?'" (Num 11:4). Those things took place as a warning for us today, that we might not desire evil as they did (1 Cor 10:6). Fellowship is a serious matter (John 15:5,6).

Christianity is not easy. We have:

1. A common purpose (brothers and sisters in love)
2. A common hope among believers. We are all bought by Christ's blood and the Lord did not make a mistake (Acts 2:46; Ps 133: 1; Heb 13:1)
3. A common future reward, but there is no short cut: "And these all having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise, God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Heb 11:39,40).

4. A common destiny. “And behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev 22:12). “He will swallow up death in victory, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord God hath spoken it” (Is 25:8).

Bro Harris Mulongesha

ZAMBEZI

We were very grateful to attend our first fraternal gathering in Kabompo. We were baptized in March by Brother Kombe of Ndola. The fraternal was very wonderful. We worship God in isolation here and would so love to have a fraternal here too.

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

A wind of change has blown in our country, but we cannot see things getting any better in the next few months. At the moment all crops in the fields have commenced to wilt and the rains have ceased in many areas of Zimbabwe.

We just so need the coming of Jesus to put the world right, and when we see the signs of the times at the moment we know it cannot be long. The sad thing is that until Christ comes back these problems will get worse, not better: it is a definite sign of the times and the world and its values encroaches into our lives. How we need to stay so close to God’s word, because I am convinced this is the only antidote.

Yes, the troubles confronting us are terrible, but we thank God that He is in control and we, through His mercy will be saved. We all fear and worry at times, but, trust in God we can hold on in the midst of extreme and painful experiences. God knows our human weakness and He won’t desert us.

Bro. David Yelulani

Do you see your sinfulness but feel unable to make yourself better? There are many people who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? ‘Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.’ Jer.13:23.

There is hope only for us if we believe and trust in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers – we can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are – beware of procrastination. Do not put off the work of forsaking your sins and seeking purity of heart through Jesus. Here is where thousands upon thousands have erred, to their eternal loss. I will not here dwell upon the shortness and uncertainty of life, but there is a terrible danger, a danger not sufficiently understood, in delaying to yield to the pleading voice of God and choosing to live in sin. For such, this delay really is sin. However small it may be esteemed, it can be indulged in only at the peril of infinity loss. What we do not overcome will overcome us and result in our destruction.

Adam and Eve persuaded themselves that in so small a matter as eating of the forbidden fruit it could not result in such terrible consequences as God had declared, but this apparently small

matter was the transgressing of God's immutable and holy law, and it separated man from God and opened the floodgates of death and untold woe upon our world. Age after age there has gone up from our earth a continual cry of mourning, and 'the whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain' as a consequence of man's disobedience.

Bro. Fibion Ngozi

CHEGUTU

Thank you very much for the great concern you have shown and the help you have given. I also wish Brother Duncan congratulations on his recently published book, and congratulate Cindy on her qualification as a medical doctor. It is really good to have one of our own sisters as a doctor out in the mission fields.

I look forward to receiving more *Bible Basics*, which are useful to our students here.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Hlezipi Phiri

Photos:



Sisters and Sunday School at Chegutu



Brethren at Chegutu

CHINHOYI

I have received your letter and was so happy to hear from you. I hear that there is a book 'On the Work of Christ,' and I wondered if you could send me a copy. I am also interested in receiving the latest edition of *Bible Basics*. I have heard that the new edition is big and thick, and I would be so glad if you could send one to me. I would appreciate any book or material which contains the gospel message.

Bro. Tinashe Mberengwa

I would like to thank you for your support. I would like to appeal to you to keep on praying about the economic crisis so that God will soon solve it. But we don't have to worry about it too much because we don't belong here – we are waiting for the new world, with joyful hope.

Greetings to all brothers and sisters there. As for me, I'm OK. God is still keeping me with His love, and I hope you are all being kept also.

Bro. Calvin Chitano



Photo: Bro. Calvin Chitano

Thanks for the mail and hope things will be alright when the mighty Lord Jesus comes. We are alright and trust that the coming of Jesus will be very soon. Meetings are going on well and I have been going around the country preaching and baptising members in distant places that sometimes took two - three days away from home .I am the happiest person when doing God's work. I am still not employed and we survive on a little that I get from people whom I help with driving lessons or relief driver. I am a qualified driving instructor.

Bro. Gift Lungu

CHIPINGE

We pray that you may be richly strengthened in this work, to continue to give guidance, counsel and support for the advancement of the Gospel in these perilous times in which we now live. The signs around us are pointing to the coming of the Lord being very near. Let us hold fast to the faith that we have received, so that our Master will find us constantly working in His vineyard, upholding that faith and confidence in His word and precepts, which will give us acceptance at His hands and an abiding place in the glorious kingdom which Jesus will establish.

May the blessing of our Heavenly Father be upon you until that time and the salvation of Zion, which we are all earnestly awaiting.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

Photo.



A gathering at Bro Moses Farm, with Sis Ruth on the right and Bro Moses in front turning round.

CHISAPE

Well, I always give thanks to our Heavenly Father who gave CAT strength and ability to publish *Gospel News* to all nations. Everyone, everywhere, when they receive this magazine feel the spirit of togetherness when they read it.

Bro. Weston Kamota



Photo: Bro. Weston Kamota outside the Chisape Hall

Here in Zimbabwe things are now better than they were last year. We thank our brothers and sisters in the UK for their prayers, and ask them to continue in prayer for us.

We were in spiritual Egypt, but now we are in Canaan: please keep up your support for us. God through you in the UK helped us– I say so because we moved from hard times. We are both fine, together with our family.

Bro. Edwin and Sis Shumirai Katandika

HARARE

In our day to day living it is with great relief that we recognise that the coming of the Lord draws near. Signs of the times have been telling us since the proclamation of the Jewish state, and the great exodus of the exiled Jews back to Israel. Since the Jews are God's chosen ones, it is now up to them to prepare for the coming of the Lord. They should every man turn away from his wickedness and prepare the way of the Lord as John the Baptist did, although many people didn't repent nor were baptised.

Mystery still shrouds the coming of the Lord, because we do not know the date of his coming. It is said God only knows when, and the coming will be like that of a thief. A thief is really a most undesirable element in society. And now what will the coming be like? In 1 Thessalonians 4:16 we are told: 'For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.' We notice that a lot of events will have to take place before the actual coming. This will also be a secret thing because Jesus' actual stepping on the earth may not be recognised until God wants it to be known.

This coming will signal the end of the age. A lot of changes will take place. Jesus started telling his disciples what would befall the temple and its gifts dedicated to God. He said, 'As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.' And the disciples still wanted to know when this would take place, and the sign thereof. Jesus replied then, that many would come in his name saying, 'I am the very Jesus you are looking for, the time is near.' But told them not to be deceived. Many terrible events would happen, and he urged them to remain steadfast. This would also signify that his coming is not yet.

Can we say that the Lord is near in his coming? Yes! We shouldn't be sceptical about it at all. Jesus said in Luke 21:9 that, 'These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.' Mark the words 'will not come right away.' We are living in this period – so the end will come as God wills.

One of the most marked changes will be the replacement of men's governments by the government of God. All the good and bad regimes we see today will be no more: Jesus Christ will reign from Jerusalem with power, authority and the backing of the Almighty God. And then 'the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea' (Hab.2:14).

So we can see that the direction of the signs of the present time are leading us somewhere real. The accomplishment of it all will be when the responsible dead, great and small, shall stand before the throne and the books are opened; and each person will be judged according to what he or she has done.

This is a great marvel and yet at the same time the majority of the people on earth are very ignorant of the truth of the coming of the Son of Man. To many, great world events such as earthquakes, famines, wars and global warming seem to be natural events that pass by with time, yet God is in control of it all. So we can comprehend the Power that is greater than all of us.

Bro. Alexio Kajowe

KADOMA

The last two months have not gone well for me. My sister passed away, (she had been very sick), and my Mother the same month. But now it is over.

I am now going every second week to the meeting in Chegutu. I had been going to a Bible meeting with Bro. Itai Tembo but now he and his family have moved to Sanyati. We can't contact them by phone, as the phones do not work, but I can do the readings, as now have reading glasses.

I lay my weaknesses before the Lord my Saviour so that I may be strong in God's hands. I like reading my Bible every day – it is my spiritual food.

Sis. Alice Mlambo

KARIBA

Thank you for *Gospel News*. I wish you could send some more books to enhance growth in our understanding.

It is with pleasure that we announce the baptism of Esther Chininga as our Sister in Kariba.

I would also like to thank you for the book '*Christendom Astray*.'

Bro. Witness Majecha

KWEKWE

Thank you very much for sending us *Gospel News*. It brings us together with brothers far and near. We are always pleased to receive it. The address is still the same – thank you for a job well done.

Sis. Rosemary and Bro. Joshua Mukarati

MASVINGO

We held our Winter Bible Study on 12-14 June 2009. The seminar was attended by Brethren John Murahho and Faustino Svuvure from Zaka, Brethren Dzingai Sumburera and Isaac Vherema from Chivi and Brother Tavavaremba Mugova from Triangle. Our study theme was the book of Acts. The rest of the people who attended were of the Masvingo Rural meeting and Brothers, Sisters and students in the catchment area.

The weekend was a good one because we studied and discussed our theme and everybody benefited. The seminar ended Sunday evening and people had to part on the following morning. The seminar was very enjoyable and 36 people were able to come. We are planning to hold another seminar next year, if God wills.

Apart from preaching the Word of God, my family and I do some gardening to enable us to have additional food. We grow tomatoes, onions, vegetables and beans. We also grow some bananas. Proverbs 12:11 encourages us to work hard for our families. 'He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread...'

Bro. Admire Museba

MUTARE

I want to thank you very much for your encouragement in reminding me of Jesus' return to this earth to raise the dead, judge the responsible living and dead, then finally establish God's Kingdom on this earth: it is very true. Thank you for sending *Bible Basics* and the Bible quotes to me. We are busy with our four students. If God wills, maybe they will be baptized.

After death comes judgement before God's throne, when all the responsible will be judged according to their lives. When Jesus comes to the earth to rule the world, those who truly believe in God will be given everlasting life after their resurrection, and the righteous will help Jesus in his rule from Jerusalem over the whole world.

Bro. Henry Kushata

Thank you so much for sending papers about Israel, literature about faith and Breaking of Bread service papers. I was really pleased to receive the literature.

If you have any used CDs or videos about the Word of God, I will be pleased to receive them for viewing and listening – with students and other people.

Bro. Gilbert Tevere

RATELSHOEK

A visit to Ratelshoek: Brothers Admire, Patrick and I visited our Bro. Farai Makandeni, who is working at Ratelshoek, and we had an opportunity to meet the Bible students in that area. Bre. Admire and Patrick returned the same day, but I remained behind and then had good time to meet several students and explain to them our beliefs. Ratelshoek is so close to the Mozambique border, and we even crossed into Mozambique to see students who are on that side.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

SANYATI

There has been a slight improvement in the physical life here due to the multi currency that was introduced after the 'birth' of the inclusive Government, but the greenback (US\$) has not reached most families. To us and others, the allowances paid do not meet all our daily needs, and the payment of utility bills and school fees: yet we must admit it is better than when we were using the local Zim dollar which is now obsolete at the present time. But the good Lord has spared us the obvious outcome of death through starvation and disease.

We praise God; Western governments, including yours have offered humanitarian assistance. We pray and hope the coming of Jesus will be delayed no longer, to right all the wrongs the world is experiencing currently.

I remain in isolation, and we read our Bibles every day as a family, and do morning and evening prayers. I do miss the members of Chegutu Ecclesia, although once in a while I travel to see my ailing mother, thereby enabling me to meet with the brethren.

Bro. Itai P. Tembo

TRIANGLE

I was very pleased to meet other brothers and sisters at Masvingo Rural Ecclesia. The Bible discussion has left me in a far more advanced stage. I gained a lot from the talks, as they encouraged me to preach to others in society as Paul did.

We focused on Paul's preaching and his difficulties which arose as he worked for God. Paul preached to his utmost ability, though he faced trials. He also encouraged the elders to remain firm to the word of God. Acts 20:22-24. Here Paul was much concerned with God's mission, knowing that he was going to be tortured and arrested. This shows that Paul only feared God, not human kings. We are also warned to fear the living God, who can destroy man. Paul's preaching also teaches us to be devoted to the work of God even if we face troubles. On his mission, Paul met Timothy who had a good report amongst believers, (Acts 16:1-5) and Ananias, a devout man also carrying out God's work (Acts 22:12). We must try our level best to work for God like these people, so that we might please Him. At the end, when our Lord Jesus returns, we will, through God's grace, be rewarded with everlasting life.

Bro. Tavaremba Mugova

ZUMBA

I am a sister who was recently baptised and I would like to greet all the brothers and sisters around the world, wishing them the best in Christ. Brethren, it's now the time of which the prophecy speaks, of Christ's return becoming nearer and nearer.

Very soon we are going to see the King, Jesus Christ, for it is written, 'When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, see that ye be not troubled, for these will come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famine, earthquakes and pestilences in various places. All these are the beginnings of sorrows...then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory' (Matt.24:6-8, 30). So we in our day must keep watching.

Sis. Nhamo Wiki

ZVISHAVANE

I am writing to let you know that, sadly, Bro. Patrick Chisvo fell asleep, and up to now *Gospel News* has been sent to our Ecclesia in his name. I am now the Recording Brother for Zvishavane Ecclesia. May God bless you that you may continue the good work of the *Gospel News*.

Bro. Sibangani Maka

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from belarus

ROGACHYOV

The situation here is really catastrophic. I have the chance to buy my apartment off the State, but the payments are too much, my only chance would be to work abroad, but this is hard due to my health. I am open to ideas and assistance. So many things seem to pile up at this time. But "in God we trust".

Sis. Danita

SENNO

We are not looking forward to the winter here. It affects our illness and makes our bones painful when it's cold, and we spend the whole winter inside. I tried to comfort myself with the thought that God loved us so much, that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. I know this may seem very simple and obvious, but it was as if I came to this for the first time. And it gives me great strength, that He so loves us.

Bro Valerij [and Sasha]

news from denmark

I would like copies of any tracts to use in town centre and street evangelization! I received 20 *Bible Basics* in English plus the book *The Real Christ*, I have just read the first chapter - it is very good. I also received pamphlets in English which also are good in reaching the at least 50% of Danish population that understand English, and also the many foreigners that live here or visit Denmark during summer.

Bro. Johnny

I find it very strange that I've only met you once but you're such a big part of my everyday thoughts. I feel so humble when I think of you and the things you're doing. Love in the Name most high,

Bro. Morten

news from israel

BEER SHEVA

I am writing this on the Rosh-Hashana holiday, my way of celebrating is to think of each of my children, their spouses and grandchildren, and to pray for them, especially for God's spiritual blessing upon them, as I so wish them to understand the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Sis. Anna

news from italy

MANTOVA

I am planning to go to Germany again next month God willing, my father is 89 years old and all alone. It's sad that European society is so lonely.

Bro. Foster

NAPLES

Peace to you from the presence of the Lord. The work of the Gospel of the Kingdom is progressing well. You are all always in my heart and i remember you in prayers.

Bro. Festus

news from kazakhstan

ALMATA

My father has now had two heart attacks. I am getting weaker myself. But the Bible becomes more real and interesting for me day by day. I am rather shy, but I have been speaking to a woman, Svetlana, about the Bible. Please pray she responds.

Sis. Lena

news from kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK

I see myself as a servant of God, I understand this to mean a slave of God, just doing what He wants. But all the same I am asking Him to show me how exactly to serve Him here.

Bro. Anvar

news from latvia

We are delighted to announce the baptisms of JENA, OKSA, EDGARS, INGRIDA, ZANE, MARIS, ZOYA, SABRI, WALTER, MERON, AINA, EGONS, VITALY, OLGA, LIVIJA, NINA, GALINA, VIJA, ANDRIS, INA, IGOR and AIGARS . May God keep them all in the one way as we journey towards the Kingdom.

BALVI

All here is as before. I am too weak to do much work in the fields now, I spend a lot of time reading our publications and also the Bible, and I suppose this has strengthened me spiritually, even if materially things are very difficult.

Bro. Petris

JELGAVA



Photo: Latvian Bible School; Bro. Janis is on the far left. The School is held in a building which was derelict until brothers and sisters from all over the world rebuilt it into a Bible School venue and housing project. Now the empty building is a hive of activity for the Truth.

I wanted just to say thanks once more for the care that Christadelphians show to people. I see that our efforts bring smiles back to their faces and I think - it is essential that there are those who can give hope for those who are in desperate positions in these hard times. I myself also, of course, can not be proud of my luck, but I know that there are people in much worse situations, in terms of health and other things. So I just wanted to remind you, among many other reminders that you probably receive, that your work is vitally needed for lots of people. Maybe you are the only person in somebody's life that lets him/her see, that there is some justice/kindness left in this cruel world. But they never say it directly.

Bro. Janis

I beg to God patience, strength, courage, power, and energy for the work of working for the brothers in the refugee camp here. Love in Jesus,

Sis. Jena



Photo: Sister Jena with brother Robert, originally from Sierra Leone, at the Latvian Bible School

RUJIENA

I think the planned music day when brother John visits is a great idea . I could take my violin to the Bible School.

Sis. Ieva



Photo: Sister Ieva [left] with Hannah Aldersley from New Zealand, at the Latvian Bible School. Hannah decided to be baptized and we look forward to receiving news of this soon!

news from lithuania

We're delighted to report the baptism of IRENA, sister of Brother Ryszardas. May God bless her in her walk to the Kingdom.

ELEKTRENAI

I would as always very much like to come to the Bible Schools in Latvia, my health is a bit better (for which I thank God) and I can consider such a journey, but all is in God's hands.

Bro. Mantas

VARENA

I have felt the financial crisis biting me personally, as wages were cut by one fifth and my number of hours was reduced. So things aren't easy. I think and pray for you all.

Bro. Albinas



Photo: Group photo after Irena's baptism- Irena is 2nd from the left, next to her brother, Ryszardas.

VILNIUS

After so many problems and being without work for so long, I am so, so thankful to God that I have found work in a furniture factory, with a contract for a few months. I have received the list of those in Lithuania who have requested *Bible Basics*, and I am writing to them, I so wish to persuade at least one of the holy Truth we have been given.

Bro. Ryszardas

You are always on my mind and looking forward to seeing you again? I am trying to preach to people but it's not easy. I am motivated by Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved". But for this, people must hear the Gospel by a preacher.

May God bless

Bro. Kicho

news from moldova

LUNGA

It was one of the hottest summers here ever, so our harvest was rather poor. I try not to concern myself with what we shall eat this winter. I find I am reading the Bible more and more as I get older, and somehow these earthly things don't weigh so much on the mind.

Sis. Tamara

news from qatar

I am really happy because I received the *Gospel News* here and literature for preaching. After my baptism in Nepal I have felt God with me very much, and here in Qatar I will try to do my bit for Him with other migrants here.

Bro. Yogendra

news from russia

We are delighted to report the baptism of OLYA and KOLYA; may the Lord guide them as they journey to His Kingdom.

EFREMOV

I am rebuking myself for worrying so much about my health, about my death, about the future... Jesus taught us not to do this. The Bible teaches us to be thankful, and our thought for the future should be concerning the coming of the Kingdom. I am so sorry I am so frail and a burden upon my brothers. I thank you all for your support of me in various ways. I hope I shall make it up to you at the coming of the Kingdom, and that the King Jesus shall also make it up to you.

Bro. Boris

I continue trying to take care of Brother Boris, he is extremely frail and I fear will not come to another Bible School. However, I am hopeful of attending, God willing. Please pray for a woman called Aleftina, who has been attending our meetings and has studied *Bible Basics*. She must decide herself whether she wishes to be baptized, but in my view she now knows all the doctrines.

Bro. Oleg

KAZAN

We were very encouraged by the meeting in Moscow, and the support received. We had a successful journey to the South to visit our daughter and brother Slava and his family. We so value all our brothers and sisters, knowing we shall live together eternally in the Kingdom soon to come.

Bro. Alexei & Sis. Vera



Photo: Alexei and Vera are in the centre; newly baptized Kolya and Olya standing far right.

MOSCOW

Yesterday evening I met with Brother Igor Sipiagov and we broke bread, it was a very sober but strengthening meeting and I went away feeling so much stronger in Christ.

Bro. Igor Pr.

PETROZAVODSK

I am writing this on the 2nd anniversary of my baptism into Christ. I am so grateful for the part played in my life by you, in bringing me to Him. Also today day, sister Nastya and I announce our engagement, please pray for our planned wedding! For all these things I give thanks to God all the time, for His grace and love for us.

Bro. Kostya



Photo: Sister Nastya

SARATOV

Here we are all OK, I am so glad that in my old age I have created new habits, namely breaking bread each week and reading the Bible every day. Things are very tough for my family who remain in Kazakhstan, please pray for them.

Sis. Raisa

SHAKHTY

Thank you for the online exhortations in Russian, it's simply wonderful to be able to download them and listen to them. I was walking today listening to the exhortation given in Riga, and it was as if a great weight was lifted from me. May the Lord reward all your efforts for Him, they give such strength to me at least.

Bro. Andrej

TALOVA

Sometimes I wonder how I manage to stay alive, so I assume God hasn't finished with me yet, and I have some work to do for Him, some character to develop, weakness to overcome.

Sis. Tamara

TAMBOV

I still remain under the impression of the great loss of our dear Sister Ludmila Kuritsyna, although it happened some time ago. Our brotherhood truly lost a wonderful servant. I continue to write some hymns and songs, and translate some from the English hymn book, and I hope this is an acceptable service to our brotherhood.

Bro. Vadim

VINOGRADOVKA

My granddaughter Regina was hit by a car and has been in a coma for three days as I write this. Please pray for her. I can suffer my own poverty and lack of things, but I find it so hard to see this.

Sis. Galina

news from serbia

BELGRADE

I am told by those I preach to that they have no time to read the Bible, but for me this can never be true, because if we love God, if we have relationship with him, then we will want to read His word, it becomes a natural thing, not something we must make time for. But I so wish I could persuade people of this.

Bro. Vladislav

news from syria

We are sorry to report that our brother Sabri, who was baptized in Latvia, was deported back to Syria and imprisoned on arrival at Damascus airport. We have however heard he has been released from that prison, but we have no further news, and our thoughts and prayers continue with him.

I request your prayers if at all possible to get away from here, it is really so hard to live in Christ here.

Bro. Hannan

news from turkey

We are delighted to report the baptisms of VIKA, originally from Ukraine, and RAMIN, originally from Afghanistan. May the Lord guide them both to His Kingdom.

I am thinking much about the inspired words of John- "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren". These words are my inspiration.

Bro. Parviz [ex-Iran]

Please pray for me in my meeting with the United Nations, and also please continue your support for Brother Ramin, he is in a hard situation. Please please, pray for us here as we seek asylum.

Bro. M

Please be praying for me as I now travel to Ankara for my next interview with UNHCR. I really cannot return to Afghanistan, I so fear.

Bro.R

Thanks to God, He helped us to do our medical examinations without having any problems....we have done the examinations last Monday and the rest of the week we have participated in a fruitful course about the culture etc. of the USA , also about the processes of how to get into the airport in Istanbul then to USA final destination.... it was really so helpful for us to get good ideas

about the place we are going to in USA. We are only waiting the fly date to be given for by the ICMC or IOM...hope it is very soon.

Bro. S and family [ex-Iraq]

news from turkmenistan

My sister, our Sister in Christ Bilbil, is expecting a baby in September. So it's some news for us here. Otherwise things are quiet, although we await the coming of Christ more and more. God Bless.

Sister Guncha

news from ukraine

We are delighted to report the baptism of VLADIMIR- may the Lord keep Him strong in the way to His Kingdom.

KIEV

Thanks a lot for the baptism! I keep reading the literature you gave me.

Bro. Vladimir.



Photo: Bro. Vladimir just after his baptism beneath a bridge in central Kiev

POLTAVA

The last month I have been working in the shop every day, with not a single day off. As soon as I can I will make arrangements for the January Bible School. The crisis has hit everyone here, very hard. If there is work, then one must work so hard; and if there is no work, then things are really impossible.

Sis. Ludmila

LUGANSK

I have been out of contact because our internet and phone was cut off, but now I am working again, feeling better, and able again to have contact. My prayers are always with you and I hope if at all possible to come to the Poltava Bible School. Where I am, you are nobody and nothing if you have no job or income, so being unemployed was very hard period for me.

Bro. Valentin

News from the Americas

news from barbados

I am responding on behalf of Sis. Ida Yeawood, who has been receiving *Gospel News* for years, and always looked forward to each edition. Ida is now unable to read the magazine due to her failing eyesight because of her age. She would very much like to have the *Gospel News* magazine posted to someone else where the word is scarce, where someone else can benefit from it, as she has over the years. She also continues to pray for your work and truly looks forward to the time when she will be able to see all her brethren and sisters in the Kingdom to come, and pray that it will be pretty soon.

Sis. Ida Yeawood

I look forward to reading *Gospel News Magazine*; I have found out that I can read it on the internet so you do not have to post any more to me as the postal rate is very costly.

Sis. Judy Rose

news from guyana

Old age is creeping up and I am taking ages to get things done but as my late husband used to say, "excuses, excuses, will get you nowhere," which is very true. So I hasten to say, please continue sending my *Gospel News*; I do appreciate reading them and learning so much about our beloved brethren and sisters far and near.

Sis. Lorraine Mitchell

Photos:



In the Georgetown Hall on the occasion of the baptism of Sis. Jean Vieira. Left to right. Sis. Jean Vieira, Sis. Lorraine Mitchell, Mrs. Donna Dalgety (Jean's daughter)



Sis. Elisa Howard, baptised on 15th June 2008. Firtsfruit of a new C.Y.C. group called "Lively Stones" attached to the Georgetown Ecclesia, Guyana. Elisa is the grand-daughter of Sis. Jean Vieira and greatly encouraged her in her studies of the Word.

news from jamaica

I have always received *Gospel News* and find it amazing and uplifting to know what is happening in the brotherhood. The address is the same as you sent to before and I am still interested in

receiving it. Keep up the good work and if possible could you have a slot for the Caribbean ecclesias for publishing material.

Bro. Davion Sinclair

News from Asia

news from burma

I hope you are all fine and doing good, in the Lord's ministry. Thank you so much for being concerned for me. Our work for the Truth in Myanmar is going forward, I hope God will do great things in Myanmar. Thank you so much for your prayers, we are planning to go back to the Delta area in November and December, please pray for us. I hope one day you will come to Myanmar, and see what God had done.

Bro. Suum Pi

news from china

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

Bro Zhang spent one day and night with me, staying at the hotel with me. We talked about work, the Bible doctrines, life and so on. In the morning I was satisfied and impressed with his knowledge of the Gospel and so I baptized him. I talked with him about a few examples of baptism from the Bible. About Philip who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, now "They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." And I told my thoughts about Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, who believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized., Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip .etc. Immediately before immersing him, I asked him if he is willing to follow Jesus with all this means, he said yes, and only after he said that did I begin to turn the tap on to fill the bath with the water, and then I baptized him. Afterwards we read Romans 6 together and I emphasized upon Romans 6:4 "we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life". May God bless our new brother.

Bro. Donald

We ask for your prayers for Sis Ji-Ang. The situation in China varies- in some places there's little opposition to spreading the Gospel, in others (especially in rural areas) there's quite a lot. Our Sister has been zealously preaching in a rural and remote area, and she's unregistered with the authorities as she's independent. However, some trinitarian group who is registered with the authorities have reported her for spreading 'strange religion' and she faces quite some difficulties with the local police at this time. Please pray for her, although our contact with her is infrequent.

news from india

We are an ecclesia in Chennai, going well. Bro. Prakash Cornelius is recording brother responsible for the ecclesia. Please put him on the mailing list for *Gospel News*. We are glad to note that Bro. Duncan is well, ministering in Latvia and he is blessed with his first baby; please convey my greetings to him. I have a bad pain in my body now, with severe cold, due to the ageing process. I am 81 years old now and am thankful to our Heavenly Father for sustaining grace. Please pray for me.

India is disturbed by swine flu that gripped the whole nation with fears. Terrorism is another fearful factor. The newspaper is full of human deaths of various kinds. As we study the Bible one has to come to the conclusion that we are in the last days. The only answer is our Lord's soon return to this earth which we need so much now.

Bro. I. Barnabas

news from nepal

SURKHET

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are still seeking support for our Raute tribal people work. Please you all pray for our ministry here in Western Nepal.

Bro. Bishnu

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego

The account of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in scripture inspires me so much. Those men of God had exemplary faith which confronted kings of their generation so that they had to make a decree to allow worship of the true Almighty God. These men of God held on to their faith even in the hardest and most jeopardising times that they went through. "An accusation was levelled against Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego against their faith: 'There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you and they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you set up'" (Dan 3v12).

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were brought before king Nebuchadnezzar. They refused to bow down to the golden image he had set up. The king ordered the men of God to be thrown into the burning furnace whose temperature was raised to the highest possible. God sent an angel to rescue the men of God, so that not even a hair of their heads was scorched.

Daniel also went through a similar situation in the reign of king Darius when he was appointed as the distinguished president above all other presidents: then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint or fault, because he was faithful. Daniel's adversary managed to falsely accuse him. Finally, Daniel was cast into the den of lions, but God sent an angel to rescue him. The angel shut the lions' mouths so that Daniel was not hurt (Dan 6).

Now let us reflect on the good results of the exemplary faith of these men: “King Nebuchadnezzar made a decree that every people, nation and language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill, because there is no other god, that can deliver after this sort” (Dan 3:29). King Darius also made a decree, that in every dominion of his kingdom, people tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

We still have idols or golden images even in this generation: technology, science, politics, terrorism and many more which seem to solve problems faced by human kind. Some bow down to them, but God wants us to have great faith even in the hardest and jeopardizing moment. We should stand out and hold on to the original faith in God to show the world the true God. Let us preach the gospel to the world and people will turn to worshipping the true Almighty God, then when the number of the elect is made up, Jesus will come to establish his Kingdom.

Bro Christopher Mwewa (Chambishi, Zambia)

Remain in God’s Love

What does it mean to love God?

How can we remain in God’s love?

How will God, reward those who remain in His love?

Picture yourself walking along a road on a stormy day. The sky becomes darker. Lightning starts to flash, thunder booms, then rain falls in torrents. You hurry along, desperately looking for a refuge. There, by the roadside, you see a shelter. It is sturdy, dry, and inviting place!

We are living in stormy times. World conditions are going from bad to worse. But there is a secure shelter, a refuge that can keep us safe from permanent harm. What is it? Note what the Bible teaches: “I will say to God: ‘You are my refuge and my strength, my God, in whom I will trust’” (Psalm 91:2).

Imagine that! God, the Creator and Sovereign of the universe, can be our protective refuge. He can keep us safe, for He is far more powerful than anyone or anything that may come against us. Even if we are harmed, God can undo all the bad effects. How can we make God our refuge? We need to trust in Him. Furthermore, God’s word urges us: “Keep yourselves in God’s love” (Judge 21). Yes, we need to remain in God’s love, maintaining a loving bond with our heavenly Father.

But how can we form such a bond?

Recognize and respond to God’s love.

To remain in God’s love, we need to appreciate how God has shown His love for us. God sent His Son as a gift. And what does that gift mean to us? It gives us hope for a wonderful future. Our hope for the future also depends on something else that God has done.

Draw ever closer to God

Learning about God is a vital step in drawing closer to Him. It is a process that should never stop. If you were outside on a very cold night warming yourself by a fire, would you let the flames

dwindle and then die out? No. You would keep adding fuel to the fire to keep it burning bright and hot. Your very life might be at stake! As wood fuels a fire, so “the very knowledge of God” keeps our love for God strong (Prov 2:1-5).

Find joy in your worship

Personal Bible study and prayer are acts of worship that we may carry out in private. Now, however, let us consider an aspect of worship that we carry out publicly: speak to others about our beliefs, sharing some Bible truths. In doing this we are enjoying a wonderful privilege (Luke 1:74). When we share the truths we have learned about God, we are taking up a very important assignment given to all Christians – that of preaching the good news of God’s kingdom (Matt 24:24; 28:19,20).

Reach out for the real life

God rewards His faithful servants with life, but life of what kind? Well, are you really living now? Most of us would say that the answer is obvious. After all, we breathe, we eat and we drink. Surely we must be living. And in our happier moments, we may even say, “Now this is really living!” However the Bible indicates that in an important sense, no human today is really living. God’s word urges us to “get a firm hold on the real life” (1 Tim 6:19). Those words indicate that ‘the real life’ is something that will be alive in the fullest sense of the word, for we will be living as God originally intended us to live.

Let us pray to God to help us to do the hard right than the easy wrong. Amen.

Bro Calvin Chitano (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

PENTAGON BURNS BIBLES

The Pentagon has recently acknowledged under the Bush administration of seizing and burning the privately owned Bibles of American soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

The Bibles had been printed in the local Pashto and Dari languages, and sent by private donors to American Christian soldiers and chaplains, for distribution to American troops on overseas military bases during optionally-attended Christian worship services.

Had the Bibles not been seized and destroyed, they could have legally been given as gifts during off-duty time to Afghani citizens who welcome US troops in their homes, as an expression of American gratitude for Afghani hospitality, promoting the democratic ideals of freedom of religion and freedom of the press.

Read more:

<http://www.city-data.com/forum/politics-other-controversies/649281-pentagon-burns-soldiers-bibles-military-chaplains-2.html#ixzz0SP3kVITw>

The authorities obviously did not want to offend the Moslems because of the soldiers preaching Christ.- but one wonders if similar action would have been taken if they distributed the Koran.

Marcus Heaster

Joseph As A Type of Christ

God shows how the life of Joseph foreshadowed the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph, though not liked by his brothers, became someone great later on. The supporting scriptures that show that Joseph was not loved by his brothers and they thought he was an underdog are Gen. 37:4-8; Matt. 3:17; John. 15:25.

Joseph's brethren were jealous of him because of his dreams, which pointed forward to the authority and influence he would have over people. Gen.37:5-11; John 19:15; Matt. 27:18.

Joseph's brothers tried so hard to eliminate him but he was protected by God for He knew Joseph would be great amongst his brothers. They plotted his death but nothing happened because God had the last say. Joseph's brothers cast him into a pit and sold him into slavery. He was put in prison in Egypt but without sin. God brought him out of prison and appointed him second to Pharaoh.

God gave him everything he needed and his brothers sought help in their time of need. They had to bow before him as a ruler for they did not know that he had become great in Egypt. Joseph did not turn against his brothers but did well unto them and overlooked their sins and later gave them the best land in Egypt.

We should ask ourselves what were the qualities of character which befitted Joseph for favour and rulership. In this lesson we see how Joseph's life was guided and controlled by God so that His purpose with Jacob's family would be fulfilled. We should note how God is guiding events in our lives so that when we follow His directions in His Word we will be amongst those who gladly honour Him in the wonderful Kingdom Age.

Bro. Herbert Tigerepasi (Lusaka, Zambia)

Preaching – A Sister's Perspective In Jamaica

I visited Jamaica, West Indies, this year for the purpose of preaching the Gospel. As usual, at home and abroad, my method is confronting a person face to face, stopping them in their tracks, as was done in the days of old as written in the Bible. The Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8, Amos, as he followed the flock, Amos 7:15, Jesus, tired and hungry preached to the woman at the well etc. As I travelled the highways and byways I met people in Negril, Montego Bay, taxis, buses, business places, markets, etc. or just on the street. With leaflets in hand each morning and afternoon I managed to give out over two thousand leaflets, booklets, etc. and had numerous requests for more.

The potential for preaching is great. I am writing to encourage any brother or sister who has the opportunity and is able to travel to Negril, Montego Bay or the surrounding areas to do so without hesitation. I must emphasise that it is a very challenging experience, (being alone), no air conditioning, T.V., radio or cellular, just a room (self contained) which I consider to be luxurious when funds are limited. My lovely brothers and sisters, there is no joy and fulfilment in this world like using your holidays in preaching the gospel message. All that is needed is willingness, sacrifice, energy, enthusiasm and most of all determination, the "helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" Eph 6:17, and our reward will be great.

The enclosed pictures are of brethren and sisters from some of the surrounding ecclesias in Jamaica, West Indies.

Photos:



Brethren and sisters at Broughton Ecclesia, on Sunday morning.



Brethren and sisters from Harvey River Ecclesia on Sunday morning at the home of Bro. Clifford.



Sisters from Harvey River Ecclesia accompanied by Sister from Canada.

The lesson of Manasseh - The lesson of his repentance

2 Chronicles 22 records the wickedness of Manasseh how he “made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel” (v 9). However, the additional information that it contains is astounding. Verses 11 to 13 record how that Manasseh was taken into captivity in Assyria and prayed to God who was intreated of him and brought him back to Jerusalem.

The second great lesson of Manasseh’s life is that he could repent and in spite of all the evil that he had done, God was intreated of him. We may feel on occasions that our service to God is inadequate or feel an overwhelming feeling of guilt for past actions. Manasseh helps us to appreciate that however much we may feel we fall short, God’s love is still available to us and can enable us to reign as “kings and priests”. What produced such a remarkable change in the attitude of Manasseh towards God?

The Assyrians took Manasseh captive to Babylon causing him much suffering. Verse 11 records that “the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon”. The Revised Standard Version translates the phrase “among the thorns” as, “with hooks” and Isaiah records the same original word in 37:29. Here it is the word of God to the Assyrians: “I (will) put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest”. It prompts us to see a contrast between God delivering Israel in the days of Hezekiah, and God saving Manasseh.

2 Kings 20:12,13 records that the king of Babylon came to Hezekiah who showed him the wealth of his kingdom gained from the spoil of the Assyrians. It then records the words of Isaiah: "Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon" (vs. 17,18).

Comparing these incidents to the experiences of Manasseh provides the following contrasts:

The Assyrians, who mocked the power of the God of Israel were drawn by hooks from the land. Manasseh was drawn by hooks to Babylon, the use of the same words hinting that Manasseh was brought to appreciate that it was an act of God.

Hezekiah had been told by God that his sons would be taken captive to Babylon. It was Manasseh who was taken captive by an Assyrian king who ruled Babylon. Historians tell us that Esarhaddon, who was the only Assyrian king who reigned there, mentions Manasseh amongst his tributaries.

Does this suggest that Manasseh remembered the words of God to his father Hezekiah? Although Manasseh had not followed the Word of God, he had not forgotten the instruction that had been given by his parents and that it was his memory of the Word of God that brought him to his senses.

Having been brought to his senses he was faced with the dilemma as to what he should do. The affliction of Babylon moved him and "he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him" (2 Chron 33:12,13). From his knowledge of Deut 17, he would recall (v 5) that death by stoning was the only sentence for the worship of the host of heaven. Although repentance was not mentioned as an alternative in the law, his knowledge of God's past acts had made him appreciate that God was "merciful and gracious" – a God of love. In exactly the same way that his father had done "when his "heart was lifted up" and "humbled himself" (2 Chron 32:25,26), so, too did Manasseh when "he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers".

What hope would there be to Manasseh that his plea would be answered? 2 Kings 21:3 compared his wickedness to that of Ahab: "He reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel". Ahab "did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD...and he did very abominably in following idols" yet Ahab responded to God's word in that "he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly" (1 Kings 21:25-29). Notice the words of God through Elijah in verse 29: "Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days will I bring the evil on his house".

Hezekiah had humbled himself before God when the "pride of his heart" had lifted him up and God had forgiven his sin, but this was not the gross idolatry and filling Jerusalem with innocent blood of Manasseh which merited the death sentence. Manasseh would have been brought up to know the lessons of God's dealings with His people, he could readily identify himself with Ahab due to the similarity of his sins. What an encouragement it would have been to Manasseh in his prayers to God to know that God's love had not been limited by the greatness of Ahab's sins which added to idolatry the murder of Naboth, and that God had not only accepted Ahab's humility but had also saved Ahab from the consequences of his sins, for God had said of him: "I will not bring the evil in his days".

The picture that 2 Chronicles 33 paints of the humbled Manasseh who returned from captivity in Babylon is totally different from the idolater who corrupted his people. 2 Kings 21 accumulated his evil doings with a series of 'ands'. 2 Chronicles 33 presents a contrasting series of 'ands' which show the good that the reformed Manasseh set about doing: "He built the wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in of the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah. And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel" (vs 14-16).

What a total change in character and action; Manasseh was now really his father's son and doing what we would have expected Hezekiah to do if he had still lived. All the spiritual preparation that Hezekiah had made for his son had not been wasted after all.

Our first lesson from Manasseh's life was that he forsook the word of God and the careful spiritual education of his parents. It teaches us that we should respect, value and adhere to the careful spiritual education of our Father, which is designed to fit us to reign with Christ at his return.

Our second lesson from Manasseh is equally encouraging, for we all fall short and fail to respond as we should to God's Word. It teaches us that even though we may have fallen short, if we humble ourselves before God, He will hear our prayer and will help us and if necessary will save us out of the consequences of our sins. For Manasseh, his guilt was taken away so that the sentence of death that the law prescribed was waived, and he was saved from Babylon and the consequences of his sin. He was brought back to Jerusalem and was able to reign as if his sins had never taken place.

Manasseh encourages us to take stock of our lives, and assures us of God's merciful love, if we humble ourselves before Him.

Bro John Evans (Swansea, U.K)

Exhortation – Give thanks to God

I picked up five blessings in the New Testament:

**Food ● Faith ● Forgiveness
Fellowship ● Future Life**

Food:

Without food we slowly die, so food is important in our lives. So, brothers and sisters, we need to pray for some of our brethren and sisters who are in need of food so that it will be available to their families. We should also find ways to help them when we can, often by providing some of the money needed for food. Let us each remember to thank God for the food that we receive and then eat it with grateful hearts.

The Lord Jesus showed this when he gave thanks for the food (a very minimal amount!) that he had for the feeding of the five thousand people (John 6:11).

The Apostle Paul likewise gave thanks for food on the ship in the frightening storm (Acts 27:35). So should we, in good times and in bad, when we do have food available.

Faith:

The same principle applies to our spiritual food, the Word of God, which is the basis of our faith. The food is available for most of us every day, and we should thank God for it.

“I am the bread of life” said Jesus, “the living bread”. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. I will raise him up at the last day. The one who feeds on me will live, because of me.” (John 6: 51, 54, 57, NIV). Without the spiritual food, that is feeding our faith upon the life of the Lord Jesus, we shall die.

We need to take some of this food in regularly. Some do not, although it is available. So take in something of that living bread, the life of the Lord Jesus, by reading, thinking, praying, and doing. In this way we can survive, grow and be spiritually strengthened.

Forgiveness:

Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven you” to the man that was paralysed and who believed that his condition was his own fault (Luke 5:18-25).

Are you paralysed by sin, unable to serve the Lord? Many of us have been. Some of us more than once – even much more. Is the Lord willing to forgive us? Could the Lord say to you and me now: “Your sins, which are many, are forgiven, for you have loved me a lot”? (Luke 7:47). Let us be thankful that this is what the Lord is saying to us.

But suppose we sin again? We will – but not necessarily in the same way. Forgiveness is still promised, if we sincerely ask our Heavenly Father for it, through the Lord Jesus.

Let us remember this when we take the sip of wine in memory of the Lord who died for us. He is our merciful and faithful high priest at the right hand of our Father, to make reconciliation for our sins (Heb 2:17). Let us thank God, and the Lord Jesus, for that assurance, convinced that we can be forgiven, and continue in our faith and fellowship while we have the opportunity. And let us remember to forgive each other when mistakes have been made in our lives (Luke 6:27-42).

Fellowship:

Do we really remember to thank God for each other, and for our worldwide fellowship. Paul did in his letter to the believers. We have got three examples in the first letter to the Thessalonians. The first example is in 1:2; the second in 2:13; and the third one in 3:9.

Brethren and sisters, we must learn to pray for each other, and for our ecclesia. The Apostle Paul frequently asked the believers to pray for him, especially when he was isolated and challenged in the service of the Lord (Rom 15:30-33; Eph6:18-20).

It is a joy to hear of our brethren and sisters all over the world. Today we can be in much more frequent contact through letters, telephones and electronic mail. Let us link up with each other, believing that we are some of those whose names are there in the Lamb’s Book of Life, some of those known to the King and already enrolled in his Kingdom. Let us thank God for each other – despite occasional misunderstandings and controversies.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive

whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (from Col 3:12-17 NIV).

Future Life:

Jesus believed in his own resurrection. His Father provided the vision at the transfiguration – surely to encourage him, and to instruct his disciples. The disciples slept, then awoke to see Jesus in “his glory”, with Moses and Elijah who appeared in glory. The Lord Jesus was thus assured that he would triumph, that he would rise from the dead to eternally enter the promised glory of his Kingdom together with many other faithful people raised from the dead and given new life (Luke 9:28-35).

The thief said, “Lord, remember me when you come in your Kingdom” and the Lord Jesus replied to him saying, “Truly, I tell you today, you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43).

We thank our heavenly Father, through the Lord Jesus, that we have been given the same promise of future life, to be fully realised when Jesus returns. John 6:40 NIV, “Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”, said Jesus.

Yes, brethren and sisters, we do give thanks to God for His blessing in Christ Jesus our Lord, especially for our food, faith, forgiveness, fellowship and future life.

Bro Thompson Matarise (South Africa)

The Virgin Birth

From the very beginning the plan of redemption had indicated a virgin birth. In Moses and in the Psalms and in the prophets (all of which Christ said spoke of him) it had been foretold.

In Gen. 3:15 it was specifically the “seed of the woman” which should bruise the seed of the serpent. In the Psalms (which are often prophetic and in many cases particularly of Christ, e.g. Ps.22) there are two references to saving “the son of thine handmaid”. (Psalm 86:16 and Ps. 116:16). As it was not usual to speak of descent through the mother, the statement is important, especially when Mary applies the phrase to herself: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word”. (Matt 1:23) quotes the passage from the prophets (Isa.7:14) foretelling the virgin birth.

The virgin birth was a necessity in the plan of redemption. It was necessary that one born of human kind should be able to offer himself as a perfect sacrifice (be bruised in the heel – Gen. 3:15) to gain the victory over sin and death (the bruising in the head of the seed of the serpent – Gen. 3:15). Therefore a seed was provided by God, “born of a woman” and thus “able to be tempted in all points like as we are”, yet not born of the will of man but of the power of God (Luke 1:35).

Thus Jesus was called both Son of man and Son of God (or Emmanuel). Because he was the former he came under the Edenic sentence, but “death could not hold him” and so by a

resurrection he became “the firstborn from the dead” (Col. 1:18), the risen Saviour (or Jesus) who should save his people from their sins.

Bro. W. Mitchell (U.K.)

We shall judge angels. (1 Cor. 6:3)

In Paul’s condemnation of going to law for any cause, he points out that the Saints are destined to rule, or judge the world and to judge angels. The first is explained by the fact that the saints will be rulers and judges in the Millennial Age with Christ, but exactly what is meant by judging angels?

The answer is found by considering the use of the word in Scripture. It is applied (1) to those who appeared to the patriarchs (e.g. Gen.19), to Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, etc. These were the Elohim (or mighty ones) who are described in Psalm 103:20. They are immortal beings who cannot be brought to judgement either in this age or the age to come, and certainly not before those who will be but “equal unto the angels”.

It is applied (2) to the “angels that sinned” (2 Peter 2:4). These were cast down to the grave and therefore cannot be like those of (1). The setting (v.5) shows that they must be some who failed in the work to which they had been sent (Angelos = messenger or one sent) and will come under Christ’s judgement at the end of Gentile times. The saints will not be made judges until after judgement has been passed on them. But there will be messengers sent forth in the Millennial Age (Isa.66:29) and others to whom a duty is given (v.21). Those so chosen will be responsible to, and under the jurisdiction of, the Kings and Priests of the age to come – the Saints who will judge and rule those sent with a mission to the world in the Millennial Age.

Bro. W. Mitchell (U.K.)

An Encouragement From a couple seeking the Truth

I hope that this finds all well with you! I wanted to let you know I received the *Bible Basic* books. THANK YOU! We are so excited to read them. Also thank you for your emails. My husband was so moved by *Bible Basics* that he really wants to get them out there to people whom he has spoken to. He is re-reading it and seems so excited, which in turn blesses me.

If I may give you a little history about our lives in searching for truth: my husband was raised a Baptist. He has been a devout reader of the Bible for many years. I was raised a Mormon, but only by name really. as my family did not practice the teachings. Anyway, I met my husband 20 years ago and he got me studying the Bible for myself. Since that time we have attended almost all churches. Some we were happy with for a time, but then we would ask questions and, well, the answers given just didn’t satisfy the search. It has been discouraging at times and we have all but given up with “organized religion.” My husband was studying with the Mormon missionaries and that opened up a lot of new questions. Some things are obviously not in line with the Bible, but it put the longing for truth back into our hearts.

Then James found *Bible Basics* in the library and, well, here we are, feeling that finally answers may be there. It is such an honest search we have, and we know God has the answers – it just is not always so easy to find them. I thank you so much for your help and for the book. I still have not read the whole book, as I just would glance through the one James had, but now that I have

my own copy it is quite exciting to begin. And, like I said, James is reading it again to really ponder the things brought out in the book. Again, I sincerely thank you for all your kindness in sending the books. If you are able to send a few more that we can share with our kids and others, it would be much appreciated!

May God bless you each and every day! Respectfully. J.V. Canada,

There have been a number of baptisms from contacts that have read Bible Basics in Public Libraries. We are now in process of sending a new book "The Real Christ" to Libraries, so far about three hundred have been placed. The cost of this is about £5 a copy and any who would like to financially support this project, help would be appreciated for sponsoring copies. MH

Our Refugee Brethren – Love in Action as Shown by Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

Observe Jesus' active and caring involvement and his disciples' somewhat impersonal approach. Mark 6: 35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: 36 (The disciples' solution) - Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. Vs.37 (Jesus' solution) "... Give ye them to eat. (The disciples) "... Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?.... (Jesus' action) 38 He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. When he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. 42 And they did all eat, and were filled. Even though Jesus also saw the problem of providing for the people,, his concern was primarily for their welfare, hence his only solution was to look up, beyond their human limitation, to His Heavenly Father for the vital assistance, instead of just dismissing them.

A similar situation in Mark 8, 1 In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them, (the situation) 2 I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: 3 And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. (On this occasion Jesus specifically drew his disciples' attention to his concerns regarding the serious condition of the people, drawing attention to their hunger and impending results, thus revealing his personal feelings). 4 And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?(the disciples highlighting the problem instead)5 And he asked them, (examination) How many

loaves have ye? And they said, Seven. ...(Jesus' solution) and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them....7 And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. 8 So they did eat, and were filled.. Observe Jesus' human, caring touch - his compassion - as he directly dealt with the problem, compared with the disciples' human logical approach.

We are aware of the day to day living condition of our brethren in the refugee camps, and their need to be removed from this situation. Some may even faint spiritually or otherwise, as a result of their suffering. For example, a brother, who lived in several camps for about ten years, disclosed to me that he could not have survived two more years under this condition if he and his family had not been resettled. Learning of Jesus' compassion in such a situation and his dependence on his Father to take care of the problem, let us similarly think of the suffering of our brethren every day, and look to Our Heavenly Father in faith for the assistance he desires to provide us in their resettlement, putting our heads together in a determined effort in this operation.

Sis Esther Worrell (U.S.A.)

Used Stamps

Nearly every week for some years, 97-year-old Sister Marion Thorne, (Walton UK) has asked me if I have any used stamps, as she trims and prepares them for sale to stamp dealers and the proceeds go to missionary work. It is hard work for very little return, but is a worthwhile job she joyfully does, in spite of physical limitations. Her parents took her to Sunday School when she was three weeks old and she was baptised at the age of 15.



Photo: Sis Marion Thorne surveying a mountain of stamps from CAT.

Over the years we felt at times we had lost mail owing to it having been stolen for the stamps, so now we use a franking system instead of ordinary postage stamps. Many in the mission areas find it difficult to afford postage stamps, which can cost the equivalent of half a day's wages, so we supply them with printed international reply envelopes, for which we have a licence, enabling us to pay the postage this end. This is more expensive for us (especially as rates have recently been substantially increased) but it does save them money and enables them to keep in contact with the world-wide fellowship. Just one plea for those abroad: do not fill the envelopes we supply, with used stamps as the extra postage we have to pay on these is much more than the value of the used stamps. MH

Let Your Light Shine (Luke 2:7)

Whether it be royalty or commoner, people of high or low estate, famous or unknown, the birth of a child is heralded as an occasion of great importance and is celebrated as such. It is true that the form of celebrations vary according to the position or standing of the family concerned but, nevertheless, the significance of the event is made known to, and celebrated by, all concerned.

It is a sobering thought that, by divine choice, the Son of God was born in such humble circumstances. Not for him the comfort of opulent surroundings and adoring family and attendants. Jesus was born in a stable in the presence of the animals gathered around the manger - a feed trough in which he lay. No one in Bethlehem had any place for him.

There are many, even in this day and age, who have little or no room in their lives for Jesus and so it behoves us, as followers of Christ, to play our part in reflecting the love and the glory of God in order to draw them closer to him. Let this new year be our starting point and the light of our love: lead others to Christ.

Bro David Yelunani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Calvary

When they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they killed him, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood. "Christ suffered without the gate" (Heb 13:12). Christ, our representative, was to suffer without the boundaries of Jerusalem. He died outside the gate where murderers were executed. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us" (Gal 3:13).

The news of his condemnation had spread throughout Jerusalem, and people of all classes and ranks flocked toward the place of crucifixion. The Saviour's burden was too heavy for him in his weak and suffering condition. Had they known that they were putting to the torture one who had come to save the sinful race from eternal ruin? The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross.

There is now an end to all sacrifices and offerings for sin. The Son of God has come according to the word, "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God". "By his own blood, he entereth in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb 10:7; 9:12).

On the day of crucifixion, the day of apparent defeat and darkness, the promise was given. While dying on the cross, Christ assured the poor sinner, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise". The thieves crucified with Jesus were placed on either side, with Jesus in the middle. This was done by the direction of the priests and rulers. Christ's position between the thieves was to indicate that Christ was the greatest criminal of the three. Thus was fulfilled the scripture, "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isa 53:12). As Jesus, crucified with the thieves, was placed in their midst, so his cross was placed in the midst of a world dying in sin.

Jesus suffered the most intense agony of mind and body. In his humiliation, he was prophet, priest and advocate. He had pleaded with his Father, as a loving Saviour to forgive his murderers. Christ was the prince of sufferers. Christ saw the hold of sin upon the human heart. Upon Christ, as our representative and surety, was laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

This is a prophecy of 'things which must shortly come to pass'. The Lord Jesus got the apostle John to write it, being guided by his Father in heaven. It was written for the benefit of the servants of Jesus that they might know where about in the outworking of the purpose of God they would be living. This revelation is said to be 'signified', that is to say that signs and symbols would be used to describe events in the political and religious worlds that were to follow. In spite of the difficulties, a blessing is involved in its study; "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written therein".

It would be useful first of all, to briefly note the context of each chapter or part thereof as a way of providing a kind of Index, commencing with the reference.

Chapter 1. This is an introduction using the symbolic language that was to be characteristic throughout the prophecy. This is particularly true of the description of the 'Son of man'. The symbols used are repeated later where the context makes them easier to interpret.

Chapters 2 and 3. These chapters contain the letters to the 7 ecclesias that were in Asia, a Roman province, an area now known as western Turkey. Their spiritual progress is assessed by Jesus. This is accompanied with warnings and exhortations.

Chapter 4. John sees the throne of God set in a symbolic heaven, surrounded by 24 elders clothed in white raiment and wearing crowns of gold indicating immortal nature. Additionally there were 7 lamps of fire, a sea of glass, 4 beasts (or living creatures) all worshipping and glorifying God, the whole portraying the fulfilment of the purpose of God.

Chapter 5. The book sealed with 7 seals. The introduction of the slain Lamb who had redeemed the 4 beasts and the 24 elders. The Lamb is praised by the beasts, elders, angels and every creature.

Chapter 6. The opening of the 7 seals. The first four seals had riders on horses of varying colours. The 5th seal (v.9) revealed the slain souls under the altar. The 6th seal (v.12) revealed an earthquake and the departing of the Symbolic heaven.

Chapter 7. The 4 angels standing on the 4 corners of the earth. The sealing of the 144,000 (v.3-8). A great multitude clothed in white robes (v.9-10). The worship of the angels (v.11-12). The interpretation of the multitude (v.13-17).

Chapter 8. 7 angels with 7 war-trumpets. 1st trumpet – hail on the earth (v.7). 2nd trumpet – A great mountain cast into the sea (v.8-9). 3rd trumpet – A great star falls on a third part of the rivers (v.10-11). 4th trumpet – A third part of the sun, moon and stars was smitten (v.12).

Chapter 9. The 5th trumpet – a star opens the bottomless pit – smoke, locusts, power to hurt men 5 months. 6th trumpet – Loosing the four angels bound in the river Euphrates for an hour, a day, a month and a year. The horses, a breastplate of fire, the third part of men killed.

Chapter 10. The mighty angel clothed with a cloud. He cries as when a lion roars. The 7 thunders not revealed (v.4). The little book which John eats (v.10), John to prophesy again.

Chapter 11. Measuring the temple and its worshippers. The holy city to be trodden under foot 42 months. The 2 witnesses to prophesy 1,260 days clothed in sackcloth (v.3). These are killed by the beast (v.7); their dead bodies seen 3½ days (v.9). These witnesses stand up again and ascend up to heaven (v.12). A great earthquake (v.13). The 7th trumpet sounded; the Lord and Christ reign for ever (v.17). The Judgement and an earthquake (v.19).

Chapter 12. A woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and wearing a crown of 12 stars. A great red dragon having 7 heads and 10 horns. The woman bears a man child that was caught up to God. The woman fled into the wilderness where she is fed 1,260 days (v.6). War in heaven between Michael and the dragon; the dragon cast out of heaven (v.19). “The loud voice – now is come the kingdom” (v.10). The woman is nourished in the wilderness for 3½ times. The dragon casts water out of his mouth. The earth swallows up the flood (v.16).

Chapter 13. The beast rising out of the sea having 7 heads and 10 horns which were crowned – given authority by the dragon – one of its heads wounded to death and later healed (v.3). Power to continue 42 months. War with the Saints. A beast coming up out of the earth with 2 horns like a lamb (v.11). He does great wonders to deceive.

Making an image of the beast (v.14). Non-worshippers should be killed (v.15) – receiving a mark of the beast. The number 666 (v.18).

Chapter 14. The Lamb standing on Mount Sion with 144,000. They sing a new song and were redeemed from among men (v.4). The preaching of the everlasting gospel to every nation (v.6-7). The fall of Babylon is announced (v.8). Her worshippers are tormented (v.11). The Son of man on the white cloud with a sharp sickle (v.14). Another angel with a sharp sickle to gather the vine of the earth – blood comes out of the wine press by the space of 1,600 furlongs.

Chapter 15. The sea of glass mingled with fire (v.2). 7 angels having 7 golden vials full of the wrath of God.

Chapter 16.

1st vial poured out on the earth (v.2).

2nd vial poured out on the sea (v.3).

3rd vial poured out on the rivers and fountains (v.4).

4th vial poured out upon the sun (v.8)

5th vial poured out on the seat of the beast (v.10).

6th vial poured out on the great river Euphrates: its waters were dried up (v.12).

3 unclean spirits like frogs go to gather the world to battle (v.14), “Behold I (Jesus) come as a thief” (v.15).

7th vial poured out into the air – a great earthquake, the great city Babylon remembered, the plague of hail (v.21).

Chapter 17. A description of the great whore – a woman arrayed in purple and red, having a golden cup and having the name ‘mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the earth’. (v.5).

She was sitting on a scarlet beast that was and is not and yet is (v.8). The 10 horns are 10 kings that receive power 1 hour with the beast. These make war with the Lamb who will overcome them (v.14). The 10 horns will hate the whore and burn her (v.16).

Chapter 18. A strong angel announces the fall of Babylon (v.2). Her plagues come in one day (v.8). In one hour (v.10, 17, 19,) the merchants bewail her downfall (v.15). The symbolic heaven to rejoice (v.20). In her was found the blood of prophets and saints (v.24).

Chapter 19. A multitude in the symbolic heaven rejoice over the judgement of the great whore. The marriage of the Lamb (v.7). Heaven opened showing the 'Faithful and True' one sitting on a white horse followed by an army on white horses (v.14). The King of Kings rules with a rod of iron (v.16). The calling of the fowls to the supper of the great God (v.17). The outcome of the war, the beast and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire (v.20).

Chapter 20. The dragon bound for 1,000 years (v.2). The worthy saints previously slain now alive and sitting on thrones and reigning for 1,000 years (v.4). The loosing of Satan (the dragon) who besieges the beloved city and are destroyed by fire (v.9). The great white throne and the final judgement (v.13).

Chapter 21. A new heaven and a new earth. The new Jerusalem. The tabernacle of God is with men (v.3). The great city the holy Jerusalem had 12 foundations (v.14). It measured 12,000 furlongs (v.16). The 12 gates were 12 pearls (v.21).

Chapter 22. The river of life with the tree of life on its banks. No night there. They shall reign for ever and ever (v.5). Blessed is he who keeps the sayings of this prophecy (v.7) and that do his commandments (v.14). The Spirit and the bride say 'Come' (v.17). The words of this prophecy must not be altered (v.19). Jesus comes quickly (v.20).

Bro. Ralph Green (U.K.)

The Need for a Deeper Love (Mark 12:30)

However much you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you will have a sense of inadequacy when you compare it with his love for you. No-one can love you as he does but that should not prevent you from striving to deepen and increase your love for him. The Christian life that lacks the incentive to love the Master with increasing devotion is in danger of becoming stale. Without love, there can be no spiritual progress.

To accept the challenge of love you must often meet with Jesus in prayer and meditation, for you cannot love Christ unless your mental energies are directed towards him and your spirit is in harmony with his divine spirit. You know from the scriptures, and from the experience of numerous disciples, that the Master gives himself in a very wonderful way to those who love and serve him. You need to accept his offer and allow him to work his perfect will in your life, to allow your love for him to mature and develop into an offering that is acceptable to him.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Amazing Growth in Riga, Latvia

MUMS' CLUB IN RIGA

One of the great things Sister Belinda Burns was involved with in her two months work with Carelinks was to produce invitations to a mothers' Bible reading club in Riga, Latvia. Most people in Eastern European cities live in large apartment blocks with all the mailboxes at the entrance; and these days the mailboxes are stuffed full with junk mail and advertising fliers. And so Belinda and Cindy photocopied a simple invitation, and sewed a piece of material and a bow onto each one- so that people would go, "Wow... what's that?" when sifting through the junk mail. Those special fliers got a great response; we also put up posters in the windows of the Riga Bible Centre. One woman, INGRIDA, was taking shelter from the rain in the entry of a housing block, and she noticed one of these very pretty fliers on the ground. She picked it up... and came to the mothers' club along with her 18 year old daughter and 20 year old adopted daughter ZANE. Those meetings are wonderful- reading a Bible chapter, doing Bible marking, sharing tea and coffee, listening to life stories and problems, and teaching the women to pray. Ingrida took home *Bible Basics*, and read every page. She started attending the Sunday meetings. Recently, Sisters Anna and Barbara Ryder from the Horley, UK, ecclesia have been in Latvia, and it was great to have their company in baptizing Ingrida and Zane in the Baltic Sea. They were both simply so very happy emerging from the water. There is really so much interest- do come and get involved or support as you are able from afar.



Photos: Belinda and Cindy; advertizing the mums' Bible Club; prayer together; walking to baptism together; "Do you believe the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ?"

We recently baptized GALINA , a resident in a state facility for the elderly and handicapped. There has been talk for some time of closing down her facility, which means she will have to go live in the night shelter as she has no relatives. But at the night shelter, you have to leave by 08:00 a.m. and return only at 19:00 [7 p.m.]. Our sister has been terribly worried at what was going to happen to her as her health is very weak but not bad enough to be permanently hospitalized. She found a Gideon's New Testament at the facility, and started desperately reading it. She then came into contact with one of our sisters, who gave her more literature and introduced us to her. Although it's not clear still whether her facility will be closed , she really has a great peace and calmness about her now. Here's our sister with some vitamins we were able to give her [along with her original Gideon's New Testament]:

REFUGEE CAMP BAPTISMS

In some countries such as Turkey, arriving refugees are dealt with by the United Nations. In others, the state itself deals with them. Given the effective bankruptcy of several smaller Eastern European states, they have no funds to spend on welcoming refugees and asylum seekers who cross their borders.

In one such Eastern European republic, a Soviet-era labour camp has been brought out of dereliction in order to serve as a holding centre for the refugees. It's a pretty fearsome looking place, comprised of dilapidated barracks and with barbed wire all over the place. By the hand of pure Providence, copies of *Bible Basics* were taken in there by someone quite unconnected to us. We were permitted to visit the camp to meet with two men who were earnestly seeking after God's Truth and baptism into His Son. W. had previously been a refugee in another country where he stayed for 8 months. During that time he became convicted of the need for baptism into Christ, and had asked no fewer than 6 churches to baptize him. Each had refused or not shown any interest in him- after all, who wants an asylum seeker living on the street as a member of a respectable church. Once he entered the camp and found *Bible Basics*, he realized why God had so strangely delayed him- he now learnt about the true Gospel in more depth. He read the book all through one night, and gave it to a former Moslem refugee, S. He had been considering Christianity for a long time, discouraged from Islam by the Islamic extremism he had suffered from in his homeland. The camp inmates have nothing to do at all, 24/7. There are few books for them to read, and no access online. So it was inevitable that W would share his new found convictions with S and that S, too, would devour the message. So it was with great joy that we made visits to the camp, culminating in the baptisms of W and S during the visit of Sisters Anna and Barbara Ryder from the Horley, UK, ecclesia. Baptizing people in a former Soviet labour camp is no easy matter. There are no bath tubs for a start. We got permission to bring a large plastic paddling pool into the camp, and filled it up with water in the exercise yard- surrounded by barbed wire. We had to hold up the sides of the pool to get enough depth of water for the immersions. But, we got there, and with much joy baptized these two brethren. The camp guards even assisted us with this, and also with the considerable task of emptying the pool of all that water afterwards. The photos speak for themselves.



So we continue to marvel at how God so earnestly seeks to draw out a people for His Name in these last days. We are delighted to report that brother Rowan Barton of Australia has moved to Eastern Europe for 6 years whilst he studies medicine at the University; Rowan has become a solid supporter of the work and has already gone to visit and break bread with our new brethren. If the paperwork is arranged ahead of time, visitors can spend most of a day with our brethren, they speak English and it's a wonderful pastoral opportunity. It may sound a lot to ask, but we wonder if anyone, maybe from Western Europe, would be up to the challenge of flying out for a day and spending it with these wonderful brethren, discussing the Bible readings, breaking bread with them, giving and taking words of comfort? Whatever, please do pray for these new brethren- life is really quite depressive living in those circumstances with little contact with the outside world, and with nothing to do all day. At least we have been able to give the camp many copies of our Speaking About Jesus' 'Improve your English through reading the Bible Course as well as Bibles and other literature.

WORK AT THE RIGA WOMEN'S SHELTER

Our witness here continues, and whilst Anna & Barbara were over they were able to witness the baptism of ZOYA. The women are allowed to stay in the shelters for a limited number of days a

year. The other days they sleep with friends for the odd night, or we provide shelter for them. They are not allowed to leave any baggage at the shelters - they are just literally night shelters; they are allowed in at 7 p.m. and must be out by 8 a.m. This means that they have to take all their possessions with them during the day, that's why our meeting place in Riga has a back room full of bags belonging to various sisters. There are too many of our brothers and sisters in the shelters to think of providing all of them with permanent accommodation, but there is now a subsidized shelter, a kind of bed-and-breakfast arrangement, that offers accommodation for about 3 LVL / night in dormitories, that's about 6 US\$ or 3.50 GBP. So we seek to ensure that none of our brothers and sisters are left on the street or sleeping at the railway station. If you feel moved to support these expenses, please let us know. We've explained before that the minimum wage is so low that many who have jobs can't afford to rent a room, and so they end up sleeping at the night shelters if they have no friends or family to live with. Unlike many Western countries, these places aren't simply a refuge for alcoholics or drug abusers, there are also many elderly people without families who have to live there. Generations of Communism sadly destroyed family life, with the failed belief that the state would always provide.



Here's sister Anna [centre] with sister Zoya [right]

As a cameo of the kind of poverty we're trying to assist, consider this recent incidental report of Duncan & Cindy: "We were sitting here in the flat at 9:30 this evening and I had a missed call- it's the usual thing, most people have cheap cell phones but no credit, so they call you in the hope you'll call them back. It was one of our sisters, a lovely, sincere, good living widow with three children. She asked if I could come with the car and meet her somewhere and transport her and some heavy bags to where she was staying. So I went and found her standing on the street wearing a heavy, very nice fur coat. As it's not yet winter I was surprised. She explained that she knows a postlady, and this woman trusts her as a reliable, Christian woman of her word. This woman hadn't delivered the mail for the last two days, so, she had called our sister and asked her to come and take the mail off her, and deliver it. In return she gave her the nice fur coat and some small money. Our sister explained she had sold her coat at the end of last winter to pay some bills, and she needed a warm coat for this coming winter. So, she agreed. Now she has mail sacks at her place and tomorrow will go out with her children and deliver the mail".

So please do continue your prayers and support for the great work going on.

The World Is In a Mess

We are living in a time when the world seems to be falling apart. Mankind has tried so many different things, among them education, League of Nations, United Nations to try to bring understanding to man.

There is nothing more important than our spiritual life, no matter how much we gain in this world, or how great we become, we always reach the end of the road. Remember that we must keep the truth and avoid a lie. A lie is the truth perverted; all sin is righteousness perverted.

There is only one Creator and that is God. The only way we can ever have eternal life is to live as God commands us.

You can't take creeds and isms and hammer them into you. You can't take some other dogma and mix it with the word of God and expect God to honour the mixture. God won't mix with anything perverted.

Something took place in Sodom when immorality was on the increase. They built cities, but they refused God's word, were extremely sexually immoral, and the city fell apart. It is the same today, "As it was in the days of Sodom and Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man", said Jesus. When the Son of man came to the Jews, the world was in a mess, politics and corruption in religion was at its peak. The Jews were following the law and making their traditions above it. When Jesus came as a representative, God accepted the reconciliation that he made by his life and his death on the cross.

When you ask a brother, 'Are you a Christian?' the answer is, Yes. 'Why?' – 'I break bread every Sunday.' Are we playing a system? A life is what is important for human beings: the life of Christ. How can you hold on to Christ and yet hold to worldly forms? God will not save the world by reorganising its organizations. He will dissolve them and replace them with a Divine theocracy. God has promised to supply our needs not our wants. People always want things and we want them in their own way. That is what brings about the mess.

I believe Jesus will be coming again to save his true church. "The time will come when men will be heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures, more than lovers of God, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, despisers of those that are good, traitors, high-minded" (2 Timothy 3). Do not rely on any system or anybody else. Do not rely on any general supports, welfare funds. Get on with God and God alone, until your life is changed and you become truly a new creature in Christ. God will take care provided we do our part in our own lives.

We must get back to the full truth of the word. God is set apart from the world and He wants His people to live apart with Him. He wants children obedient to His word. He can place His word in us: Jesus said, "If you abide in me, and my words in you, then ask what you will and I will grant it". So when you want to know where the secret lies, it is in the word of God. And through the word of God, the world was reconciled to God. But if we involve our lives in worldly pleasures, then we shouldn't expect anything good from God. Brothers and Sisters, let us wake up and shake our consciences about the hour we are living in, for it is a serious hour.

Just remember this: we are in the end time. Education, materialism and worldly pleasures have taken the place of salvation.

There is a true church. There is a church that is waiting for the coming of the Lord. It is just for those who are foreordained. The world to come depends on where we put your treasure. Be an example of the true man, the true woman, the true Christian. Live the life that is right.

Lord Jesus, help me to be true until you come. Let me take my stand and stay there, Lord. We are looking for your Kingdom, that cannot be moved.

Bro Peter Mugeno (Busia, Uganda)

The Book of Genesis

The book of Genesis written by Moses contains fifty chapters. It starts with the revelation of God's power through creation: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (1:1). It reveals how God works through His ministering spirits, the angels, immortal beings and also through believers who are mortal. If you want to know how the God of the Bible has a purpose and real vision for the creation, read the book of Genesis and you will conclude how we must believe and acknowledge the almighty power of God.

First the creation of things and then man, (who was created in God's image) who was given dominion over the earth, but not heaven (1:26). God made the first man, Adam, and provided a help meet, Eve, to share and enjoy the fruits of the creation in the Garden of Eden. This was on this planet earth. Everything was very good but finally SIN entered, and death followed for the human race (Rom 5:12).

In Genesis 3, we note three questions put to Adam by the Creator:

- Where are you (verse 9)?
- Who told you that you were naked (verse 11)?
- What is this that you have done (verse 13)?

These three questions needed answers.

Afterwards, people lived many years on the earth, the longest 969 by Methuselah (5:27). Sin reigned in the human race but God made a covenant with Noah to preach the message of salvation, but nobody listened or paid attention to this servant of God for a period of 120 years. As a result, God acted by destroying those rebels, all except Noah and his family (ch 6). After Noah, the descendants of mankind started to migrate through the whole earth.

God called Abraham, the father of the faithful, and made a covenant with him. Read ch 12 and you will see how the God of the Bible works. God blessed Abraham with a son called Isaac, and Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob was blessed and also named Israel. Jacob had 12 sons who formed the twelve tribes of Israel. One of his youngest sons, Joseph, was blessed and used as a type of Jesus to save his brothers in Egypt: "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors" (45:7,8).

The book of Genesis gives a true vision, mission and purpose of God's plan to keep and provide an everlasting solution - a leader, Jesus Christ, on this planet earth.

Bro John Onani (Sindo, Kenya)

Lamps with Full Light

The English dictionary describes a lamp as a container for oil and wick, used to give light, or other devices using gas or electricity to give light. In the countryside where we are living the commonly used lamps have wicks and oil. It is something with which people are acquainted.

The Bible is full of contrasts. Reading Genesis chapter 1, the act of creation is described as a transformation from being formless to created order, and from darkness to light: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness" (Gen 1:1-4).

Without light, life is not possible. God's creations need light to survive. For example, light is essential for plants to make their food and grow, and for human beings to carry out their daily work.

Light in the tabernacle (Holy Place) (Lev 24:1-4; Ex 27:20,21). The tabernacle was a worshiping place for the Israelites. Each day, the priests entered the Holy Place in this tent to keep the lamps burning, regularly morning and evening. No natural light was there. The people of Israel would bring pure oil prepared from olives. Priests were God's representatives: they represented the people of Israel before God. This teaches us about fellowship where all the community work together before God.

The Holy Place was fully illuminated because the lamps were placed high upon a lampstand, enabling the priests to see and carry out their activities perfectly. What does this tell us spiritually? Believers are the lamps, and Christ is the lampstand whereby they give full light in the ecclesias and to the world about them: "Let your loins be girded about: and your light burning": "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with the truth, and having the breastplate of righteousness" (Luke 12:35; Eph 6:14).

Vested with responsibilities, the priests had to dress and replenish the lamps to supply the light continually day and night. This is again a spiritual example for ourselves as we open and read the Bible daily. Knowledge from the Bible should transform us in the way of following His commandments. The same gospel shows us what God wants us to do and how to behave: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalms 119:105).

Only by reading God's word regularly can we learn about Him and His purpose with the world. His purpose is fulfilled in Jesus Christ who is described as the light for the world: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying 'I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.'" The gospel is the light for those who walk amongst the darkness of the world. We are like blind men unless God's word enlightens us to learn from Him. We are like people searching about in pitch darkness, not knowing where to go. The apostle Paul puts it: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor 4:6).

Just as the lamps were on a lampstand high in the Holy Place, so also can our acts of faith shine as if on the top of a hill for everyone to see. Our light should be bright to show others that Christ is our guide.

Bro Manasseh Wamamili (Chwele, Kenya)

The Last Days of What?

'We are living in the last days.' What does that mean? The term 'last days' and 'the time of the end' have been in use for a long time (Dan 12:4; 2 Tim 3:1). The prophet Daniel was given visions of world powers and conflicts that would take place between them up until 'the time of the end.' He was told that the meaning of these visions would be made clear at the time of the end (Dan 8:17,19;11:35,40; 12:9). Daniel also recorded: "In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will destroy and put to an end these kingdoms and it will stand for ever" (Dan 2:44).

Jesus Christ referred to 'the end' when answering a question about "The sign of his coming and the conclusion of the systems of things" (Matt 24:3-42). Evidently both Daniel and Jesus were referring to a finality, a dramatic change that would affect the people who live on the globe. Daniel wrote of the end of all earthly governments. Jesus spoke of "The conclusion of the systems of things." Should you be concerned? Of course! All mankind should be, as all are involved. Still, many take these matters lightly. The Bible foretold: "In the last days there will be ridiculers, with their ridicule, proceeding according to their own desires and saying 'Where is his coming? Why from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are as they were from the creation'" (2 Peter 3:3,4).

Yes, some today feel that history just keeps repeating itself and that life as we know it will go on its way endlessly! But we are in the last days and so need to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

Bro Ernest Lavuna (Gisambai, Kenya)

In the Beginning

Some books of the bible seem to be more important than others. I do not say more inspired by God, but they seem to be crucial – Genesis is surely one of the most important books within the pages of scripture. It is often called 'The book of beginnings', because it tells us of the origin of so many matters which are of importance to us. We read of the origin of the world, marriage, sin, the beginning of society and languages. Chapters 12-50 tell us of the beginning of the people of God.

To understand the book of Genesis, it is helpful to know the background of its origin. The book addresses questions like, 'Where does the universe come from?' 'What is the origin of marriage?' 'Why are there nations?' So it is rightly called the book of beginnings.

The first three chapters are like stories which we read to children. We read events that no-one could have witnessed, beginning with the creation of the universe and of the sun, moon and stars. We read of the creation of the seas and the animals and the first man. God works for six days and then takes a day's rest to enjoy what He has done. A woman is made out of the bone of a man, a snake talks, a tree determines the destiny of the human race, God walks in the garden and another tree can keep humankind alive for ever. This is so wonderful: keep on reading this holy book.

Chapter 4 and later chapters bring in more good news and adventures. We read of things like murder, polygamy and jealousy between brothers. Farmers are introduced to us, as are metal-work, music and poetry. Wickedness is also brought to our attention, and that God intends to drown people, descendants of Cain and Seth and to start the human race again. Animals join Noah in a boat and all are saved. When the new humanity gets going, they all speak the same language and decide to build a tower. God was not pleased with this idea, He came down and brought an end to the project by making them all speak in different languages.

When we get to chapter 11, the style changes yet more and we are at last into the world that we know today. There are still miracles like, later, when Isaac is born when his mother is in her nineties, and so on. At the end of the chapter, we are introduced to Abraham who will be the model for salvation.

From that point, instead of focusing on the outworking of sin, the story focuses on the one through whom there will come a Saviour, the seed of Abraham. The remainder of the book shows us how faith works, beginning by exhibiting the life of faith in Abraham (11:27-25:11).

So the start of everything is the fact that God is LORD It is His world. He made it. He tells us how it works. Creation is the start of everything: "IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH".

Bro Gift Lungu (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

GUYANA GLOW

It began early July, with the ministry of Bro. Ted and Sis. Dolores Sleeper at the annual Fraternal Gathering held at the new Mocha Hall and is still in animation after the Triennial Caribbean Camp, with the extended stay of a few Jamaican camp leaders and Bro. Andy Bradshaw of Manchester-Sale ecclesia in U.K.

Bro. Andy is no stranger to Guyana, and especially New Amsterdam ecclesia, this being his sixth visit. He is continuing pastoral work this season, began by Bro. Wesley Butler of Vancouver ecclesia, B.C. and Bro. Clive and Sis. Christine Drepaul of N.Y.

In New Amsterdam there was also some preaching activities engineered by Bro Joe and Sis. Veronica Badlu of N.Y., in the form of a 5-day Gospel Proclamation followed by a 3-week Seminar. The members and CYC'ers of New Amsterdam ecclesia, and a few members from Kilcoy ecclesia gave encouraging support.

There was also a 2-week Vacation Bible School at New Amsterdam ecclesia, led By bro. Wesley. The CYC'ers and Sunday School scholars were in attendance.

Besides ministering at New Amsterdam and Kilcoy ecclesias, the visiting brothers and sisters were able to meet at Plegt Anker (the third Berbice ecclesia), and all three Demerara ecclesias.

It was wonderful to have the support of the Demerara ecclesias (Georgetown, Eccles and Mocha) for the Breaking of Bread meeting at the camp site, Kuru-Kuru Training Center, to usher in the 11th Triennial Caribbean Youth Camp which attracted over 150 campers: Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago and Jamaica, to be uplifted by two timely series of classes:

“Nehemiah – A Man For All Seasons” (Bro. Tyrone Smartt); “Hide Thy Face From My sin” (Bro. Gideon Drepaul).

After the camp, Bre. James and Danny of Spanish Town, and bre. Davion and Garfield of Kingston, Jamaica ecclesias, remained in Guyana and continued ministrations.

One of the highlights of our visit was meeting with three senior members, whose combined ages average 90+, with frail physical body but amazing mental faculty. Sis. Amy Washington, 103 years old, tops the list; Bro. Vernon Yearwood and Bro. Eric Joseph are the other two seniors. Sis. Amy referred to pleasant events with Georgetown members dating back almost 50 years; Bro. Vernon offered a closing prayer at the Breaking of Bread in his Vryheid home, which included most of the faithful Bible characters; Bro Eric, at the Mocha meeting was amazingly coherent in his prayer for the emblem.

Bro. Clive Drepaul. (Brooklyn USA)

True Repentance: A Way of Life

As we reflect on the condition of the world in which we live, it is clear that true spiritual values are as rare as they have ever been. Moral degeneration and confusion, environmental destruction, along with a general failure of education and an ever-growing craze for pleasure, mark a society that places little, if any, value on what Jesus Christ taught. Surely the need for change, for repentance, has never been greater.

As it has been for every generation, repentance is really the central issue facing mankind today. But it is not an issue often talked about. Sin, after all, is deeply personal. We are, to say the least, reluctant to think about our own weaknesses and failing.

Repentance requires the ultimate humility. It demands not only acknowledgement and confession of sin, but true repentance is also a way of life, a way of thinking about ourselves and our relationships with God and with fellow men and women. Repentance is full recognition of our personal inadequacy, weakness and inferiority to God, of our need for Him. It is also recognition that we are no better than any other human being. Yet, ironically, this realistic view of our own weakness is the starting point for much greater strength. It is the mental foundation that will enable us to make a far more valuable contribution to every aspect of life.

The words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3-4 should ring out daily in the conscience of every true Christian: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of us should look not only on our own interests, but also on the interests of others”.

“Repent and believe” Jesus commanded in Mark 1:15. Some would prefer to believe without the repentance. But true belief demands repentance, for how can a person believe God’s word and not change his life? Real understanding brings about a fundamental shift in our attitudes. The truth is, though, that it is only when we come to face our own sin squarely, seeing ourselves for what we are, that we are able to come to Christ. We need to address some very basic issues. Which is more important to our society: serving God or serving ourselves? That is an important question. But the deeper question is this: which of these is more important to you and to me? Discovering how we must change is the most important task we as individuals can take.

Let us ask ourselves how much we are willing to sacrifice to our calling to follow Christ? Is sin just something for the other fellow to deal with? Is it just something for the churches to solve? Or does it reach into our lives, something for you and me to deal with personally?

To be sure, repentance is not an easy way nor a popular way. You might even say that it is a narrow and difficult path. Not because of rigorous, legalistic standards, but because it is hard for a man to humble himself. Becoming a true follower of Christ cannot happen by wishful thinking. Nor can it happen by political force, nor by religious persuasion. It happens only by doing what Jesus said.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

What Really Matters

What Really Matters?

Not where you Live, but how you Live.

Not what you Say, but what you Do.

Not what you Take, but what you Give.

Not what you Own, but what you Share.

Not what you Avenge, but what you Forgive.

Not what you Know, but who you Help.

Not how you Play, but how you Pray.

Not how you Enjoy, but how you Endure.

Not how you look, but who you Are.

Not what's in the Bank, but what's in your Heart.

Not what others think of you,

but what God Knows.

Anon.

Father, Forgive them ...

What is forgiveness? Let us look at what Jesus said when he was on the cross. The first words were "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). The Lord Jesus did not hold that sin against them when they nailed him on the cross. He remembered his own teaching in the sermon of the mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God" (Matt 5:9). Do we not know that the peacemakers are those who do not hold hard words, quarrels or hate? So we can say that the Lord Christ was truly the Son of God.

What about Stephen? “Then he (Stephen) fell on his knees and cried out, Lord do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:60). Do we do this if one of our brothers sins against us? Brothers, we must be peacemakers in order for us to be called sons of God.

Earlier in Jesus’ ministry his disciples asked him “‘Lord, teach us how to pray’. He gave them these words, ‘Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors’” (Matt 6:12). This means that, as brothers, we must not hold a sin against another brother. How can we read the Bible or pray to God while we have a ‘log’ in the heart (Mark 11:25). What does the word ‘peacemaker’ mean? The Bible says that we must not hold a sin against anyone. The peacemakers shall be called the sons of God. How do sons of God behave? They bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances they may have against another. They read and understand that the Father forgives them if they forgive (Col 3:13), and, “Be holy as I am holy” (Lev. 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16). If we are in the likeness of God, we must be kind and compassionate to one another. We know that God is full of mercy and grace. God’s grace is unlimited and does not end. Who are you if you do not forgive? Are you a son of God or a son of the flesh? Let us remember that Peter went to Jesus and asked him, “‘How many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?’ Jesus said ‘Not seven times but seventy times seven’” (Matt 18:22). When he said this, what Jesus meant was that we must forgive our brother as many times as he needs.

We must remember that we must be holy, so if we hold a sin against another it means that we have been overcome by evil (Rom 12:21). Evil is bad; we must not be like king Saul. He was rejected by God and the spirit left him. If we hold a sin against another. God will leave us and we will remain with the bad spirit mind like that of Saul. Do we know that Saul remained king even after God’s spirit left him? We may remain brothers and sisters but the spirit mind can have left us.

God searches the heart (Jer 17:10: Ps 7:9). When we sing hymn 268 we sing these words: “Can it be a question whether brethren should from conflict cease?” Does conflict cease when it arises in our ecclesia? Do we help everyone with hope and the joy of forgiveness? We should know and understand Jesus’ words, “Love one another as yourself”. We must think how much our Father *has forgiven and does forgive*. God has forgiven people in past ages such as David and Hezekiah. He also forgives today and will do so in the future. Who are we if we do not esteem our brothers better than ourselves? How can we say that we love God and His Son if we do not love our brothers?

Some last words are these: Grudge not, judge not, complain not, condemn not (James 5:9). Let us look very carefully at these words, and consider what God and Jesus tell us about love, forgiving, being peacemakers and being holy. If we remember these things and do them, we shall be like both God and His Son.

Bro Dzingai Sumburera (Chivi, Zimbabwe)

Backsliding

It has been painful to see and hear of brothers and sisters shrinking back from the truth. What is contrary and shameful to them is that it would have been better not to have known the way of righteousness.

Why do some decide to shrink back? Is there something wrong within our ecclesial set up, or is there some special interest to be gained? The answer could be either No or Yes. When one decides to become a believer, none of us should look back, as the wife of Lot did and turned into a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26).

Some may wonder about the meaning of 'backsliding'. It simply means to slip back from good behaviour or habits. The main purpose for writing about this is because I am very concerned about the increasing numbers of brothers and sisters that leave us. Have we ever wondered what could be the cause of drifting away? I have found some of the reasons:

- Lack of interest. We all know that interest comes first. It is the main thing in all that we do in our daily lives, but losing interest can cause us not to concentrate when reading the Bible. It also causes Brothers and Sisters to stop attending meetings little by little. Let us all make sure that our ecclesias are attractive, interesting and relevant to our daily lives. "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it because the time is near" (Rev 1:3).
- Lack of understanding. It is sad when we have to ask 'Have you understood?' But God always knows who understands His word. Therefore, Brothers and Sisters, let us ensure that whatever we read or pay attention to, we make every effort to understand it so that we can apply it in our lives and never go wrong: "In purity, understanding, patience and kindness in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love" (2 Cor 6:6).
- Misunderstanding. This has brought down standards in our ecclesias in many parts of the world because some are selfish and feel superior. This has made others feel inferior so that they stop attending meetings: they feel inadequate. So let none of us offend in this way, particularly office-bearers. We must treat everyone equally regardless of nationality, tribe, colour, language or gender. We are a chosen community, all of us, so let us seek unity, bringing every member of the ecclesia together and show endless love. We should also bear in mind that the way we talk has an impact on other Brothers and Sisters. We should never be the reason that anyone is lost or caused to sin by our bad behaviour. Remember that God is not willing to spare from condemnation those who are a stumbling-block to fellow Brothers and Sisters. "But if anyone cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matt 18:6).
- Marriage. Some marriages both within and outside the truth have been violent, so that young and old have gone astray. There are many books on building a good marriage but it seems that such information was not read by some who get married. The reason why marriage should be within the faith is that there can be harmony in the home, peace and love. Marriage within the faith should be for life, without divorce. Brothers and Sisters, let us not cheapen ourselves by being married to outsiders so that we lose our faith. "Do not be yoked together with an unbeliever. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" (2 Cor 6:14-18).
- Peer pressure. This is one of the reasons for catastrophe which has led young and old to backslide due to the kind of people they hook up with? It has been suggested that peer pressure is only felt by the young, but is it true that old people are not affected? If we do

not really believe God's word, we can easily put too much trust in our neighbours. Therefore we ought to be careful in the friends that we make because they can easily lead us astray.

Finally, I appeal to every reader of this article to check themselves whether they are an obstacle to another's spiritual growth as we walk towards God's kingdom.

Bro Stephen Siamabi (Lusaka, Zambia)

Sharing in God's Holiness

God, our Heavenly Father, disciplines us for our good so that we may share in His holiness. Of course, no discipline seems pleasant at the time that God is disciplining them, and it is painful. Later on (it may not be soon), however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Our human fathers disciplined us, and continue to discipline their children, and we respect them for it. How much more then should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live? Let us therefore endure hardship as discipline because our Heavenly Father is training us as sons. If you are not disciplined, then you are illegitimate children because you are not God's true sons. Every true son of God undergoes discipline. God trains us.

God our Father wants us to be strong spiritually and endure hardship. That is to have faith with substance in what we believe. The reality we see by eyes of faith not by our natural eyes. Sight has nothing much but faith has. It is faith that counts.

The real enemy should not be what we see with our eyes but what we manufacture in our hearts. The problem is that what we think in our hearts makes us act, our thoughts motivate us to act good or bad. Whatever we do, whether in secret or not, a believer knows they are being watched, for the angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who are to inherit salvation. So let us pay more attention to what we hear or read from the Bible so that we do not drift away from the truth.

We must then love one another. This love is not saying to one another, 'Brother, I love you' or, 'Sister, I love you', but the love the Bible teaches us about; obedience to Christ's commands and striving to lead a holy life, and when we fail we must be humble and confess our failures.

God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him but we walk in darkness (sinful activities and conversations), we are not living the truth.

We must strive to walk in light because He is light and in this way we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His son purifies us from all sin (all sin, not just one that we have committed, but all sin). Hiding sin is not right at all.

Brothers and sisters, God Himself will give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, only let us stand firm. Nothing should move us away from the Lord even if we are shunned by all because of illness, poverty, or hunger. Let us always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord because we must know that our labour in the Lord is not in vain. We must not seek praise from men, not even praise from our brother and sister for personal gratification but let us give all glory and praise to God our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ His son. So let us be holy.

Bro Reuben Kaambeu (Kabompo, Zambia)

Finding The Way

What is needed perhaps is to get most of our goals set and achieved despite confrontation, from forces all around us. Paul said 'For what I want to do, I do not, but what I hate, I do ...'. This is defeat, but we should keep praying. God has given us His guidance in the Bible to enrich us daily, and we in our turn should walk in His way. In 2 Cor 12: 2-4 and again in 1 Timothy 5:3-15, Paul gives us good reminders of our daily duty. So we should not ignore them, and we can also read Acts 6:2 and Eph 4:31-7.

So, like Paul, we should rejoice: Phil 1:12-18. What should we do, then, to grow and to finish our work? I think we need the following:

1. Talk to God in prayer. Phil 4:6-8; Mark 1:35 (Jesus prayed too).
2. Study the word of God Matt 4:4; Ps1:1,2; Joshua 1:8. We need to grow with this habit.
3. Fellowship Meeting with believers as a way of spiritual refreshment in the word, and prayer group, as it is true that where two or three meet, Jesus is always there too. Matt 18:20; 28:20; John 14:23; Heb 10:24,25.
4. Witnessing Telling others about Christ, Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:8; Neh 8:5-12.
5. Be rooted in Christ Col 6-8; Rev 3:21; 3:2. As we do not know when Jesus will come, we should keep watch and overcome to get to the end.

So we need to endure to the end, 1 Cor 1:27-31; Joshua 9:23-35 by putting on Christ, we can prosper and reach the end. We need to put on the armour of God, Eph 6:10-18.

Bro Wilfred Chibomba (Pemba, Zambia)

Who is this Man

Jesus' disciples were always asking among themselves who Jesus really was. When Jesus calmed the violent wind his disciples asked amongst themselves who he was: "They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him'" (Mark 4:41). We see that, although his disciples were 'Christians', they still lacked faith because; Jesus asked them, "He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?'" (Mark 4:40).

Why would Jesus ask such a question of his followers? Let us look at the following passages to get the answer: "Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life'. 'But what about you?' he asked. 'What do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Christ of God'" (Luke 9:18-20). From Peter's answer, we see that he was one of the disciples who loved Jesus to the end and was very close to Him.

We see that in verses 28-36, Jesus took three of his disciples, but it was mainly Peter who was speaking: "As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is good for us to be here: let us put up three shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'" (verse 33). Here we

see that Peter understood Jesus more than some of the disciples, he was even the last to turn away from him when he was arrested (Luke 22:59-60).

We also see that those who were prosecuting Jesus did not know who he was: “The high priest said to him, ‘I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God’ (Matt 26:63). Although he was high priest, he could not recognize Jesus, and this was to fulfil prophecy. Even the Pharisees had no idea who Jesus really was: “Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’ But when the Pharisees heard this they said, ‘It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons’ (Matt 12:22-24). Even in his home town Jesus was not known to be the Christ: “Coming to his home town, he began teaching the people in their synagogue and they were amazed. ‘Where did this man get his wisdom and these miraculous powers?’ they asked. ‘Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?’” (Matt 13:54-56).

When Jesus went into Jerusalem, the authorities did not recognize him and they went on to ask the people who he was: “The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted ‘Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest’. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee’” (Matt 21:9-11).

It was upon his death that some of the authorities testified that he was the Son of God: “When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and exclaimed, ‘Surely, he was the Son of God’” (Matt 27:54).

So we see that by his death eyes were opened to see who Jesus really was.

Bro Richard and Sis Hlezipi Phiri (Chegutu, Zimbabwe)

Repentance Required from Us

Jesus Christ will help us through belief and baptism into his name, to conquer sin. For he made the only true and perfect sacrifice. How? Because he conquered sin by not obeying the flesh, but God. “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4 compare with Deut 8:3). So we, too, must follow this example in order to live. That is why he said, “Repent all of you, for the kingdom is at hand”. We all need to repent from all our evil thinking. Look at John 5:24-32. We too must be bold, not bearing our own witness but that of Christ and the Father. “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:5). So we, too, in our Christian lives must be closer to Christ (Phil 2:1-9, 14-16). “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (v 5). Jesus is our example which we must follow by repentance, then God will make us perfect in him. “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16; Eph 5:1-8).

“Sometime we were in darkness and now we are the children of light through Jesus Christ. Let us walk as the children of light, seeking things from above not things here on earth” (Col 3:1-7, 9-17). This is how we must exhort one another in order to conquer sin which was placing us far from God, but thanks be to God for sending His one and only begotten Son to die for our sins bringing us closer to God. It is His grace which gives us this free gift, otherwise we would have to

perish in our sins. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us not forget to pray, do good, communicate with one another and work hard to earn a living to help those in need.

Bro Kum Donatus Cheghe (Wum, Cameroon)

Stand Up for the Truth

Paul urged the Philippians to be true citizens of the Kingdom of God. Whatever the cost to them in persecution from the enemies of the gospel, they must stand together for the truth. The Greek word Paul uses which is translated as 'conversation' literally means 'citizenship'. Remember that Philippi was a Roman colony and very proud of its civic arrangements (Acts 16:12,21). Paul's choice of words reminds the brethren and sisters that they are not concerned with the politics of the earth but with the citizenship of heaven (Acts 3:20). God's servants are strangers and pilgrims for the time being, looking forwards to "a city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God" (Heb 11:10,13-16).

Christadelphians, because they do not vote for any political party or fight for any regime anywhere, are a truly international community. There is no risk of one brother fighting against another brother on opposite sides of a political divide and brothers and sisters cannot be refused entry to a country on political grounds. This does not mean that in all other respects they ignore the laws of each country. Rather they are at pains to be subject to authorities and obey their laws, so long as these are not in conflict with higher laws of God (Rom 13:1-7; John 18:36; Acts 5:29). Here Paul is emphasizing that as citizens of God's Kingdom, the way we live must be a true reflection of the teaching of the one whom God has anointed as its King.

How vividly the Philippians would have remembered the beating in their city and the way they were flung into the prison and fastened in stocks. The jailor later washed their wounds immediately before he washed away his own sins in baptism (Acts 16:22,23).

Today it is not easy in some countries to stand for the truth. Many brethren and sisters have to live out their belief in the face of considerable pressures of one kind or another. Even in those countries where there has been a strong Christian tradition, what is taught as traditional Christianity bears little relationship to the Bible as often it is more concerned with social aims. In schools a multi-cultural approach has resulted in Christian facts being looked upon as an interesting option amongst a whole range of world religions and lifestyles. The Christian view of family life is no longer the norm. For most people economic and material prosperity now are far more important than citizenship of the Kingdom of God. In seeking to understand the true nature of the gospel taught by Christ and the apostles, we shall have to live with scorn and derision, for we are very unfashionable – for we are considered narrow-minded for not going along with the majority. Persecution could be around the corner.

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