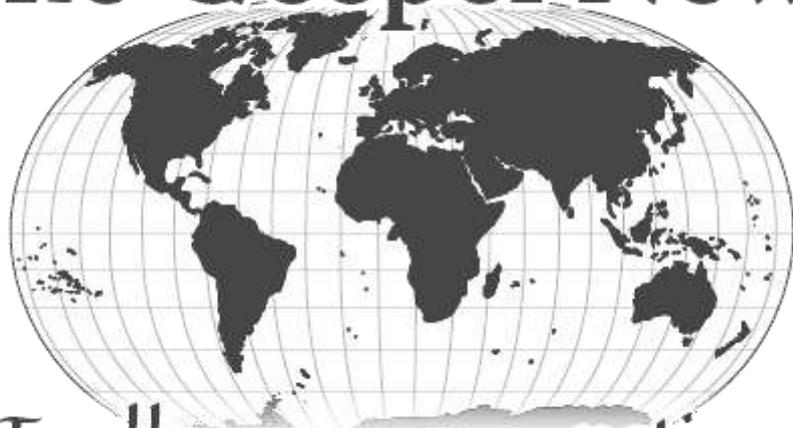


# The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



## **EDITORIAL: "...as thyself"**

To love our neighbour 'as ourselves' is a frequently repeated commandment throughout the Bible (Lev. 19:18; Mt. 19:19; 22:39; Mk. 12:31; Lk. 10:27; Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:14). James 2:8 even calls this "the law of the Kingdom" (GNB). This is the very principle by which we will eternally exist. It's been pointed out often enough that to love others, we must in some sense love ourselves. And perhaps this is why there's so little real love achieved and made in this world; because people have such a low view of themselves. Of course I am not talking about egoism or narcissism.

But as we start to think this matter through, we become aware of two groups of Scriptures. On the one hand, we are to not seek our own, but our neighbour's good (1 Cor. 10:24); for love isn't self-seeking (1 Cor. 13:4). And often enough, the Lord teaches us that self is to be crucified, indeed the whole call of the cross is a call to radical self-denial. Lk. 14:26 contains the ultimate challenge in this area- that if we don't hate our own life, we cannot be His disciple. On the other hand, we are urged to love ourselves- "He who gets wisdom loves his own soul... He who is a partner with a thief hates his own life" (Prov. 19:8; 29:24). Husbands are to love their wives because "he that loves his own wife loves himself" and for Paul it was apparently inconceivable that anyone should hate themselves (Eph. 5:28)- even though he surely knew the phenomena of suicide and self mutilation.

So we are to deny self, to put self to death on the cross of Christ. And yet we are to love our own soul, love our neighbours as we love ourselves. I suggest the reconciliation of this paradox is to understand that (as Paul explains in Rom. 7:15-25) we are effectively two people; the natural person and the spiritual person. We are to deny the natural self; but to love the spiritual self.

### **God's Positive View**

The new person that was born in us at baptism is "Christ", in that this new person whom God now looks at is covered with Christ, is "in Christ", is counted by God as if they are Christ, with His righteousness counted to us. We were baptized into the Name- and the Name of God is essentially His characteristics, His personality, of grace, justice, kindness, judgment, saving love etc. (Ex. 34:5-7). That Name is called upon us and we call it upon ourselves at baptism, and throughout a life lived in Christ (James 2:7; Acts 22:16). God looks upon us as if we are as perfect as His spotless Son. This is one of the simplest and yet most difficult to believe of all spiritual realities. That as you sit and read these words, you are enthused over by God Almighty, as if you are Jesus. For this is really what love is about - looking at someone as if they are perfect, or at least, far better than they actually are. It's not that the woman who plans to marry an alcoholic doesn't know that he's alcoholic. She simply perceives it differently - at that time. She sees him in another light, with the love that not only hopes, but sees present failure within the context of love for the essential person beneath it all. These are the things that love is partly about; and the love of God for us is no different.

Because we are clothed with Christ, we are seen by God as Him. Because He lives, we shall live also. Just as surely as we rose with Christ in baptism, so we shall in the last day. It's almost too good news to believe. But what about... her sin, my failure, our weakness? Through the blood of Christ not even my sins can be a barrier to His plan of salvation, because, quite simply, He loves me, far more than I shall ever love Him, far deeper than I shall ever understand. But the reality is as is, and we therein should rejoice. We are covered in Christ, and this fact, so hard to believe, elicits some of the most breathtaking statements of all time:

*“To present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24)*

*“We should be holy and without blame before him in love... That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing (Eph. 1:4; 5:27)*

*“In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight” (Col. 1:22)*

*“In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Rev. 14:5).*

Notice the words in italics. Our perfection is “in His sight”; in His presence, before His face, in His opinion, He finds no guile in us who have spoken guile; He presents us to Himself as spotless, just as a husband who is truly in love with his wife sees her, presents her to himself, in the same way. It just so happens that the opinion, the view, of God and His Son is the only opinion that ultimately matters. The most crucial question of our whole existence is, “Will I be in God’s Kingdom?” The simple answer is: Yes, if you are in Christ, you will be.

### **Self-perception**

Insofar as we identify ourselves with that spiritual man created in us, the one whom God so loves, we will be able to ‘love ourselves’; and on this basis find strength to love our neighbour as we thus love ourselves. We will reckon our old self to be dead: “For you died, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). We can only think positively of ourselves if someone else, something outside of us, provides us with validation and reason to be positive about ourselves. For otherwise, we would simply be proud and conceited. That ‘other’, that source of external love, acceptance and validation, is none other than the Father and His Son. But we still sin. The old self isn’t totally dead. As we know. Paul therefore teaches that we should “reckon ourselves” to be dead to sin (Rom. 6:11). The Greek word for “reckon” is that normally translated “impute”, in the context of imputing righteousness (Rom. 4:3,4,5,6,8,9). Strictly the Greek word means “to take an inventory” (Strong). We are to search through our lives and perceive ourselves as in Christ, as men and women who don’t sin because we are in Christ. We are to impute [AV “conclude”] that we are justified by faith (Rom. 3:28).

Having said this, Paul goes on in Romans 7 to lament that when all is said and done, he still sins. Yet he says that “with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin” (Rom. 7:25). He identifies himself with his spiritual man. This was the person he really felt to be “him”; he disowned his failures, whilst admitting them and feeling awful about them. And he goes on in Romans 8 to exalt that salvation is so very, very certain for him. This raises the question: “Who am I?” I submit that this question is about as crucial as “Will I be in the Kingdom?” Am I a guy with glasses born in a London hospital, living in a flat off Dzierciema Prospekt in Riga, Latvia which you can see on Google earth has a red roof, a husband, father, a religious guy who sins and fails... or do I rather perceive myself as the beloved of God, rejoiced over by a Father who can’t wait to immortalize me and a Lord and Master who can’t wait to claim me as His very own?

### **Attitude to others**

Our negative attitude to ourselves leads to a cynical attitude towards our brethren; for we can perceive them, too, after the flesh, noticing all their failures. And yet both the Lord Jesus Himself and also Paul, spiritually mature as they were, could speak in such positive terms about their far weaker brethren. Paul often speaks of how we can “boast” in a good sense - he boasted of the

promised generosity of the Corinthians, and also boasted about the Thessalonians: “We ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure” (2 Thess. 1:4). He even says that others can boast about him - he the “wretched man” who couldn’t quit sin- e.g. “your boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me” (Phil. 1:26). Thus being positive about ourselves leads to our being positive about others - just as we shall love others as we love ourselves.

### **False Guilt**

What stops all this for so many is false guilt. It seems that we often feel we’ve sinned when we haven’t; and think we’ve not sinned when actually we have. Following are some of the reasons why believers fail to be able to accept the positive message that God loves those who are in Christ as much as He loves His own begotten Son:

There is a sense that it’s somehow a sin to be alive because human nature is sinful. Yet all that we say about human nature we say about the Lord Jesus; for He fully shared our nature. It’s no sin to be human; God isn’t angry with us just because we’re human.

We take false guilt from treating unwisdoms as sins. Naivety, inexperience, immaturity, genuine misreading of life and situations and people... all lead to poor decision making, but this isn’t sin of itself. Just as it’s no sin for a child to get a maths puzzle ‘wrong’ through taking wrong turnings in the process of solving it. As a manual worker, possibly a carpenter, the Lord Jesus surely would have made mistakes; forgotten or overlooked something, had to do a job again, misjudged a length. Anyone who’s done DIY work knows that this is inevitable. But it was no sin for Jesus, and such things are likewise no sin for us.

False guilt is played upon by the ever greater fear of the spirit of judgment which progressively fills our world. In one form or another, earth’s population is living in fear of judgment. In the end, it leads to an empty conformism to what is perceived to be the ‘safe’ position. But there truly is only one Judge, hence Paul could say to his critics within the brotherhood that it mattered so little to him how he was judged by them, for he had only One who would judge him (1 Cor. 4:3), and the spiritual man “himself is judged of no man”.

We are often plagued by a desire to separate out the things for which we are justly suffering, and things in which we are innocent victims. This struggle to understand the balance between personal guilt and being a victim of circumstance or other people makes it hard for some people to free themselves from guilt. My determined conclusion is that it is impossible, at least by any intellectual process, to separate out that suffering for which we are personally guilty, and that suffering of which we are merely victims. The cross of Jesus was not only to remove personal guilt through forgiveness; all our human sufferings and sicknesses were laid upon Him there. He was our guilt offering, upon whom we have laid our hands in identification. Our burdens, both of our own guilt and those which are laid upon us by life or other people, are and were carried away by Him who is our total Saviour.

*Duncan Heaster*

## News from Africa

### news from botswana

On March 27th in Gaborone, the baptisms took place of Madii Ntshingana and Labane Lekgoba. The last baptism - of Sis. Everjoy Rudvidzo - was two years ago. With Bro. Everisto Rudvidzo, there are now four Christadelphians in Gaborone. We pray that this may be a turning point as several students are showing serious interest. Bro. Obed gave a very good talk afterwards on "Walking in the Light and Overcoming the Darkness". Bro. Paul presented our new Brother and Sister with their baptismal certificates at the seminar. Bro. Everisto and Sis. Everjoy have the exciting challenge of nurturing these babes in Christ.



*Botswana – post-baptism group*



*Our new Bro. Laban Lekgoba*



*Bro. Obed baptizes Sis Madii Ntshingane*

### news from cameroon

#### **BUEA**

Loving greetings in the one hope of incorruptibility. This is what binds us as one family, until Jesus' return when we will be as he is. Then we shall see him, as about 500 people were privileged to see Jesus, after God raised him from the dead.

Our postal system here is very complicated: some postmasters here will not forward mail that does not have stamps bought locally, raising their sales. So they insist that we should buy half the required amount.

The Buea-Tole Ecclesia has 35 members and needs the Gospel News. We will also be active in exhorting and giving spiritual information. We have had a slow-down in participating as we received two copies of each issue of Gospel News in past years.

Some zealous brethren will need some Bibles, especially the Christadelphian Advancement Trust type: for of the Bibles could help, including eight Bible Basics and two French Bible Basics, if possible – this will help the Ecclesia.

*Bro. Moses Nchia*

My general persecution is coming from my family. I'm rejected, persecuted because I became Christian and as such I refused to be the successor of my father to worship the idol in our traditional custom. I refused to do that and now they are trying so against me. God is good because He help me to escape all my family's plans. I wish to put you in connection with a man Jean-Francois, I gave him your book Bible Basics and he is so interested by it, and God is using it to set people free from the false beliefs about Satan and witchcraft. Anyway brothers let us remain spiritually connected in Christ.

*Bro. Walter*



*Bro. Walter with his well marked Bible.*

## **KOMPINA**

The Kompina Ecclesia were so happy to hear about Duncan's preaching work in Latvia, and how God used the newly baptized sister to release Bro. Robert from the asylum camp there.

In December Bro. Ian Fifield and Sis. Sue from the Ludlow Ecclesia in the UK visited the Kompina Ecclesia, and we enjoyed fellowship together; we had a talk on the topic, 'Discipline of Discipleship' by Bro. Ian, taken from Luke 9:34-36. We were urged to carry our cross and follow Jesus, that we should be living disciples, i.e. living the life of Christ, and look forward to the Promised Land.

Kompina is very far from where there is an internet service, so I can only send you letters through the postal service. We pray that the Lord will help us to grow in number as disciples for his kingdom, and to preach his words to the ends of the earth. May the good God continue to bless us in all things we do in His Name.

*Sis. Patrisia Elumba*

## **news from congo**

### **BUKAVU**

We are all OK here but would so welcome some visitors. We are feeling our isolation. Situation here continues unstable but we are safe.

*Bro. Theophile*



*Bro. Theophile & Bukavu ecclesia outside their meeting place, with Cindy*

## news from ghana

It is really a long time since I sent you mail. I do hear from you always in the Gospel News which I receive regularly.

Am writing you now through my mobile network! It s just amazing what the world is growing into, in terms of information and technology. I was having a discussion on present day events! with a colleague who teaches ICT at a Junior School not far from mine. I introduced her to the Christadelphian website on the mobile phone and you can imagine what might have happened! The internet, they say, is not good. That idea should be viewed single-mindedly because everything has both a good and a bad element in any angle that the consumer will take it.

Life and living is okay for me here. Brother Paul taught us to be content in all things and for His Grace bestowed on us, we can boldly say and proclaim His Name, at least among our colleagues. The years fly fast and all things being equal, it will definitely not be long before our Messiah comes. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

*Bro Wonder Wornyo*

### **SUBRI**

Owing to the use of ICT and mobile phones, most of the post offices in rural areas have folded up, due to lack of patronage. Twifo Praso Post Office is one of the victims. I discussed my predicament with the Accra Ecclesia and they agreed for me to use the following address. I hope you will take note of the new address and let brothers and sisters know – “Subri Ecclesia, c/o C.B.M., P.O. Box MB 301, Accra, Ghana”.

### **PREACHING IN GHANA—FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Since my baptism in 1973, I have been involved in preaching the Truth at all levels in Ghana. Of late, Christendom in Ghana has increased, while Christadelphians, who have the Truth, have been decreasing. This unfortunate situation prompted me to conduct this research.

Christadelphians appear to be content with themselves that they know the Truth and that is all, but we forget that the Apostles in the first century preached to increase their numbers. Most of the brethren nowadays came to the Truth through correspondence courses and so tend to lack the ability to talk to their neighbours about the Truth. For some time now, correspondence has not produced a fruitful result. Check and you will agree with this. I conducted a search into the activities of the orthodox and their method of preaching (though not the entire Truth), but they have been gaining members. I have come out with these recommendations.

*NOTE: Bro. Francis in his report outlines some suggestions, a few are as follows—we welcome our readers to also suggest possible solutions.*

During Easter Bible Schools, much attention and resources are spent on dormant brethren and sisters. Cross-check the members of ecclesias that attended the Bible School with the attendance books of the ecclesias. It will come to light that only a quarter or even less of that number, are active in the ecclesia.

There are many 'floating' Christians, who think there are more questions than answers in the doctrines being preached to them in their churches. The financial burden laid on them has worsened their situation and they are always looking for a way of escape. "Look before you leap", goes the proverb. Though not satisfied with their situation, they would not like to join a dormant church, which boasts only of sound doctrine but in reality are dead in Spirit. Preaching in Ghana is different from that of the European countries, so we have to face the reality and come to terms with the Ghanaian way of preaching if we want our fellowship to thrive.

For instance, at our last Bible School, selection of towns for public preaching was probably wrong. How can we preach in towns more than 30 kms away from the ecclesia and assume that interested friends would automatically travel that far to enquire about the ecclesia? We should have preached at the ecclesial town, to create awareness. How can we preach once a year at a town and expect good response? It will generally always be a waste of effort and resources.

Africans regard brethren from Europe as kind of Father Christmas and always expect gifts from them, but there are African-based churches that continue to expand because Africans understand Africans better and can explain African beliefs better with the Holy Writ. Part of funds used on fraternals and Bible Schools could be used to finance Ghanaians to preach, so that brethren from Europe can come to evaluate their project.

*Bro. Francis Odiko*

## news from kenya

### **BUNGOMA**

It is my privilege to let you know that all you have been sending to me has been received. I am also thankful to you for forwarding my request for a copy of "Eureka" to Bro. Malcolm Cross. This has shown me that you are very mindful of my affairs and the book will be helpful not only to me but also to my colleagues.

The books you have sent me have helped my endeavours to bring people to the truth of the gospel and we are right now a group of believers serving the Lord tirelessly. I humbly request that you send us more copies and also the book on Revelation if it is available in your library and please uphold us so that we may also be strong in the Lord.

Finally brother, read 2 Thess.2:1-2 as words of encouragement; that for us to emerge victorious in the day of judgement it is paramount that we perform His will. The Word encourages us and tells us that we shall be made God's kings and priests in His Kingdom, (Rev.5:10).

*Bro. Maina George Wabwile*



*Bre. Maina Wabwile, Aggrey Kasili Wanyama, Ferdinand Wanjala and some of the Sunday School children.*

I appreciate the assistance you have given me. It is quite rare to find somebody who can sacrifice to help others the way CAT are doing; may the Lord bless their hands. Here in Kenya we have the potential to produce anything you want but some factors have hindered most of us to make any progress; the key factors are climate change, political instability and capital. The literature and books you have been sending me have greatly helped me spiritually and also those who are within my reach. It is a wonderful work that deserves recognition at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

*Bro. Eric Wamalwa*

My dear brother, currently I have been using the secondary school's address but you may now use P.O. Box 974, Bungoma to send books to me; they are good books and have built me up in my faith and I promise that I will never leave my God.

*Bro. Gabriel Wamalwa Werunga*

I wholeheartedly appreciated the book "The Death of the Cross" and "Present Day Events". As far as my fellowship is concerned may I take this privilege to tell you that I am a Christadelphian. As highlighted in my previous letter about the aftermath of the post-election, life conditions have just remained like that. The government has just assisted in settling a few displaced persons but the majority have been looked down upon, myself included. The testimony is that God has remained on my side; I am still strong in the Lord despite the severe challenges I have undergone. Hebrews 12:6-8 gives an encouragement that "...whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Thus we should be ready at any time to accept the Lord's chastisement. "What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" Job 2:10.

*Bro. Wycliffe Wasike*

We are very pleased with your sincere concern in provision of spiritual aid for weak brothers and sisters, because in doing this we are really strengthened, as we read in Psalm 37:26, "At all times they give freely and lend to others and their children are blessings." We pray that God will richly bless you in abundance as you do His work.

*Bro. Jacob and Sis Valentine Waliaula*

From the base of my heart I am delighted every time I receive Gospel News, meaning that you are really concerned for us, which is very wonderful.

Elijah visited a widow known at Zarephath during the hostile famine that had broken in the land. The only meal that remained for her and her son to eat and then die was given to Elijah. After Elijah had eaten the meal God performed His miracle by supplying a lot of food in the widow's house, see 1 Kings 17:7-16. The widow had done something good for Elijah by being generous.

Let us consider the woman who broke the bottle of very expensive oil and poured it on the head of our Lord Jesus Christ. We read that some objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor"; but Jesus replied that she had done something good for him, Mark 14:6.

Abel offered the best of his flock, Gen.4:3-4, but Cain was very rude and offered an unacceptable sacrifice which God refused.

Hannah gave Samuel to the Lord. After being barren for so long she prayed to God and promised the son to him. She fulfilled the promise after Samuel was born by taking the boy to Eli to serve the Lord as we read in 1 Sam. ch.1.

There are so many examples we can learn from, but let us also give good examples to others because by doing so we shall be offering ourselves to God in an acceptable manner.

*Bro. Geoffrey Wanyoni*

You have made my team appreciate what you gave me on behalf of the others in the church and we thank you for your support to enable us to carry on in the many circumstances that we have. We are struggling to mould the youths to produce fruit for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. What you have given us has enabled many brothers and sisters to know more about the Word of God and for that I think they will continue with that spirit to spread the Word of God among others. My team is constant with the Word of God and have appreciated what you have said to them.

*Bro. Chrisantus Wanjala*

I am really glad and grateful for the help you give us as we wait for the coming of the Messiah, King or Kings, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with sorrow we report the death of my father, Bro. Dominic Mayende as the result of a fatal road accident. We know he is safely asleep in Jesus and we look forward to the resurrection and judgement and trust that in His mercy we will be granted a place in the Kingdom together.

*Bro. Francis and Sis. Jentrix Mayende*

I know that the way continues to be very hard for us but so it was for the Apostle Paul and his example is one that we can follow, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14). Brother, I received the Gospel News and letters, which have made us feel very happy, as a woman who has just given birth to her first born baby. Unlike many other religions, there are not many Christadelphians in Bungoma and we lack support. I believe that you and the entire CAT staff will help us to stand strong while waiting for the Master to return so that we will assist him to rule in the Kingdom in the millennium.

*Bro. and Sis. Annasetus K. Khaemba*

## **BULIMBO**

Thank you for helping us to have much more insight of the meanings of the words satan, devil and evil. The economic situation has caused a lot of pain to common people in Kenya. We have more than fifty Christian believers, including those who have not been baptised, who believe that soon we shall be one body of Christ. We worship God near the mango trees due to shortage of material to build a church structure. We bought two plots of land next to the market centre but the farmer refuses to release the Title Deed because of an outstanding balance of money.

The youth have played a very big role towards developing the church numbers and activities and have formed groups for translating Gospel News and Bible Basics into our ethnical language/mother tongue so that more can understand the Bible message. This is a challenge and shows that the church in general is growing both in a spiritual and physical way.

*Bro. Emmanuel Joumer*

## **ISHIARA**

Much greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am okay, together with the rest of the family and we are all hoping and waiting for our Lord who is coming for his saints. We all know that when the Son of Man comes every trouble shall be wiped away. We must keep looking forward and marching ahead to meet our Master.

I would like to give a word to my fellow brethren about The Judgement seat of Christ.

They who are truly “watching and keeping their garments” are blessed in that they see “the sign of the Son of Man in the heaven,” and are warned to trim their lamps with “the knowledge of the God’s will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,” that, when his arrival is announced, they may go forth to meet him with all confidence and joy. They are “blessed” in being able to stand before the judgement seat of Christ in the wilderness of Teman; but more blessed still will they be when the account they are able truthfully to render of themselves is accepted and approved and they are pronounced by the Judge to be the blessed of his Father (Matt.25:34); and are exalted to be sharers with him in his joy – Matt.25:21.

By this exaltation they will have attained to that perfect blessedness to which they were called in the gospel of invitation to “the marriage supper of the Lamb.” They are “blessed and holy”, not blessed only, but holy likewise, ‘be ye holy in all manner of conduct: because it is written, “be ye holy for I am holy”. This was their character in the days of their flesh. As such, they are the Great City, the holy Jerusalem, into which they have entered, and whose name is written upon each, Rev.3:12.

The door is yet open to all who aspire to so great and exalted a destiny: as it is written in Rev.22:14, “Blessed are they who do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of Life and may enter in through the gates into the City.” May Our Lord bless you all.

*Sis. Caroline Aphaxard*



*Sis. Caroline Aphaxard*

## **KILGORIS**

I am trying to establish an ecclesia here at Kilgoris . I am requesting Bible Basics in Swahili and in English and any material of use in preaching.

Bro. James Nyangute, PO Box 24 Kilgoris Kenya

We have sent our brother some English literature

## **KATITO**

My view on Middle East Peace is that many times both the Israelis and Palestinians have traded blames for the stalled peace process. U.S. President Barack Hussein Obama also has called for both sides to resume negotiations but no step has moved forward. The settlement issue is what is seen by both nations and the Americans as the biggest impediment to a two-state solution resulting in a serious rift between the Israelis and the U.S., and this will be the time...”where I looked around and no one helped me”.

*Bro. Lawrence K'owiti*

### **KITALE**

My wife Margaret has been seriously sick with malaria and typhoid and through your prayers and help she has now recovered. In our ecclesia we have an old brother aged 88 years who also appreciates your help. I appreciate very much the merciful heart you have for remembering brethren in Christ in need. Thank you for the sterling work you are doing in the vineyard of the Lord. The Gospel News is uplifting us very much. May God give you strength and power from above to continue to do what you are doing.

*Bro. Martin Barasa*

Our Lord is at hand according to the signs. Our brethren and sisters very much welcome your work. Please help us with the book "Wrested Scriptures" and also continue to send us the Gospel News. The ecclesia will appreciate these books to help them in their Bible Class studies.

*Bro. Martin Chemiati*

### **KOBUJOI**

The weather is now very good. It is turning wet, following a dry spell, which is very welcome for the maize and bean seeds, which are being sown. We look forward to a good harvest, God willing. An exhortation of consolation to our brothers and sisters in difficult times, when their faith faces hard moments is found in Philipians 2:1-5.

*Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir*

### **LOITOKTOK**

It is my prayer and hope that you are fine and still waiting for the return of our Master, Jesus Christ, to restore the long awaited Kingdom of God here on this earth. I am pleased to inform you that I have been receiving Gospel News, as this is my only contact with the rest of Christadelphians worldwide. I received the detailed addresses of the Christadelphian Bible Mission in Tanzania from you and have actually written to one member, Thiery Kalonde, and spoken to him once on the telephone. God willing I am planning to visit Arusha ecclesia. Please send the enclosed letter to the editor of 'Glad Tidings'. The last copy of the magazine that I received was a year ago and I still miss it.

*Bro. Peter Thuo Kariuki*

### **LUUYA**

Who will have the Vineyard? Jesus had come to offer himself to Israel as their King, but he taught that, because of Israel's coldness towards him, their special blessing would be given to other people. A lesson we can learn is that if we don't accept God's love, then He will bless other people who will appreciate Him and His Son.

*Bro. Aggrey Muyila*

### **MACHAKOS**

My people have a proverb that, "The mouth that eats is always grateful to the hand that provides. May the Almighty add you more." Personally I have had the feeling that I would like to assist and contribute towards the spread of the gospel, but because I am not in the position to, I

have never done so. I do pray that the God of Israel will open doors for us so that we can also make a contribution that may change the lives of people.

I usually count the drought that struck our country to be the wrath of God. A lot of injustice has been done in our country, which has made God angry. The post-election violence left more than 2,000 people dead and more than 150,000 displaced. They now stay in refugee camps in their own country – imagine! I think you have a rough picture of the current situation, but as Christadelphians we do not lose hope. Psalm 73:1-10 consoles us very well. Let us look how they will end and we shall see who will have the final laugh; it is simply a continuation of Nebuchadnezzar's image, which is nearly over.

Enclosed is a photograph I took with some deaf students when taking part in a sign language choir. I have taken a keen interest in sign language due to my interaction with the deaf and I have been able to learn much sign language. My prayer is that in August when I finish my P1 course, I should go further and specialise in education with reference to the deaf. I hope that God will help me to get the funds to proceed.

*Bro. Laban Kisaka*



*Bro. Laban Kisaka singing with the deaf and dumb sign language choir.*

## **MAKHONGE**

The signs of the times clearly reveal that God's prophecy is being fulfilled. Everything seems to be in a mess – hunger, sickness, wars, corruption and many other things worldwide, so this year may realise the coming of Jesus Christ. The articles in Gospel News are really encouraging.

My wife had a severe chest problem and was admitted to hospital for four days last week. It was diagnosed as asthma and the nurse says that she should go for some X-rays to detect any further complications but, alas, this needs a lot of money so she is just at home nursing her pains. These health problems could have emanated from poor cooking methods and heavy tasks like carrying water on the head from a distant well and heavy digging on the farm. Kindly pray for my family. Her sickness weighs me down with a lot of responsibility at home – the need to nurse her, cooking for the children every morning before they go to school, digging the farm for planting and ,alas, going out to look for a job to get some income.

*Bro. Manasseh Wamamili*

## **MALONDO**

Loving greetings from my family to all awaiting brothers and sisters of the precious faith. We began this year with joy by receiving encouraging letters of sympathy to all brothers and sisters. Thank you for remembering us Kenyans. My family needs this year's Bible Calendar for Bible readings so we would be grateful for 10 calendars for ourselves and our friends.

*Bro. Gilbert Walela and family*



*Bro. Gilbert Walela's family*

## **MBITA**

I would like to inform you that Bro. Joanes Ouko has fallen asleep in Christ. He was baptised 28/6/07 and we look forward to meeting him again when our Lord and Brother comes back to establish the Kingdom and we shall then ever be with the Lord.

*Bro. Daniel Ogembo*

Thank you very much for the work you are doing in the Master's service. I have received the Gospel News magazine and appreciate it and find it helpful. If possible please send me literature dealing with the topic of women priests. Since I joined the Christadelphian faith I have learnt a lot of things that I did not know when I was ordained as a priest at the New Apostolic Church in 1998. When I heard the gospel about the Kingdom of God that will be established on the earth, I believed and was baptised into the name of Jesus Christ on 30th June 2007 and I am fighting and praying for the Kingdom to come.

*Bro. Ezekiel Ouko*

## **MOMBASA**

There is an assumption that Adam's liberty to eat of "every tree of the garden" of Eden, extended to the tree of life, which was in the midst of the garden. "And the Lord God made all kinds of tree grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (Gen.2:9). These two kinds of trees were situated with two kinds of references to each other; one was death and the other was life. (Gen.2:17 and Gen.3:22). After the partaking of the forbidden fruit Precautionc were needed not to make mankind immortal sinners and so to "keep the way of the tree of life", the placing of a flaming sword that turned every way, was to protect a man in his fallen state to not eat of it or to touch the tree of life and live for ever.

*Bro. Walter Wanyama Wasike*



*Bro. Lazarus Sikolia with Kikonemi at Mwandeo Youth Camp in Mombasa.*

## **NAKURU**

I would just request you to send us some Bible Basics in Kiswahili for some Bible students in our ecclesia – three books would be really helpful.

*Bro. Joseph Odhiambo*

## **NANGO**

I am glad to write to you and to inform you that I have received the Bible Basics books and the Bible which you sent me and would like to thank you very much for your concern towards me in preparing me to obtain life everlasting which we are promised. My father-in-law is very concerned and helpful with my Bible studies and has given me a lot of impetus towards this goal.

*Bro Erick Nango Odhiambo*

### **NDALU**

I thank you for your endless prayers for me and my ecclesia. You are the first brother from the U.K. to give us literature books concerning doctrine. The love you have shown is the love you have been given by God, the way you use to distribute it is wisdom from God. May God in heaven add to you more blessings to your treasure in heaven, Amen. Give my thanks to all brothers and sisters who actually brought their contributions to CAT and may God bless them.

*Bro. Johnstone Kaliwanga*

### **NDHIWA**

When I pray to God I am glad that He knows me, even by my name. As His children He hears us, provides and puts us in a condition that is ever good for Him, not as we intend it (Luke 11:11-13). He does this because He loves us as His sons and daughters (John 3:16).

Yes! Jesus came for all and maybe that is why he still stays away, but it should be clear to us that when Jesus comes the second time he will then come to those who will have done the will of God, (Matt.25:14-30).

No doubt that hearing and doing the Word will make us real sons and daughters of God, who will rise to inherit eternal life in God's Kingdom, that will be established by the Lord Jesus and it will last for ever and ever. How wonderful.

*Bro. Allan Ketoyo*



*Bro. Allan Ketoyo*

### **NKURU**

The Holy Spirit is God's invisible power; the miracles that Jesus and his disciples did were as a result of this gift from the Almighty God ( Matt.ch.8). Although up to date some preachers claim to possess these powers, none is said to have them. Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, was born through the power of the Holy Spirit because he had a human mother but he had no human father Matt.1:18-24; Luke 1:35).

Many present denominations are famous for having large numbers of followers because some believe they can cure diseases, make people rich, acquire jobs; the list is endless, but it is only prayers and faith that can bring solutions to our problems. We all know that the true riches is eternal life, John 3:16. Jesus Christ is our mediator and he speaks to God on our behalf. He died so that we might have everlasting life if we love, obey and believe him.

Luke ch.4 tells us how Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit. When he was tempted by the devil (the promptings of the flesh), God's Word helped him to resist the temptation. The Scripture further tells us not to put our God to the test. The Holy Spirit was really amazing because Jesus could even use it to cast out evil spirits (the diseases of those days) from people, Mark 1:21-28. He fed the multitude of 5,000 people, turned water into wine, raised back to life dead people, etc.

So brethren and sisters let us not be misled by people who claim to possess these wonderful powers from God, but let us worship Him in spirit and in truth as we wait the return of Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Samuel Wanga*

### **RAPOGI**

First and foremost may I give thanks to the Almighty God who has granted me this chance to send words of appreciation for the spiritual help you have given me, including the magazines and books, which you sent. I had some problems which delayed me receiving your letters, as I was sick and could not manage to maintain my long serving post box. I requested the postmaster to assist me with the mails and am therefore praying the Lord will soon open up a way of paying the rent. I will still be temporarily using the address c/o P.O.Box 31, Rapogi. I would like to receive more books from you, including 'Bible Basics' for preaching.

*Bro. Mike G.O. Juma*

### **SINDO**

I want to talk about the greatest commandment, Matt.22:36-40, "Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law? – "You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Bible teaches us that we must show our love by recognising that God exists and that everything we do is as a result of his invisible energy, which provides us with all basic things to live. We must love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Love is the greatest. L stands for Listen, O stands for Observe, V stands for Verify and E for Evaluate. When we listen, observe, verify and evaluate we fulfil the purpose of the Creator by using our creator tools provided, doing His will and obeying His voice, which is all we are commissioned to do. We shall be rewarded with life eternal - immortality - and we shall be like our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion of the matter we must obey the first principle by loving our Creator with all our heart and mind. All we have belongs to the Creator and we have nothing to glorify in ourselves. Everything we have comes through His invisible energy, Psalm 37:5, "Commit your way to the Lord, trust him and he will act."

I also want to talk about the fear of the Lord. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, "Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

The Bible is God's book, written by people created by God, by the power of God called the Holy Spirit. The message of God, the Creator must be obeyed or we face the punishment of eternal death. How can we claim that we fear our Creator if we don't listen to Him, obey His message and act according to His will? Everything has a purpose. To fear God means doing His will and if we don't then we are disobedient, rebellious and condemned to die. God has power to create

and destroy. The Bible reveals that man has been very hostile to do His will and as a result God made a plan, through one man called Jesus, to set ,and be, an example of how His plan of salvation should be fulfilled.

The man, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, feared the God of the Bible, obeyed His commandments and did His will. When he died as we do, God raised him to life again. We have examples of men and women of faith who died in God's service, not having received what was promised to them, eternal life, but they shall be rewarded together when our Saviour, Jesus Christ, comes a second time to reign on earth.

Whether good or evil, we too will have to give account in the day of judgment. We are to reflect and show acts to glorify Him. If we disobey and act in our own ways then this ugly word "SIN" comes. Sin is disobedience, transgression, rebellion and the punishment is death. But if we fear God, hearken to His commandments and walk in His ways we shall be given immortality; we shall be immortal like His Son, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion of the matter we read John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Please read the following Scriptural references : Matt.7:21, Micah 6:8, Psalm 15:1-5, Prov.8:32-34. When you fear God our Creator you receive blessings and finally eternal life.

*Bro. John Owalo Onani*

### **SONGHOR**

We are doing very well under the umbrella of the Almighty God. As you can see I have changed my address. I am not staying in Songhor (P.O.Box 67, Songhor). That one does not mean that Muhoroni ecclesia is dead, no! Muhoroni ecclesia is still existing with several brethren and sisters, the Elder being our Chairman, Maurice Ochieng and the Secretary being Silvester Ariri. My email address is alexabuya@yahoo.com or gmail is as follows:- abuyaalex@gmail.com.

*Bro. Alex Abuya*

### **SUNA MIGORI**

God has mapped the destiny of His people, the Jews, as has been prophetically revealed. Because of their disobedience God punished them, so as to correct them and turn them again to Him.

They could not see suffering as an ingredient in the making of the man of God, which actually was the case. In 2 Cor.12:7-10, Paul gives us a spiritual view of suffering, which says, "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure concerning this thing. I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Viewed from that perspective we will say with Paul, that, "what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having my own righteousness,

which is from the law, but that which is from God by faith, that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11).

*Bro Joseph Odiambo Onyango*

## **TONGAREN**

I extend my sincere thanks to you for having open hands towards the needy. I write to request more Christian literature so that I can become a true Christian. Also, if you can help with a copy of the Holy Bible it will be of great help to me since the one I have is worn out as it passes many hands. I am pleased to have three converts in my family, two sons and a daughter, who have been baptised and I am looking forward to seeing the other two sons also being taught in readiness for baptism.

*Bro. Daniel Simiyu*



*Bro. Mark & Sis. Ruth (UK) when they visited Tongaren Ecclesia and met with Tongaren Tailoring School trainees. 2nd from left is Sis. Nancy Isaac and third from right is Bro. Ben Chelumuli. The photo was taken after the Bible School.*



*The baptism of Bro. Luke Sikolia of Tongaren Ecclesia.*

The Kenya we live in is becoming worse every day and it seems that this year hunger will increase due to the price of maize, which is rising every month. At this time of the year in the past we usually paid 30/= per 2 kg. tin but this year in the same month we are paying 65/= per 2 kg. tin of maize. This means that in the months of July and August we shall be buying a 2 kg. tin at 120/=. This proves to us that we are living in the last days. When we see the events in Haiti we realise that only Jesus can save us and bring an end to the world's troubles when he returns to this earth.



*Bro. Isaac Kapa, Sis. Nancy, his wife, and Sis. Getguin, the elder daughter, and Swin, their last-born. Bro. Isaac has a scar on his left leg which is said to be skin cancer, so he needs special treatment.*

May I thank the Almighty God for keeping me alive to this day. I am still alive in the Lord, our Saviour, and I will continue to do His work as long as I live. Three months ago I became infected with a disease in my left leg, which is said to be skin cancer, and has caused my leg to swell. For

three months I have been using modern medicines but with no change. I have been told to go for special treatment but due to lack of finances I have left all to God. I believe that the body, which God has given us, has great powers of self-healing, particularly when we live our life as intended by God. Because we lack some things that can make us live our life as intended, dying must come instead of life.

God is the only one who knows the starting life of a man and the ending of that life. As long as the end of my life is still future, I shall continue serving the Lord, who will one day come to judge the world.

*Bro. Isaac Kapa*

## news from malawi

### **BALAKA**

This is some of the Bible teaching concerning the basic principles of the one faith. Romans 14:11-13, "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another any more: but rather resolve not to put a stumblingblock or a cause to fall in our brother's way."

Such are promised places in the Kingdom:-

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth" Matt.5:5.

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to that which is good," from Rom.12v9.

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another" v10

"Not lacking in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" v.11.

"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfast in prayer" v.12.

"Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality" v.13.

"Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse" v.14.

*Bro. John Lyton*

### **DZALEKA**

Here we are OK. I write to inform you that on Sunday, 25th of April, I went to Dzaleka Refugee Camp to see Bro Bernard. Brethren Mark Sheppard and David Nightingale, who were here last May, asked me to visit this brother who was corresponding with another Brother in UK. I also learned from Bro Ron Hicks in USA who told me Bro Duncan was at the camp last December---. When I reached there, I was met by a group of eight members and I attended their meeting where there was an exhortation on FAITH and thereafter there was breaking of bread as usual. After the service, they invited me to their ecclesial committee meeting which they said they conduct every Sunday to discuss issues concerning their ecclesia. Previously, all were meeting in a brothers' hut (Brother John who transferred from Lowani Camp) but when they realized that the number of members has increased, they discussed looking for a larger place and leave Bro

John's house –Bro Duncan knows how small these huts are. The other members, numbering eight (five baptized by Bro Duncan), went to the Camp Administrator to ask him if he could provide them with a bigger room to be used for breaking of bread on Sundays. The Administrator kindly provided a bigger room for them where they are meeting free of charge. I will let you know the results of the next visit.

Your brother in the Hope of Israel,

*Bro. Thomas Muleso*

Thank you for your moral support and encouragement. Life in the camp is very hard. (We are expecting a visit from the CBM soon).

*Bro. Innocent*

Here in the camp we are in need of any Swahili hymn books or literature and copies of Bible Basics to help in our preaching.

*Bro. Bernard*

### **KARONGA**

The Official UNRC report on the series of 5.4 to 6 earthquakes that struck the area in December reports 4 killed and 300 wounded, a thousand homes totally destroyed and another 4,000 severely damaged. The Government declared it a national emergency and 53 large tents for Schools, Hospital, Maternity Unit etc provided together with 4,677 family tents.

### **KASUNGU**

I am very happy to write to you and inform you that God is still calling people for His Name in our district. Five of my students were baptised after being interviewed by Bro. Jick, our counsellor, Bro. Mleso and Bro. Letala from Lilongwe. The newly baptised Bre and Sis are: Bre. Richard Zimba, Thomson Banda, Isaiah Banda and Sis. Sellar Banda and Sis. Sarah Mbewe. Just a week later I welcomed four students who are willing to join our studies, so we have been blessed with five baptisms and also with four students.

Our meeting room is now very small but it is still my prayer that the Almighty God will add more to His house. Kasungu District has about 600,000 people but only very few are called Christadelphians, but still more we want quality not quantity, harmony not discord. One day we will sing Hosanna, Hosanna to the Son of David and the problems that afflict our bodies and brains will vanish away.

*Bro. Harmony Ntchalachala*



*Newly baptised (from left) Bre. Thomson Banda and Richard Zimba, Sis. Sellar Banda and Sis. Sarah Mbewe and Bro. Isaiah Banda.*

### **LILONGWE**

I have found Gospel News helpful on my way to the Kingdom. Please do not delete me from the mailing list. There are indeed some delays in the post and some postal staff do not allow the “no

stamp required” envelope which you send to us. Some of the post offices have been closed due to failure.

Bro. Peter Mulesa also wrote to me when I needed funds urgently to pay for my operation. He asked me to meet him in Lilongwe city but I could not as I had no money for transport and was also in great pain and could not risk making the journey. However, God was at my side. Our President visited Nkhoma Mission Hospital to cheer the sick and saw with his own eyes the plight of the patients and asked them what their problems were. Most of them complained about the high medical and admission fees which the Mission Hospital charges. The God fearing President donated money so that the hospital could subsidise the medical bills and so that children under five years suffering from malaria could be given free medicine but the subsidy is for one year only.

We have started the rainy season on a very bad note here in Malawi. The rains are erratic due to the El Nino wind, which is blowing through Malawi from the Indian Ocean, causing spells of drought and an earthquake measuring 6.5, caused havoc in Karonga district for three days. Houses were damaged and people lost their lives. The district has been declared a disaster area by the President.

*Bro. Clifford Mtisawu*

#### **MACHINGA**

I have received your letter and was so happy to hear from you. Would you please send me Gospel tracts and a Bible course. I also need a Bible in English, a dictionary and a Bible in Chichewa. Thank you.

*Bro John Muthumbwa*

#### **MANGOCHI**

You are sending me the Gospel News tirelessly and certainly helping me and others on our way to the Kingdom. Also I thank you for the copy of Bible Basics in Chichewa, my mother tongue, which is helping us to overcome the false teachings, which are widespread.

*Bro. Morris Charles Assani*

#### **MWAMBO**

I do appreciate the articles as well as the news updates that you send and I enjoy reading about such issues. We are now getting ready for the maize harvest but low yields are expected due to shortage of rainfall in January and February. Some parts will get enough harvest, apart from our villages, especially in Zomba East and even on the shore areas of Lake Chirwa. All these difficulties are due to climate change. These things all point forward to the second coming of our Messiah, Jesus. Watch out! The Lord is near to set up his Kingdom here on earth.

*Bro. Kenneth Maganger*

#### **MZUZU**

I have been down with malaria but am now feeling better. Many thanks for the parcel of Bible Basics and I am sure they will be of great help in our preaching endeavours.

*Bro. Sylvester Tembo*

## **NKANDA**

Please send us the *Gospel News* magazine so that we can read the articles and get to know about our brothers and sisters in Christ. I have a little baby who was born on 15th November last and her name is Magreti. When you come here you will see that we are many brothers and sisters praying in our country and the chairman in our Ecclesia is Bro. Lyton John.

*Sis. Aida Kalungama*



*Sis. Aida Kalungama, Nkanda Ecclesia.*



*Sis Stella Chimalira, Nkanda Ecclesia.*



*Sis. Benideta, Nkanda Ecclesia.*

Thank you for sending us a Bible in English and the book "*The Death of the Cross*". I am happy that I must learn the lesson of the cross of Jesus Christ. We are praying for the coming of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. Please try and send us the book "*Where There Is No Doctor*" and another Bible in English. I have opened three other Christadelphian Ecclesial churches in this area, they are Ntelera Ecclesia, Mwenye Musa Ecclesia and Chowe Ecclesia and we would like the Christadelphian Advancement Trust to send them all literature.

*Bro. Lyton John*



*Bro. Lyton John, Nkanda Ecclesia*

## **ULONGWE**

Let me say something about the literature you send to me. Without beating about the bush, the literature is 100% the Word of God fully revealed, the pure doctrine extracted from the Bible. I salute you in the Name of our loving Saviour, the Son of God, whose precious blood was shed at Calvary for our redemption, so that he may crown us in his everlasting Kingdom.

*Bro. Edson Makwecha*



*Edson & Rose outside the mini shop.*

## news from mozambique

### CHITAMBO

I appreciate the good work you are doing in the distribution of gospel magazines throughout the whole world, which is a big task. Thank you all for your total encouragement. Here, the work of bringing people to the Truth is still promising. I am holding the position of Council Elder and am looking after twenty ecclesias in my area, Chitambo. The magazine you send me helps me to interpret the Bible spiritually.

In Matt.24:14 we read, "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come. We brethren and sisters in Mozambique did not expect to have this Christadelphian preaching reach us here, but through God's mercy it has happened. A number of people are still joining us because of our preaching and as a result, our membership is increasing rapidly. God bless you.

*Bro. Medson Chaleva Katopela*



*Bro. Medson Katopela*

### TETE

I greet you, my dear brethren, in the precious name of our dear Lord Jesus Christ and it is my hope and trust that you are in good health. I am quite well but am having problems as the Mozambican postal services do not seem to be aware of the validity of our prepaid envelopes, especially here in Tete, where I am living. In most cases I have to find someone to post the letters for me either via Zimbabwe or Malawi. I even had to pay to collect the Bible Basics you sent me last time. Is there anything you can do to help me overcome these obstacles?

As I am preaching to Mozambicans it would be very much easier for me if I could have literature in Portuguese so that I can preach to the local people in a language they understand better. Tete is a very large province with 1,832,339 inhabitants in an area of 100,724 square kilometres. I am the only person preaching the Truth here and there is no ecclesia meeting nearby. The nearest ecclesia that I know of is at Chiwindi which has about 200 members and is about 460 km. north of the part of Tete I live in.

I have more than 30 students right now and 15 are more than ready for baptism but who is to do it is the problem. I need your help brethren. I feel that I am locked away from my family of God worldwide. I feel very happy and revitalised when I am reading letters from brethren. I am sending a photo of some of the students I am preaching to, who are also ready for baptism. I am

eagerly waiting for the day when all these obstacles will have passed away and send my love to all who call on the name of the Lord.

*Bro. Emmanuel S. Mangente*



*Bro. Emmanuel Mangente and Tete students class.*

COMMENT: *Many attempts have been made to try and contact our brother to no avail. The address we have seems totally unreliable. We are trying to get a brother from Malawi to go and search for him.*

## news from nigeria

### **CALABAR**

The whole world is now in trouble; present day events in the Middle East tell us that the time of our Lord Jesus Christ's coming is getting very near, to come and take his Kingdom whether mankind like it or not.

*Bro Igani Eteng*

### **EBEN**

Before I came to know the Truth, I wandered many years in search of the truth. I joined an Evangelical Church and became their leader and the Scripture Union with the same post. In 2001 I started to attend Bible School with the Mennonite Church and then became one of their Pastors. After all this I was not OK with myself and started to preach something like the true word of God to my members, resulting in losing many of them and ended up being by myself, but continued praying and studying the Bible. On 12th August 2007 I was listening to the radio and heard the truth being preached by the Aba Ecclesia. The same night I heard something again which sounded like the truth which led me to pray, asking God to show me His people and I was going to write to the two groups and the first one to write to me would be the 'all' that I've been looking for. The Aba brethren were the first to respond on 10th October, the Brethren wasted no time in visiting me and my wife and I was baptised on 4th November.

Therefore, my beloved brethren and Sisters, I am encouraging you to always keep faith because we are holding the truth; never give up, no matter what we see around us. God that has called us is faithful. Always be happy, soon this storm will be over, and then we shall reign with our King on the earth.

*Bro Uka Egwu*

### **ENUGU**

We recently baptised a medical student, Bro Chinwe Emmanuel Iweha, and pray that our God will continue to guide him towards the Kingdom.

Enugu Ecclesia hosted the Eastern Fraternal Gathering with the theme, “The Invisible Hand of God in World Affairs”. Many came from the North, West and East. One Sister was baptized, Sis Elizabeth Ojike, from Aba. Above all, we are ever thankful for the constant kindness and care of our Heavenly Father.

*Bro Goddy Nwosu*

## **IBADAN**

I really appreciate and thank you for the wonderful and great work you are doing for our Master. I have been receiving Gospel News and I want to continue to receive it regularly. I will send my contribution as soon as it's ready, God willing. Thank you and God bless. See you next in Jerusalem.

*Bro. Femi Osifade*

## **OBORO**

*Gospel News* is most encouraging and educative. Preaching is the great commission we are commanded to undertake as servants of our Lord until he returns.

We speak of the ‘Household of Faith’ which is a Biblical expression of the Ecclesias. It reminds us that we are God’s building. We are the living stones of this building and are responsible to see that we and our fellow brothers and Sisters are built up in the right spirit.

1 Peter 2:1-5. Exhorts us “Wherefore laying aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies and evil speakings. As new born babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

*Bro Friday Enyiogu*

## **news from south africa**



*The baptism of Sister Gugu Buthelezi, putting on the saving Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in baptism at Yeoville ecclesia before a good crowd of witnesses. Sis. Gugu has been a faithful friend since the opening of the BEC and ecclesia. She learnt the Truth from several brethren and sisters and especially from our Brother Johnny who was able to instruct her in Zulu. We are delighted to welcome her as a new Sister in Christ and pray God’s rich blessing and gracious care over her.*



*Sister Gugu*

## **CAPE TOWN**

I have been meaning to write for some time now as I wanted to thank you for sending Gospel News all the way to me in Cape Town. We get good use out of one copy as I distribute it to a few of the brethren in Cape Town when I am done with it.

I wanted to reply to the "News from France" section in the April-June magazine. Bro Masoud was looking for Bro Deogratias Karegea. Well his email address is: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Would you be able to pass this info on?

I have very little news except that I am still very happy at the Cape Town ecclesia which is small, but we are joined by the Winelands ecclesia every fortnight, so that boosts our numbers a little. Guests are always welcome! I hope to visit London some day soon and see you all.

*Sis Jenni Botha*

## **RUSTENBURG**

A person might relieve hunger pangs by eating rubbish food. Similarly we could fill up on activities or philosophies that seem to satisfy our spiritual appetite. But just as surely as a poor diet leads to malnutrition, disease, or worse, failing to satisfy our spiritual needs properly will ultimately result in harm.

If, however, we develop a relationship with Jesus and God, seek to do His will and follow His guidance, we will find the truth behind the Bible's words, 'Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need.' Read Matthew 5:3.

(My 'Phone no. is 0737851467 for brothers and sisters who are in South Africa.)

*Bro. Kuvarega Mavljivo*

## **news from tanzania**

### **MBAGALA**

LEAPING: is the sign of Victory and Joy

We will win only if we endure in his righteousness and good deeds.

There are several references to leaping which we would like to look at. Leaping in His Righteousness Mark 10:46-52(v.50): The blind man throwing his cloak as he jumped up and went to Jesus.

2 Samuel 6:12-19(v.14) and David danced, whirling round before Yahweh with all his might... (v.16 Michal, daughter of Saul was watching from the window when she saw King David leaping and whirling round before Yahweh.

Acts 3:8, Peter and John .....and he leaping up stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Luke 1:41-42...Now it happened that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greetings the child leapt in her womb.

Isaiah 35:4-(6).....Then the lame will leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

But how shall we leap for joy? Surely if we will continue in faith and love and holiness. Surely we will prosper God's gloriousness in the eternal life, in which we will leap and leap and leap and leap for joy in His glory.

What a happy day for the righteous people and what a miserable day for unrighteous ones!

*Bro. Martin Silwani*

### **Musoma**

Am doing well but we saw a very tragic incident here in Musoma where 17 people from the same clan were killed including a three days old baby and her mum, a situation whereby her mum's breast was cut off and put in the baby's mouth when all dead. This happens just because of revenge which started three years back. The burial is taking place today by the government. It's awful. Pray for me and Bev as we are in Musoma and everybody is frightend.

Monica Later writes: Yesterday night it rained so heavily and at least five people died. Three were children, there different houses fell down and caused the damages. Some are injured and in hospital.

Those who killed the 17 people were caught and they are in custody. I met Kevin last Monday and he is doing well.

*Sis Monica Achieng*

### **TRINIDAD**

I spent almost a year doing tailoring, and recently someone was needed to teach English at the school here, at final-year secondary school level. So I sacrificed learning tailoring to help some of my fellow inmates prepare for their exams – our equivalent of your Cambridge GCE 'O' Level exam.

The case in which lawyers tried to get fixed lengths of sentences for us was dismissed in early January. The lawyers plan to appeal the judge's decision before our local appeal court, and if unsuccessful there, before our country's highest court, the Privy Council in London.

Although I'm disappointed, I have accepted God's will, still hoping that He will give us success in one of our appeals.

I will continue working on my main aim of making myself a better person in God's sight, trying to keep myself ready for our Master's return.

*Bro. George Constantine*

*COMMENT: You have set a good Christian example, George, in helping others at the expense of your own training as a taylor. I wondered if you liked the job, whether the authorities would assist you in getting some teacher-taining and on release employ you on the Prison's Educational Staff.*

**news from uganda**

### **BUSIA**

Things concerning Jesus: "The angel said to her (Mary), the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you: therefore that holy one who is to be born of you

shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace” ( Isaiah 9:6). “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him”(Matt.17:5).

“For in him (Christ Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col.2:9). “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God” (1 John 4:15). “The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ, when he comes, he will tell us all things. Jesus said unto her, I who speaks to you am he” (John 4:25-26). “And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:35). “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). “Then Jesus said to them again, I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7). “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

*Bro. Mangeni Rogers*

### **KASESE**

I am only lacking a few things and am asking if you can assist me with them. I have a lot of work as far as preaching is concerned and am involved in translating of leaflets and Bible Basics into local languages and also carry out youth work. Recently we had a Youth Camp and I will send you a copy of the report about it. What I am requesting from you is a second-hand laptop computer and a small photocopying machine, which would make my job easier and quicker.

*Bro. Jonathan Johnstone*

### **LUMINO**

Thank you so much for all the books, which are all very useful spiritually for both me and Lumino Ecclesia. It was so good for me to have your newsy letter. I have had some difficulties which made me think of this question, ‘How can I pray and be heard by God in order to find happiness in my life?’ Some of our friends may also have this question.

Many people pray, yet they feel that their prayers are not answered. Jesus taught us to avoid repeating the same things over and over again (Matt.6:7), for God to listen to our prayers we must pray in the way of which He approves, by learning what His will is and then praying accordingly. 1 John 5:14 explains, “If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” Also read, Psalm 65:2, 1 John 3:22, John 14:6.

About happiness, most of us believe that money, fame and beauty will make for happiness, hence we pursue such things only to find that happiness eludes us. Jesus said in Matt.5:3 that true happiness can only be found if we take steps to fill our greatest need – our hunger for spiritual truth about God and His purpose for us. That truth is found in the Bible: knowing the truth can help us discern what is really important and what is not, and allowing Bible truth to guide our decisions and actions leads to a more meaningful life (Luke 11:28, Prov.3:5-6,13-18, 1 Tim.6:9-10).

*Bro. Godfrey Egessa*

### **MAYUGE**

We much appreciate our dear Lord Jesus Christ and all Christadelphians worldwide. Two weeks ago I was in Rwanda, which was a great pleasure as it is a lovely place, although the temperature was very hot; I hope to be there again in August. My ecclesia at Kigandalo is now very strong and very soon we shall be having an ecclesial building. I am now in Western Uganda for two- and-a-half weeks and I hope to visit Mbale and Pallisa ecclesias next week and pray that God will bless my travels. I am sorry that this year there was not enough food and facilities for the youths at the Youth Camp and they were hungry part of the time. I hope things will be better next year.

*Bro Samuel Onyango*

## **MBALE**

It is my joy to tell you that my family is OK and I have found real help from the literature I get from you. Your books have really shown me that God's hand is upon them; many people come to me asking for them but I have made sure I keep some in the ecclesia's library for Bible revision. You have become a real brother to me and your response to my letter shows me that you have really kept me at heart. Thank you for all that the CAT has sent me – the articles, notes on various topics and the prayers you make for me, and God's work in Uganda. Thank you for the book entitled 'The Real Christ', it is really constructive to my life spiritually and to those I share the study with. May God enlighten you to continue writing these books, which will sharpen our knowledge before Christ returns.

In addition I would also like to tell you that the Area Business Meeting elected me as an Area Elder and has sent me to revive God's work in Mbale town. I therefore request for your prayers that God will use me in the Ministry. I really like preaching but I find it difficult because of finance for transport. Pray for God to open a way of transporting me to the various contacts and ecclesias.

In January the ecclesia of Butiru officially opened Munamba Ecclesia, which had remained a preaching centre for three years. All members attended the Memorial Service at Munamba, where we all broke bread together and shared a cup of wine. It was a very memorable day for Butiru to have one of its satellite areas granted an ecclesia. We give thanks to the linkman for Uganda, Bro. John Matthias for his support. Preaching in Butiru is extending in all directions and many people are coming to understand the Truth. I am sure that one day, God willing, we shall meet but if we don't meet face to face we shall in the Kingdom to come on earth. Please pray for me, for the poverty situation in Uganda is great and this retards the growth of God's work.

*Bro. Boniface Masakala*



*Bro. Boniface Masakala and his wife Evelyn*

**news from zambia**

**CHAMBISHI**

Money can't buy happiness! Regardless of how much you have, it's never enough. Fear will always whisper, 'unless you get more, you won't be secure.' If money brought happiness, wouldn't the rich be happier than everybody else? Yet studies consistently show their happiness levels to be only slightly above average, and in many cases, far below it. Despite what you have been conditioned to think, happy people don't follow money, they follow their passion for what gives their lives meaning.

The Bible says, 'Don't be obsessed with getting more material things,' (Heb.13:5), simply because 'Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.' (Luke 12:15). Wealth-based happiness is always a weakness indulged in by insecure people who are afraid to look inside and face their real fears. It's a mistake to think that wealth buys a life of freedom, status, or worldly power. Take freedom, for example: the rich usually become wealthy by sacrificing their freedom and leisure time. And status? That is a slippery slope too, because no matter how far you climb, there's always somebody ahead of you. And worldly power? Well, when that increases, you generally lose control of your life because of all the people you have to please, and obligations you have to fulfill.

When you pursue your God-given purpose, money is secondary. Your real status symbols are salvation, spiritual growth, a happy home, treasured friends, and the incredible joy of doing what God has called you to do.

One day two cats were talking, when one of them asked the other why he always chased his tail. 'Because my Mom says happiness lies in your tail, so I'm trying to catch it!' His friend replied, 'But if you just kept walking, wouldn't it follow you?'

Do you know what? When you pursue happiness it eludes you, but when you walk with God it follows you. The Bible says, 'Happy are those who delight in doing what He commands.' (Psalm 112:1)

*Bro. Kalyoka Ngambi*

The frequent occurrence of tragedies such as earthquakes, famines, Tsunamis, storms, flash floods and such like is an eye opener to us that we are in the last days. Examples of such tragedies are: the recent earthquakes in Haiti, storms and flash floods in Europe, falls from mountains on several people in Zambia and perhaps worst of all, the latest earthquake and tsunami in Chile which has claimed the lives of so many people.

Jesus prophesied about such tragedies; 'And there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places...' (Matt 24:6-7).

On the other hand, humankind have become lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. The Scripture has made it clear; 'this know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of themselves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, fierce, despisers of those that are good, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God' (2 Tim 3:1-3).

False teachers and prophets are multiplying and misleading people from the sound doctrine. 'But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction, and many shall follow their pernicious ways...' (2 Pet.2:1-2).

'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables' (2 Tim 4:3-4).

Brothers and Sisters, let's be vigilant, and faithful and pray for one another while we await the soon coming of Jesus Christ to establish his kingdom. 'Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till Jesus comes, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine'(1 Tim. 4:12-13).

*Bro. Christopher Mwewa*

### **KABOMPO**

I was baptized by Bro. Anold Kunda, our national treasurer in the Kabompo River, witnessed by Bro. David Nicholls and his nephew with many more brothers and sisters.

I go to Kabompo Ecclesia, headed by Bro. Reuben Kambeu as our Ecclesial Secretary, succeeding the late Bro Charles Muhupu.

I have managed to help my wife to my Ecclesia from the Bread of Life Church, which she was attending. I am busy teaching her our doctrines and baptismal lessons, so that she is equally baptised.

*Bro. Wellington Mukuma*

### **KABWE**

All that you said in your letters was understood. Many things are not so good as they were some time back, and what is written in the Bible is now happening - crime, unemployment, poverty, prostitution is much higher than before.

I am building a small shop where I want to hold my business: it is almost complete, it is just a matter of putting some shelves and a counter and painting, but at the moment I have run out of cash. The address I am using is where Brother Sidney Kunda works as deputy headmaster. I had a P.O. Box myself, but now because rentals have increased they are beyond my reach. There are very few families who are having three meals per day.

The materials which you are sending me are building me spiritually. I pray that God will bless you so that for many years you may continue doing His work.

*Bro. Greenwell Kunda*

### **KAFUE**

I would like to request two Bibles in Chichewa for my wife and me. My wife does not speak or understand English, and the ones we are using are not in good condition. In addition, could you also provide me with a 'Teach Me Thy Way' in Chichewa.

*Bro. Jealous Silungwe*

### **KALEMBE**

Warmest greetings to you and your loved ones. This letter is in your hands – why? Because someone truly cares about us all, and this is no other than Jesus Christ and his Father, the Almighty God.

The first thing I wish to tell you is that I appreciate the long awaited parcel which you had told me about in your letter which I received on 31.10.09. I got the parcel on 14.02.10. with the promised books, plus a really amazing book called 'The Real Christ.' Duncan, you are doing a mighty work and may God, the Creator of the universe, add more days to both you and Marcus, enabling you to preach God's Word. You have tried, and are trying still to spread the Divine Word even in difficult situations.

I had gone through that dialogue you had with your counterpart, Jacqueline of the Church of England. At least those who have read that booklet have learnt a lot about the work of women in the church. I have seen a lot of churches contradicting the Bible by allowing women to preach before men. As 1 Cor.14:34 says, 'Let the women keep silent in the congregation, for it's not permitted for them to speak in the eyes of men.' But Duncan, if that booklet (Women in the Church) has been distributed evenly in the ecclesias worldwide, we will grow spiritually. I have said so because, if each ecclesia has copies, it will be a 'tool' that will assist us in evangelizing those churches. Certainly, I have to say, it was an unbeatable theme.

*Bro. Kambobe James*

### **KANYOKO**

Thank you for sending those papers which were good to read, and our Magazine for the Truth: it helps us very much to see present day events referred to in the Bible so we can understand its meaning.

Our son will go into Grade 12 next year, which is the last grade in our country. We don't have free education – we need to pay for our children's schooling.

We love you brothers, and we pray for you every day. Our Lord's encouragement to those who today look for good things to come is that they should raise their heads when they see the chaos about them beginning to happen, for these things are an essential prelude to the appearing of the Kingdom of God on earth, and to the redemption of the faithful.

*Bro. Charles & Sis. Cathrine Daka*



*Bro. Charles Daka*

### **KASAMA**

I enjoyed reading your letter: I hope and trust that the good Lord is, and will be with you all the time. I sincerely thank you for the reading glasses you sent me, but the sizes are not quite right – my sizes are 2.00 and 2.50 respectively.

Our God is the only good doctor who can never fail to heal us whatever disease we may encounter.

The world today is going through hard problems, but we know very well that these are signs of Christ's return to the earth, and we should continue to preach the Word of God to our fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ until he comes.

*Bro. Joshua Mushili*

### **KAZEMBE**

I am very pleased to let you know that we have a new friend by the name of Miss Scohlah Kalumba, who is prepared to read the Word of the Lord with the Christadelphians. She is at Kalasa Basic School in Grade 9, but because of the distance between my home and her home, she needs your tuition and study material assistance. Currently I have given her one Bible Basics book and Revision Test booklet, plus one on the Kingdom of God on Earth. I am sure you will assist her with a Bible in modern English.

*Bro. Vincent Mwense*

I have found another brother-to-be, and his name is Mathew Kaunda, who is very willing to read Bible Basics and join our Ecclesia. He admits that doctrines are very different as one moves from one church to another. Many readers have told me to obtain Bemba Bible Basics since the majority speak Bemba.

Those who believe they will be raptured in heaven insist on one baptism, which they had in their first church, and feel it is sinful to undergo several similar baptisms, so they say, they were immersed in water. What advice can you give me regarding such baptisms?

*Bro. Vincent Mwense*

*COMMENT: Before baptism it is essential that one believes the basic doctrines of the Bible, a summary of which is outlined in our Statement of Faith. (For a baptism to be valid, one must first have a clear understanding and appreciation of the essential Bible doctrines). As your friend believed in heaven-going, (which is contrary to Bible teaching,) when he was 'baptised,' his baptism is not scripturally valid. He needs to be properly instructed in all the true Bible-based doctrines. M.H.*

### **KITWE**

Earlier this year I suffered a lot from malaria. I was unable to leave my bed. Fortunately our link man, (Bro. David Nicholls) every time he comes to Zambia, brings us anti-malaria drugs, and with the use of these, thankfully I quickly recovered.

If you have some French material please send some for me, for sometimes I go to Sakania in Congo and talk to some people about our faith. Any English material sent to me also, will be appreciated.

*Bro. Robert Miwele*



*(l-r): Bro. Robert Miwele with his elder brother Francois Kimata in Sakania mine camp (D.R.C.).*

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ gives us an example of God's love for mankind. Matt. 19:19 says, 'Honour your father and mother, and love your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus honoured his Father and loved his neighbour, or mankind.

The sacrifices of animals under the old Covenant was just a covering for sins, without taking them away. Heb. 10:1-4 says, 'The Law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not

the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifice repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins? But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins' Heb.9:13-14. The sacrifices were just the cleansing of the flesh outwardly, not the conscience of the inner man.

For this reason the Breaking of Bread should always remind us to love God with all our heart and conscience, and our neighbour – throwing away selfishness as Jesus did.

*Bro. Robert Miwele*

## **LUSAKA**

Many thanks for sending the transcript booklet 'Women in the Church.' This is an interesting book based on two speakers coming from different churches, with different doctrines. Thank you, too, for sending me information on 'Present Day Events.'

Although there is the Internet, we don't have access to it, so I must continue to request spiritual material to be sent via the postal service.

*Bro. Christopher Nkandu*

The literature regularly sent me has helped me to attain a particular lifestyle ever since I dedicated my life to God through His Son Jesus Christ, and I am sure that every person who reads the Magazine is gaining a sense of change in his or her life.

I am glad that God has blessed me with a job in which I'll be enabled to make my dreams come true, despite all the pain I've endured over the past years.

*Bro. Siamabi Stephen*

## **MICHELO**

I would like to let you know that we have a group in our Ecclesia of 20 baptized Brothers and Sisters and a group of 40 Sunday School children. If possible, could you send Sunday School books to help us to teach the children?

I am 55 years of age, with my wife and eight children. I am baptized with my wife and four of my children; I have one boy of 22 years.

*Bro. Ackim Sikabuli*

## **MUFULIRA**

Ezekiel was just a human being like us, he was married and lived his own life (in Tel-abib for a short time, Ezek.3:15). For a period he was dumb, except to speak God's Word (Ezek.24:27).

Ezekiel's name means 'El Will Strengthen' and he was told that God would make his face as hard as a diamond, (adamant) against his opponents. (Ezek.3:8-9) God gave him a vision of four living creatures and each had the face of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle. Thus was Jesus reflected in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

- Symbol of the face of a Man—is an association of the things of the human race. The man represents Christ as the only perfect man.

- The face of the Lion—represents majesty and royalty (Kingship). The blessing of Jacob to Judah (Gen.49:10) gives the symbol of Christ in the days of his coming.
- The Ox—is the symbol of sacrifice and service. John 13:12 shows Jesus as the servant of others. Jesus came as a Lamb ‘to the slaughter,’ (Isa. 53:7).
- The Eagle—symbolises Divine care (Exodus 19:4) Isaiah 40:31 ‘But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as Eagles.

We had a Copperbelt Fraternal Gathering in Kitwe in February where I first met Bro Chris Mwewa from Chambishi Copperbelt. . We shall be communicating, and I will be including him on an inter-ecclesial exhortation programme, which takes place every three months.

*Bro. Fred and Sis. Silviol Mumba*



*(l-r): Bro Fred, then Sis Silviol Mumba and Christopher Mwewa*

## news from zimbabwe

### **BANKET**

As I am writing this letter, in our area rains ceased on 22nd December 2009. Crops such as maize, soya, sorghum and tobacco have wilted. Some other areas' crops have been affected also. We are expecting another drought in Zimbabwe. The problems have mounted to a great height, particularly in the rural areas.

We are living in testing times, throughout the world there is much evidence of corruption, cruelty, oppression, injustice and hunger. This is not the first time that this state of affairs has existed, and no doubt it will not be the last. The joy of our Christian faith, however, is the knowledge that Christ has overcome all evil and that, in the power of God's word, he gives us the ability to cope with adversities of life and to overcome them.

I and my wife Eneres are writing to remind you of our love for you in the work that you do for the Lord. At this time, prior to the return of our Lord to rule this world, we ought to pray and not lose heart. Though you may be away from us physically, yet we are together with you in spirit. We always remember you in our prayers and pray for God's strength to be with you, especially in the crisis which is going on worldwide.

We pray for the Lord to return soon and restore all things, and that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We ought always to pray, for if God is with us, who can be against us? With God on our side, nothing is impossible.

Secondly, we would like to thank you very much for the photo we have received from you. We were very touched and uplifted after reading Carelink messages concerning amazing deliverance of our brethren Robert and Meron. God has answered your prayers.

*Bro. David and Sis. Eneres Yelulani*



*Bro. David Yelulani on the right, and his son Charles on the left.*

## **BINDURA**

Thank you for remembering us and sending Gospel News, the magazines are helpful both physically and spiritually.

I volunteered to be a W.A.A.C. Focal person, i.e. Ward-AIDS-Action-Committee-Co-ordinator. The work is done without any payment, but with the grace of God. A Ward Co-ordinator reports to District the problems being encountered in the Ward, which thereby proceed to Province and then National, etc. As a ward focal person I cater for Aids victims living as 'positives', OVC orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly and disabled, counselling them, etc. However, it is hard to change people's thinking and way of life, since they require food, are on therapy, need money to pay school fees, shelter, clothes etc. All these are some of the problems being encountered by them.

Furthermore, I admire the work done by the apostle Paul, who changed many people. Most of the people here were tested and they knew their HIV status, and now live as HIV positives. This also applies to our Christianity, that we should prepare and be ready, as the day and the hour of Jesus coming are not known. We should be ever ready as an athlete, by praying to him. I find it possible to find well-wishers to assist the affected and infected, since the number is rising at an alarming rate: the number of OVC is increasing due to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

*Bro. Joseph Mucheri*

## **BINDURA**

Thank you for sending me a box of Bible Basics and Bible Companions which has made my teaching easier than before. I go backwards and forwards with the Gospel, and now I intend to go deeper into the reserves, and things are becoming cheaper. The Lord is speaking to me and telling me to be a full time preacher. As children of God we need to declare our faith, because we try to be spiritual and not earthly. We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. All in all, God has blessed me. I am excited by the number of students in Bindura, which is increasing. The Bible says we live by faith, not by sight. I thank God for what He has given me spiritually – may His Name be praised.

I would like to thank God for granting me the opportunity to write this letter to Christadelphians all over the world to let you know our progress since I left Mazowe Mine. God called me to leave Mazowe and go to Bindura at Fredda Rebecca Mine. I left my association with Metallon Gold on 30.9.09. after serving the company for 17 years. Now I am happily employed at Fredda Rebecca Mine in Bindura and God has given me the strength to preach the Word of God. So far we have managed to interest 15 students and we are hoping for more.

As things are beginning to take shape in Zimbabwe I hope that meetings, services and opportunities to meet other brothers and sisters will resume. As we live according to God's Word, (in Joel 2 v.24-27), God is going to repay us for the years the locust has eaten, and we will

have plenty to eat until we are full. Proverbs 3:5: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,' teaches us that God is the answer to every situation, both good and bad.

*Bro. John Wilo Wise*

## **BULAWAYO**

I thank the Almighty God for His love which He always gives to everyone. Let us not become weak, but come to Him to worship – we need not be lazy puppets. Why should we look like logs chopped for firewood? Running away from death to life is the only solution for the glorious future Kingdom. Troubles we can face, but God gives all understanding. We read this in Job. 32:8. Under all circumstances let's keep the vision of what God wants us to be like. After our baptism we are to go out and tell others about the Truth of God, and avoid our condemnation. Mark 16:15 and 20 directs us what to do to follow the command of the Lord Jesus.

When he calls us we must be listening for our names. We are to ask ourselves, 'Why are we here?' as Christadelphians, and think of the meaning of the word itself (Brothers of Christ.) Do we want to be in a brotherhood of no action? Let us be serious, for God's sake, and know that our time is going fast. Thank you for reading this item – if you understand it, get into the action of goodness and service of our Lord.

I wish to continue receiving your magazine – it is good and uplifting, with teaching as well as good advice.

*Bro. Mesheck Shoko*



*Bro. Mesheck Shoko*

If you miss one point in an examination, you fail! Who then will pass? Are they clever? No. Are they giants? No. Are they tall? No. Are they the rich? No. Are they greedy? No. Are they the dull, slim, short or poor? No.

How then must one pass? Do we pass through self-praise, self justification, or by exalting ourselves? No. One may claim this or that, but the state of passing remains with God Himself. Some claim to be better than others. In which way are we better? Korah and his company claimed to be better than Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16:1-3), yet were buried alive (Numbers 16:31-34). In their minds, they thought they were right, but justice proved them wrong. We may accuse each other, yet justice will be done. If you accuse your brother you are judging him. If you judge your brother, you speak against the Law, which judges our actions. (James 4:10-13)

We should teach each other rather than accuse one another (Rom. 15:1-4). If you teach your brother, he may turn from his error and be saved (James 5:19-20). In this way you save your brother and yourself. If he does not listen, then it will be his fault (Ezekiel 33:1-5). But if you do not teach him to do right, then you are accountable for his failings (Ezekiel 33:6).

At school one is considered to have passed because of the marks obtained overall. In the Truth we fail in many points, but thankfully the pass mark for works is not important. The pass is by love and grace.

*Bro. Benny Shava*

I downloaded some audio files from the Carelinks website and much enjoyed them!

*Bro. James Magombo*

## **CHEGUTU**

Thank you very much for your letter of encouragement. Yes, all is not well on my side and I thought it wise to go out of the country and find something to feed the family. But it pains me to see how the Ecclesia is doing and my family, and to see how it might look when I am not around. The incident of Jonah makes me think twice.

If you have any preaching material I would be pleased to receive it, as we are hoping to have a Bible weekend shortly. If possible, some of our students will be interviewed in April and God will add to our number. Please pray for our situation that this Ecclesia may grow. Thank you for your loving heart and caring spirit. May God bless you.

*Bro. Farai Phiri*

## **CHIPINGE**

I am reading Bro. Duncan's book, 'The Real Christ.' I haven't yet finished it, but so far from what I have learnt, I can say it is systematic, logical Bible reasoning par excellence. To know the real Christ means you are now, or can, go through a process of Bible-based reasoning.

Everything is going on well. The preaching is good, but it's not everyone who accepts what we preach. It's like last Sunday, when we had quite a number of people who attended our Bible study, but not everyone went home happy. The first talk in the morning was about the kingdom of God here on earth, not in Heaven. We first looked at Genesis and established that God didn't create Adam to stay here temporarily and later take him to heaven, but he was to stay here on earth permanently. We also established that the reason for dying is because of not obeying God: if Adam and Eve had obeyed God they would have lived here for ever.

We looked at verses like Gen.1:10, 18, 21, 26-27. Gen.2:15-17, Gen.3:1-15. Then the reward for every believer is not to go to heaven, but to be given the everlasting kingdom here on earth. We looked at verses like John 3:13; Matt.5:5, Psa.37:3, 9, 11, 22, 29 and 34 and also Isa. 45:18. After the first talk I looked at the faces and I saw that some were happy and others were not because we were doing this as group work, and we all established that the Kingdom will be here on earth – this is our everlasting place. I asked them who caused all these problems, and suffering, and they said, 'It's Satan,' that was the answer from everyone. We looked at verses like Amos 3:6, Isa.45:7, Deut.32:29 and we established that God is in control. I also told everyone who was here that we welcome their views if they are supported by Scripture, to be discussed next time. Our problem at the moment is we do not have Bibles. If we can have at least six copies, three Shona and three English, it will be good.

Jesus had us in mind before we were born. I am so happy to read about some interesting news which is taking place in Riga ecclesia, that's good news for us. You know there is a general belief that everything in Europe is OK and the life there for everyone is super, but the truth of the

matter is there are problems everywhere in the world. There are also people there who, like our Lord, who had no place even to lay his head.

Our preaching is going on well and we really know that He who will give the increase is the Lord, and we put everything in his hands. Our meetings are on Sundays and Wednesdays, when we meet with the students.

*Bro. Moses Dhlakama*



*Bro. Moses (right) distributing Bible Basics leaflets, and an interested friend reading one.*

## **HARARE**

In Harare the ecclesia is growing, and there are a lot of activities.

I would like to thank you for the book *'The Real Christ,'* for it gives further insight of the man Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins. It gives good reading, and much of it all is about what the Bible says.

*Bro. Alexio Kajowe*

## **CHISHUMBA**

When Adam and Eve were placed to enjoy the luxury of Eden as the first human beings, they also were initially loyal to their Creator. We humans have curiosity roaming in our minds, urging us to cross all borders. So they sinned and the garden of Eden became a different habitat. Sin, for the first time, entered the whole world, through the failure of Adam and Eve.

Have you ever looked into your eye to remove a speck in 'Adam's' eye? Beware of the log that blurs your vision! We Christians, like Adam in Eden, were placed in our Ecclesias to water and nurture it and to spread the Word of the Almighty to the poor. We should not let this Word wilt or be neglected, or be the last men to receive this Word - as in Eden Adam was supposed to stay loyal to God and not to initiate a new way of life. Today, if we look in our 'Eden' Ecclesias, the Word still remains, but a closer look will tell us man is trying to add and subtract here and there to the real meaning of the Bible's message. This will derail the whole course of God's true teaching. I am saying, let's keep to the Bible because that's only where we can read and learn what our Father in Heaven is saying.

Every Christian is responsible for his wrong behaviour – not Adam. Adam committed his own sin and we have inherited its consequences. We have choices to make in our own lives, so we are committing our own sins. When the judgment day comes, everyone will stand to answer for what he or she has done: Eve will not answer on behalf of her children. The axe is placed at the root of every fruitless tree – pray for your sins to be forgiven.

*Bro. Steven Tedza (Isolation)*

## **CHINHOYI**

As Christians do we value what we see, listen to, speak, read, think and do? There are films which a Christian should not watch. The video clip could be showing hooliganism, i.e. fighting

and killing, though dramatically. The sad reality could be pornography, too. What we see, we sometimes want to practice. Willful derailment of a Christian is described in James 1:14 'Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.'

Reading is one of the essential skills we learnt at school. All the people who are literate undoubtedly learnt this skill. A follower of Christ will not read anything that comes his/her way. Some books or magazines distract sober minds into evil actions.

A non-believer is like a baby in the sense that he doesn't know that he is in a world that belongs to God, the Creator, and that He should be worshipped. Baptism plays an important role in the Christian life because the phase of living in the darkness of the world would have been finished with. In the writer's opinion, anyone who does not acknowledge that Christ died for our sins, and that God is the Maker of the universe, would do well to read Romans 2v.12.

Ignoring the worship of God is like a foetus who is confined unknowingly in its mother's womb (pre-natal environment). Christadelphians who have roots in the Word of God should continue studying the Scriptures and Bible literature prayerfully and dutifully and share their knowledge with fellow-Christians, and friends and neighbours as well. This fulfils the words of advice we read in Matt. 28:19.

As brothers and sisters we are blessed with literature freely to read. *The Gospel News, Glad Tidings*, the Bible Missionary, Isolation League leaflets – the list is long. So instead of listening to and reading evil thoughts, why not keep to the daily Bible readings and the above listed literature?

*Bro. Innocent Stiverio Kuvuta*

## **KWEKWE**

Probably the angels viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from his wounded temples. From His hands and feet the blood fell, drop by drop upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross. The wounds made by the nails gaped as the weight of his body dragged upon his hands. His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. One is filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering. 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34). The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross. Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast his faith and his submission to God. Through Jesus, God's love was manifested to men. The plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all believers.

*Bro. Melusi Ndlovu*

## **HARARE**

By seeing and hearing about what is happening under the sun these days, Bible readers know that the time is at hand that Christ's coming is near. Every country these days is experiencing some problems, as it is written (Matt.24:7), 'Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.' Brothers and sisters, did you notice these events? e.g. Countries these days, with so many wars, floods and earthquakes. In Africa we are experiencing famines, diseases and injustices in our lives because of politics. Innocent people are influenced by powerful politicians in order to gain votes for such leaders. Matt.24:9 records Jesus saying, 'Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to

death, and you will be hated by all nations, because of me.' V.12, 'Because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold.' V.13 'He who stands firm to the end will be saved.'

When we face problems caused by our earthly leaders, we should know that it is written of us in 2Tim.3:1-3 'But mark this, there will be terrible times in the last days, people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasting, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents; ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous; without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good...'. Verses 10-13: 'You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance; persecutions, sufferings, what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. God rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted; while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse.'

The same can be applied to us these days – we have these problems. What we suffer is written for us. So we should stand firm and be ready to suffer for Christ, the only perfect Ruler and Judge of the whole world to come – the King of Kings.

*Bro. Israel Mutunduwe*

## **HARARE**

Prophecies which were given many years ago are being fulfilled now. We are very involved in the events. But to the unbelieving world it is a trap. We thank our Heavenly Father, through Jesus our Saviour, who is with us in overcoming all temptations and trials in these times.

I am here in Harare. We preaching to all we meet and breaking bread, drinking wine with brothers and sisters of the same faith. I often visit my family and other saints of Chisape Ecclesia, my home meeting-place. I am so pleased and full of joy to meet in this way every month, and for this I praise God. This year we are looking at the prophecy given through the hand writing on the wall. The kingdom of man is finished – may Jesus come soon.

We are standing firm on Gospel preaching, and nothing will move us from this. We must put the plough deep in the soil and give fully to the work of the Lord, because we know that our labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Your fellow sufferer, fellow soldier, fellow pilgrim and fellow supplicant of the mercy of God unto eternal life in the Hope we share.

*Bro. Stanford Kuuzha*

## **MHANGURA**

Consecrate your entire life to Christ. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom.12:1) Then tell others about Jesus Christ, "Whoever shall confess me before others, I will confess also before my Father who is in heaven" (Matt.10:32). "But you are a chosen generation...that you should tell others of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." (1Peter 2:9) Yes, the world of this day is full of crucial hardships and painful sufferings, but as Christians, let us stand firmly unto God and tell others about Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Don't retreat. Yes, we are sons and daughters in the family of God. We have the privilege and authority of Christ's name. Why then are so many Christians living defeated lives? Where is our

victory in Christ? The words sound good – where are the works? Peter wrote to those who soon would be facing a time of great distress and severe testing. His words therefore are very personal, powerful and practical. “Be watchful and careful. Your enemy the devil prowls and roams around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour – to tear apart and eat. Be firm in the faith, and resist him...” (1Pet.5:8,9.)

*Bro. Joseph Zishechi*

## **MT. DARWIN**

Thank you for the *Gospel News* and the calendar for this year.

I was facing an eyesight problem last year from June to October, but now it's far better. Please will you always pray for me, but what I know is by faith I will be healed, as that is what happened to the woman we read of in Luke 8:43-48. She was healed because she had faith in Jesus Christ. I have now had this problem for 10 years, but I thank God for the life I still have.

*Sis. E. Chigiji*



*Sis. Chigiji's children, Hillary and Blessing.*

God turns our mourning into dancing; God tries to find us happiness even when we disobey Him. In Luke chapter 15, the father in the story accepts his prodigal son. The son had distanced himself from the father, and spent all he had on earthly pleasures.

So many run from Godly calling and labour for things which are only material. We should come to our senses as the prodigal son did. He was disgusted by feeding the pigs: he humbled himself and went back home to his father. So let us do the same, and say to God, ‘Father, forgive us for we have disobeyed you.’

Our God is longing to accept us. Isaiah 40:26 says, ‘Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number; He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might; for that He is strong in power, not one faileth.’ Our God is great, so we should use our freewill to obey Him, as He is a God of love.

*Bre. Sylvester and Patrick Chakaipa.*

## **MUTARE**

Thank you so much for the books, *Bible Basics*, and literature about women: I was very pleased to receive them to help with preaching. I will give these to serious students.

It seems drought has attacked our province Manicaland - most maize crops are scorched by the sun.

*Bro. Gilbert Tevere*

## **HARARE (RUWA)**

I received your letter, but I was not fit to write a reply as I was in poor health. It was difficult for me to do anything, as I was so very weak in all my joints, shivering and unable to hold anything – it took me a period of time to recover. But through God's power I am now recovered, and thank our Heavenly Father.

Thank you for your news about the signs of the times: I like them very much as they always encourage me with some of the Bible warnings – some events have happened and there are some to come. I really find them interesting to read.

I am halfway through reading the book you sent me, *The Real Christ*. To me it is not the book you just read as a history book, it needs careful reading & reasoning to get more understanding and knowledge. That's how slowly I'm reading it. Thank you for all your help.

*Bro. Maxwell Mlakah*

## **MUTARE**

We had a wonderful Breaking of Bread with the brothers on 24th January 2010, when some visitors had just come to our meeting. We used to preach and drop some Christadelphian papers. If God wills, maybe they are going to join, and we hope to have more people in our ecclesia.

Some people are willing to join us, but the problem is in our church there is no help with every funeral or burial, which is why we are not having a lot of people: afterwards they leave for this reason. I am giving you this news, as we have to think what to do about this.

Think clearly and exercise self-control, look forward to special blessings that will come to you at the return of Jesus Christ. Obey God because you are His children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil – you didn't know any better then, but now, you must be holy in everything you do, just as God, who chose you to be His children, is holy. God Himself has said, 'You must be holy because I am holy;' and remember that the Heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favourites. When He judges, He will judge or reward you according to what you did on this earth. So you must live in reverent fear of Him. Read every day His word and pray always, so that you stay on His right hand.

*Bro. Henry Kushata*

## **SANYATI**

I was granted a one-acre piece of land in which I planted a maize crop, which has just recovered from almost a month of dryness (1 Jan. to about 23 Jan.) We had no rain during this period, and most crops wilted from the intense heat. I am also rearing the rural chicken breed which is doing well. All things being equal, I hope to try guinea fowl turkeys and/or ducks, and possibly rabbits, if I find some to start with.

**OBITUARY:** It was with great sorrow that we learnt of the falling asleep (on 13th October '09) of Bro. Fred Milburn, who was once a resident brother in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. He was a great tutor and influence during my years as a student. I worked with him as a newly baptised brother, and afterwards, and I found his zeal for the Lord's vineyard irreplaceable. I am sure he will be missed by all who knew him. He now awaits the resurrection, having diligently given his all for the work of preaching to both new and old converts. It is also sad to hear of his wife, Sis. Nancy, now being unwell. We just hope our good Lord will look after her, and we thank the

Christadelphian Care Homes which have accepted the task of looking after her. They were such wonderful, cheerful characters.

*Bro. Itai Tembo*

### **TRIANGLE**

There were mountains that you climbed in 2009, and with regard to some of them you do not know how you made it. Some people had been counting down their number of days, but here we are today. So this shows that our God is greater than all trials and tribulations we may meet on the way.

As you walk today, in 2010, don't go alone, don't leave your God behind, go with Him and win all the battles. May 2010 be a year of success, prosperity and love. I love you so much with all my being. What we must remember is that 'the Lord is my Shepherd,' as we read in David's Psalm 23.

*Bro. Kuvarega Mavuvo*

### **ZVISHAVANE**

I wish to continue receiving your magazine – it is good and uplifting, with teaching as well as good advice.

I am very sorry about the home school post boxes, which are sometimes only collected once in two months. I have talked to the T.I.C. of the school, and hope things will change to better conditions.

### **News from Europe / Eurasia**

#### **news from albania**

##### **TIRANA**

My sister in Italy is interested in the Gospel and maybe we can baptize her when she returns here. Please pray for me.

*Sis. Genta*

#### **news from denmark**

I have a suggestion: Why don't we make a summer conference either in Copenhagen or in my place? You and other brothers could come and teach us from the Bible. I don't know about possible accommodation in Copenhagen but if it were in my place my garden has a lawn which has space for up to 10 people in tents. And I have a washing machine and all facilities for cooking/taking a shower. If some people need to be baptized there are great beaches nearby!

*Bro. Johnny*

### news from finland

I have some Lutheran people here, to whom I have taught Bible truth about baptism. I just want them to fully commit to the idea, and am pressing on them. They that fall into the various sects cannot grasp the full joy of Christian freedom - hiding behind their own literatures, churches etc. It takes courage to stand firmly, having the Lord Jesus our only beacon and stronghold! I often think of the home in Latvia when I helped with wiring, how are all the brothers and sisters there?

Bro. Henrik



*Brother Henrik reading his Bible at home in Oulu, Finland*

### news from israel

We are delighted to report the baptism of SAMUEL; may God keep him in the path to His Kingdom.



*Brother Vladimir about to read from the Bible Companion and break bread with sister Zlata near Haifa*

### KIRYAT ATA

Sister Zlata and I are rather isolated here and we are hardly able to travel much because of our age. We get into lots of disputes with Russian Orthodox people here, but sadly I have to report that we have not got anywhere in trying to persuade them of the truth. We send our warmest greetings to all in the faith.

*Bro. Vladimir*

### news from jordan

May our Heavenly Father bless you all as you seek to do His will. Here I am OK, rejoicing that Jesus Christ is really my Saviour and that He has risen indeed and opened the way to salvation for us in His Kingdom.

*Bro. Bassam*

### news from kazakhstan

All here send their greetings. The situation continues as previously but we eagerly read all the Christadelphian magazines and material which we can receive.

*Sis. Ella*

### news from latvia

We are delighted to announce the continued baptism of many brothers and sisters throughout Latvia. Since our last issue, the following have been baptized. Brothers Viktor, Sherwin, Pavel, Konstantin, Yuri, Sergej, Valerij, Vladimir, Jurijs, Yuriel and Vlad and Sisters Svetlana, Elena, Alla, Ilze, Ludmila, Tanya and Anda. May God continue to bless their path towards His Kingdom.

### RIGA

I am sorry not to always be able to attend, because of my health and other things; but I am very with you all and praying for you.

*Sis. Katja*

### news from lithuania

### ELEKTRENAI

I have now been given two years to live as the Lupus is attacking everything, especially heart and lungs, and yesterday I was diagnosed with PAH. I am in much pain and they will not hospitalize me or give me strong pain killers. Please pray for me.

*Bro. Mantas*

We have tried to arrange medication as best we can for our brother.

### VARENA

This has been a hard long winter with most salary going on paying the heating bill so I am looking forward to the heating season ending and hope to come to the next Bible weekend in Riga.

*Bro. Albinas*

**VILNIUS** I was glad to come to the Bible weekend in Riga and to help in writing to the contacts here in Lithuania.

*Sis. Liuda*



*Sis. Liuda, 3rd from left, with some of the ecclesia in Vilnius*

### news from morocco

We are delighted to report the baptisms of three brethren here, but due to increasing Islamic persecution in their area we can't publish their names; may God keep them all in the path to His Kingdom.

### news from norway

We are delighted to report the baptisms of ESAU & HILDA and CLAUDE; may God keep them all in the path to His Kingdom.

#### KRISTIANSAND

I am so grateful for the Chichewa edition of Bible Basics and my family are also interested in the teaching. I am trying to assist my sister to get here also as her situation as a refugee is very bad where she is.

*Bro. Claude*



*Esau & Hilda, originally from Malawi, after their baptism in Norway.*

### news from poland

#### GDANSK

I am still hoping to get work abroad and am trying to gather money for my ticket, please pray for me in all my problems here.

*Bro Marcin*



*Bro. Scott from the USA congratulating Bro. Marcin [left] after his baptism near Gdansk, Poland, in 2008.*

### news from russia

#### BOBROV

I will by all means try to search out a place for meetings in Voronezh. Thankyou for your prayers for me.

*Sis. Julija*

### **EFREMOV**

With a breaking heart I inform you of the falling asleep of our beloved Brother Boris Grigorovich. He of all of us believed with his whole heart in the Lord. Sister Lena from Moscow was with us at the end. Valya, Alevtina and myself sat with Boris at his bed for the last 3 days, so that we would be with him at the end. He died strong in faith. We buried him two days later in faith and hope of the resurrection. Thank you for giving him and us the knowledge of the hope of the Gospel, of the Kingdom, of resurrection, of the love of God and the grace of Jesus our Lord.

*Bro. Oleg*



*Bro. Oleg with his model of the tabernacle which he keeps permanently displayed in his room.*

### **KAZAN**

Our ecclesia meets twice per week and we always pray for others and send our greetings. Vera and I hope to come to the gathering in Voronezh on the way to see our daughter. However our preaching efforts at the moment are not bearing fruit.

*Bro. Alexei*

### **MOSCOW**

The death of Brother Boris reminds us of our own future, sooner or later; may we all share in God's grace in this life and in the age to come.

*Bro. Igor S.*

### **PETROZAVODSK**

Nastya and I are enjoying married life. We will soon finish our course and then from 1st August we will begin our work as doctors at a small settlement in Murmansk Oblast. I hope we can show the true light to people there in such darkness.

*Bro. Kostya*

### **SHAKHTY**

I shall look forward to the next Bible weekend in Voronezh, and am hopeful that our contacts there will come. Their interest has revived my enthusiasm to preach. Brother Sergej was here today and we broke bread together and thought of you all... I am so sorry to hear of the sleep of Brother Boris, but he will surely live again.

*Bro. Andrej*

**news from ukraine**

**POLTAVA**

We are OK here although we all have so many health problems. Lena needs an operation on her kneecaps as she can hardly walk. Please pray for us.

*Sis. Ludmila & Br Valerij*

## **News from the Americas**

### **news from antigua**

We were extremely blessed to witness the baptism of MERISSA HODGE on February 20th 2010.

Merissa attended our Bible Class for well over 10 months and gave a good confession of her faith.

May our Heavenly Father bless our new Sister as we all await the return of our Master

*Brethren & Sisters, Grays Hill Christadelphian Ecclesia*

We did see the CAT advert in the local Newspaper and was truly surprised. To mention also that we have a radio broadcast heard twice weekly and Bible Basics is our main advert, it is very, very reader friendly and our response has been great. Thanks in advance for the "Real Christ" and much love in Christ

*Clive & Daphne*



### **news from haiti**

We are delighted to report a number of baptisms at the Port au Prince ecclesia during the visit of Brother Charlie Klennert of the Tacoma, USA ecclesia: Sisters ROSE, ANGELA, ELYSEE, CLERISMA, DOANTIEN, MAUDELINE, WIDLIN and SAGINE; and Brothers FAVEUR, EMANUEL, NIXON, JAMESON and PIERRE; may God keep them in the path to His Kingdom.

My Salutation in the powerful name of our Lord. All the pleasure is mine the fact that I am sending you these lines in order to inform you that we have received the box of books. The majority of the people at the ecclesia have already had a Bible Basics but yesterday I distributed 45 of these books and saved the rest for other people who will be studying with us. I have sent some pictures but they are not good quality at all. I do not know what is happening with my camera, it does not take good pictures as it used to. Please share our gratitude to Bro Marcus, tell him that we really appreciated this gesture, these books are much more important than sending money, even if we need that also. As I explained to you in my previous email, on the

26th of April we will start a week of special preaching. We want to contrast the faithful woman of the true ecclesia, and the prostitute of false religion which surrounds us here.

Please pray just that our meeting place keeps out the rain enough so the visitors shall remain.

Bonne journée, et Que Dieu vous soit en aide !

*Brother Esmath*



*Visitors to the meetings of the Port au Prince ecclesia.*

Let us continue in God's service, for He knows our cry, our needs, and our worries.

*Bro. Fendy*

### news from jamaica

Sis Joan Samuels of Port Morant informs us that she is keeping well and they have a morning Breaking of Bread service every other Sunday at the White Horses Ecclesia. Although small in numbers they are strong in faith and request us all to pray others will join them. She finds *Gospel News* very interesting and loves reading it.



*Front left Sis Dorothy Dacres, Sis Joan Samuels and Sis Edith Frazer. Bro Stanly on the left is the Recording Brother and centre is Bro Martin Shirley who gives the exhortation and then a visiting Brother whose name she forgets.*

### BROUGHTON

The fine hall of the Broughton Ecclesia



*Bro. & Sis. Mathew and a Sis. from Canada*

### News from Asia

### news from china

We are delighted to report the baptisms of DAI and WANG; may God keep them in the path to His Kingdom. We have 10-15 Christians in our company and we study the Bible twice a week in our factory. I feel I am not good at spreading THE TRUTH to my colleagues, in fact we have 150 workers.

I was wondering if you can send me five Bible Basics in Chinese and five in English, I will join some English Corner (a place in University to practice English) to chat with some people, maybe I can talk with them about our understanding of the Gospel, then I can give them the book if they are interested in it.

*Bro. Jack*

Thanks for your prayers! I have prayed so often, simply, Lord, please guide my path. Well, I passed national entrance exam paper test, and so I'm ready for the graduate school interview soon. I leave my future in God's hands and try to serve Him meanwhile.

*Bro. Ai*

All the earthquakes and physical changes in the earth are to me a sign that Christ must return soon, and I think that even thoughtful people who are yet unbelievers, are thinking the same. May it be soon!

*Bro. Zhang*

#### **news from india**

I am very thankful for the regular mailing of the *Gospel News* and other monthly magazines. I have become sad, in isolation since my wife, Sister Leela fell asleep in Christ at home, due to a cardiac arrest on 19th April 2009. It was a very unexpected and sudden demise which my family members could not believe until now, but I accepted it, as it is the will of God; nothing happens in this world without His knowledge. We had planned to visit the USA in May 2009, but I went alone, since my two children returned after the funeral in Mumbai. Bro. Tim Galbraith and Bro. Joykutty of Kerala also came for the funeral on 28th April 2009.

After returning from USA I visited Kerala to meet brothers and sisters of the Tiruvalla Ecclelesia. I also met Bro. Varghese Kurian of Kottiyam who met with an accident and is recovering, by the grace of God and we had fellowship with them. On Bro. Tim's advice I visited "Sumorm" in Hyderabad to see the Children's Home, for two weeks during the Christmas and New Year period. Now I am back in Mumbai at my home having a peaceful life, by the blessing of God, with the great hope of resurrection when Christ returns to re-establish the Kingdom in this world and with the great hope to see and live with all brothers and sisters who already sleep in faith.

I still remember Bro Duncan and Bro. Prakash from Hyderabad, visiting us one day many years back; please advise me how I can do some preaching work alone in this vast city of more than 10 million population. We have some contacts, who are only interested to receive booklets or magazines, not to believe in the Truth. I am rather disappointed when I meet and talk to them. Other baptized brothers have shifted from here to UAE or Kerala for better prospects. Now I am alone in Mumbai as a Christadelphian so I hope to meet some brothers or sisters who may pass through here for Bangalore or Hyderabad.

Thank you for your kind letter and prompt response in sending *Gospel News* and other books for my spiritual growth of wisdom. With prayers and best wishes for your service for the work of the Gospel.

*Bro. M.K. Abraham*



*Sis. Leela Abraham*

### news from myanmar

We are doing fine here. Thank you so much for your remembered prayer, it is through this that we successfully finished our Summer Children camp during this Burmese new year festival on April 12-18. We had 30 children, six women and four men at this camp, I thank our God for His goodness to use our ministry. All these people are from the unbelievers. Continually please pray for me. This camp I based on Bible Basics. Thanks. May God bless you.

*Bro. Suumpi*

### Uganda Youth Camp



Another dream came true when from the 19th to 23rd January, the youth camp took place again for the growth and encouragement of the youth also the Brother and Sisters plus the students .The topic was 'The Parables of Jesus'. This brought all the minds of the young people to a common understanding . I am so grateful and happy about this camp .We had very good teachers from UK Bro Richard Allyne and Sis Michaela , they both brought the topic to the level of practical understanding and also organized drama to show that they really understood the subject and could put it into expression . The camp was among the best we have ever had. Organization and teaching were good. We tried to work hand in hand with every person on the camp site thus making all participate in the gathering. I gained a lot of experience in understanding and organizing people . I continue thanking the Almighty Father for the challenge He has given me to do the work well . I pray and ask Him for more camps so that the young can continue to meet and have such teaching in their lives.

Most of all our appreciation goes to our Father who gave us the power, and energy plus blessings for organizing the camp despite all the problems we faced, such as drought, famine and increased transport costs. Also thanks go to our Linkman for the work he has done, he is doing a lot of teaching like a father to his children.

*Bro Jonathan Johnstone*

### **The Bride, the Lamb's wife**

The Bible often uses marriage as a figure to teach us; for example God told the Israelites that he was their husband (Is.54:5). In Jeremiah 3 and Ezekiel 23 he shocked them by saying that when they forsook him they were acting like a prostitute. In the New Testament John described Jesus as the bridegroom (Jn.3:28-30) and Jesus used the same figure about himself (Mt.9:14-15). In the parable of the ten virgins (bridesmaids), teaching the need to be ready for his return, he pictured himself as the bridegroom (Mt.25:1-13). To warn the Jews that the Gentiles could go into the kingdom instead of them we have the parable of the wedding, where again Jesus is the bridegroom (Mt.22:1-14).

Are we so used to this figure that we fail to grasp its true meaning? Marriage is the closest human relationship; God himself told Adam and Eve in the beginning that 'a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.' (Gen.2:24)

Jesus confirmed that this applies now (Mt.19:5). So we, all the believers together, the church – you, me, that sister you don't like, that brother whose interpretation of prophecy contradicts yours – we all are the bride. Paul told the Corinthians 'I betrothed you to Christ...' (1Cor.11:2). Do we really long for Jesus like a bride longs to be with the man she loves? Do we love him more than anyone else, like a faithful wife?

Well, certainly we would want to say "yes" but it isn't easy to love someone we've never seen, so we need to look for him in the Scriptures. There, as we read, we can learn about his character by noticing how he treated people. From his words and actions it is clear that he did everything because he really, truly loves us. No-one can be indifferent to someone who loves us so much that he gave his life for us. That doesn't just mean that he died for us; his whole life was dedicated to us. He always put his Father's will above his own natural desires, giving us a good example to follow. We really must try to serve each other as he served us.

When Paul gave advice to married couples about how they should behave, he said it was a figure, which sets a high ideal which they should be striving to live up to:

'There is hidden here a great truth, which I take to refer to Christ and to the church.' (Eph.5:32)

But notice what an extraordinary husband this is, who 'loved the church and gave himself up for it, to consecrate and cleanse it by water and word so that he might present the church to himself all glorious ... holy and without blemish.' (v.25-27) Usually a bride gets herself ready for the wedding, but the church can't do that. So our part is to submit to Christ so that he can make us holy and save us. (v.22-23). For us as individuals that means that we have to accept the difficulties and sufferings of life in the right spirit, acknowledging that such experiences can improve our characters. We have to learn not to complain, not to react with bitter thoughts; instead we should ask ourselves "What does God want me to learn from this?"

However, Paul's main message in this letter is about the church, the brothers and sisters. He is saying that we must become 'holy and without blemish.' The theme of the letter is the unity of the believers, even between Jews and Gentiles, whom Jesus has 'made ... one ... broken down the barrier of enmity ... so as to create out of the two a single new humanity in himself ...' (2:14-18). There cannot be any division between true brothers and sisters. A bride is one person, one body; those baptised into Christ are united, made holy and forgiven.

'There is no such thing as Jew and Greek, slave and freeman, male and female; for you are all one person in Christ Jesus.' (Gal.3:28)

Paul considers this unity so important that he says 'I implore you then ... live up to your calling. Be humble always and gentle, and patient too, putting up with one another's failings in the spirit of love. Spare no effort to make fast ... the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph.4:1-3).

Why? Because 'There is one body ... one Spirit ... one hope ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all ...' (v.4-6).

But notice that in this unity there is a great diversity of gifts (capabilities), from apostles to teachers (v.11). Why? '... for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity inherent in our faith ... to mature manhood, measured by ... the full stature of Christ.' (v.12-13) The church can only be united in Christ, the head, if each of us tries to respect each other in a true spirit of love, acknowledging our different qualities and being 'subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.' (5:21) None of us is more important than the others because we all belong to Christ and he loves us. Paul describes that state as being 'in the heavenly realms' (1:3; 2:6) where Christ is now. Imagine! Belonging to Jesus we are 'in heavenly realms' with him. Do you say to yourself at the start of each day, "I belong to Jesus and he loves me!"?

That is the gift of God: by grace, and without any merit on our part, we are the bride, prepared and beautifully dressed for her husband. (Rev.21:2, 9)

*Sis Jean Field (Kendal UK)*

### **Little Children — Come Unto Me**

Jesus showed much affection for little children and so it is natural for His followers to do likewise. Sis Emmy Aseyo and helpers puts me, and I guess many other readers, to shame by her example. For some years they have struggled to help hundreds of small children, many of them orphans, to learn about Jesus and also to give them a free meal. This is very much a semi-private effort and can do with some extra help to provide pencils, crayons, paper and things for the children to do and help providing for the daily meal. Sis Emmy Aseyo's address is, P.O.Box 306, Ndhiwa, Kenya. MH



*The Nursery School*



*Class 1 in a rented room.*

## **God and Man**

According to Genesis chapter one man was created to fulfill the purpose of GOD. But before the creation of man, God decided to form the earth, and the earth was formed with a purpose, Isaiah 45:18: "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens. GOD himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else". God made the earth to be inhabited; so who were those to inhabit it? The answer is found in Gen.1:26, "And GOD said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth". God formed the earth that it should be inhabited and we are told that before man was created God created everything and after that he decided to create man to live on the earth. So man was to have dominion over God's creatures. The cattle, the fowl, and the fish were made to inhabit the earth and sea, and man was to have dominion over them. So God created man in his own, image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And GOD blessed them, and GOD said unto them Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. Having created them God decided to tell them their responsibility, he first blessed them to multiply and be fruitful (vs27-28), and again to have dominion over His creation, and this was the purpose of God in creating the earth and creating man on it. God created man to live on earth and he blessed him. Man was given everything that he needed to sustain him, food for himself and food for the other living creatures. the animals, the fowl of the air and the fish in the sea.

However, man sinned and was sent out from the garden of Eden, for he believed a lie and ate that which was forbidden by God (Read Gen.3). Man was punished because of disobedience. Being out of Eden did not change the original purpose of God, that is why God decided that man should be saved, for God loved the earth though man had sinned and He provided us His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but be saved.

God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to make reconciliation between God and men, on the condition that whosoever believes in Him might be saved, (John 3:16). God wants the earth to be inhabited; we do not need to escape from the earth and live in heaven for it is said that: "The heaven. even the heavens, are the LORD's; BUT THE EARTH hath HE given to the children of men"(Ps115:16). That is why we are here on earth, it was created for us to live on and live here for eternity, if we believe in God and obey Him (Read Ps 37). The Bible tells us that the purpose of God is that the earth will be given to the righteous, but the wicked will be "cut off". To be cut off is not to live for ever in punishment. To be cut off is to die for ever.

God is concerned with the righteous because they are the ones who will fulfill His purpose as He intended from the beginning. The earth is very important to the Creator, otherwise Jesus would not have been born, he appeared to fulfill all righteousness and that the Kingdom of God

should be fully established on earth: Rev.5:10: “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on earth”.

Men and women can live for eternity if they believe God’s Word, the Bible, and learn the true Gospel message and obey it.

*Bro. A.D.Liwawa, (Neno, Malawi)*

### **How Can We Be Born Again? (John 3)**

‘There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling Council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born?” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, you must be born again. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from, or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit” ( John 3:1-8).

Here we see that Nicodemus was a man of high position: he came to Jesus during the night – he did not wish to come during the day, fearing the people’s judgment of such a man calling Jesus ‘Rabbi.’ He wanted to know and verify how to be part of the kingdom of God and was puzzled by Jesus’ answer about being ‘born again.’ Jesus explained it was not a birth of flesh to flesh, but from flesh to spirit. You first receive the word of God into your heart but cast out everything which is rubbish and earthly: you will then want to be baptized and your past sins will be forgiven. This new birth into Jesus Christ is not like wearing fashionable clothes so that when you walk in the street you will be seen smart and be admired, but it is the change in your life and character that will be noticed. People will see that you have received the call of the Lord Jesus and made him your Saviour and Master of your life.

Gal. 3:26-29: ‘You are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Then if you belong to Christ you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.’ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none are found to have fallen short of it.

*Bro. Weston Kamota (Magunje, Zimbabwe.)*



Very often we find God calls us to His service in caring for or preaching to someone, when the hand of Providence has been at work for years previously, preparing them for their meeting with us. So it was in the case of SAMUEL whom we baptized in Tel Aviv, Israel. Samuel is a refugee from civil war in Africa, and got to Egypt. From there he dedicated himself to God and Jesus and decided to try to get to Israel and devote himself there to the service of the Lord Jesus. We made a 10 minute movie of him explaining how he walked 18 days across the desert from Egypt to Israel; 26 asylum seekers started the journey and eight of them died in the wilderness. Even as human interest, it's an amazing story and we commend the movie to you- at [www.aletheiacollege.net/video/samuel.html](http://www.aletheiacollege.net/video/samuel.html) . They ate some bread once each day and drank water from wells used to water camels, on one occasion chasing the camels away to get to the water. They too were chased by the Egyptian military. They then had to climb the border fence and somehow somersault the barbed wire at the top. On arriving in Israel, Samuel made it his business to dedicate himself to God and find the Biblical purpose of life. God led him to Bible Basics, and he became convinced of the need for baptism. At his baptism we read from Romans 6 and from 1 Corinthians 10- Israel were baptized in the cloud and in the Red Sea. Water both sides of them, the cloud [also water] above them- they were as it were immersed in water. And so the familiar yet powerful parallel develops. Life after baptism is as Samuel's journey through the Sinai scrub; he has been there physically, and can see how all that happened to him was a living parable of redemption in Christ.



*Brother Samuel with his much marked Bible, and Bible Basics.*

Samuel is very prayerful, and has written out his prayer requests to keep him focused upon them in prayer. Number seven was for God to teach him of His word and revive him spiritually- and Samuel feels this has been answered now in his learning the Gospel and being baptized. However, it's very difficult working in Israel, as he has been refused leave to remain and along with many black people is continually hassled by the Immigration Police, as he comments in his other prayer requests. So please pray for our brother and others like him there.

## **Norway**

The ways of Providence are so wonderful. There's a worldwide network of connections which the Lord has set up, and insofar as we play our parts faithfully and try to follow up the leads and make the connections, great things happen. Last year we visited the Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi, where there are a number of Christadelphians, and baptized several more. It's home to

over 10,000 refugees from ethnic cleansing in Congo and Central Africa. We've been sending Bible Basics out there for some time. Last September, an unusually lovely family managed to get out of Dzaleka camp and were accepted for resettlement in Norway- after being in that awful camp for eight years, after having suffered awful things as a result of the Tutsi-Hutsi conflict in Rwanda. Arriving in Norway, CLAUDE contacted us online and after some discussion was eager to be baptized. We therefore had the pleasure of visiting him in Norway, in the breathtakingly beautiful coastal town of Kristiansund to where he and his family have been assigned. After traditionally generous hospitality, we were able to baptize him in the bathtub of the public housing they have been given, with his brother, sister and mother looking on. These are an unusually lovely family, and they too expressed a desire for baptism. We're hoping that we'll be able to make another trip there to enable this. Meanwhile we are encouraging them in the translation of literature into their local Rwandan language. They were amazed we knew Dzaleka and had also baptized people in Rwanda. Once we understand the world is truly in God's hands, it becomes a very small world. They are so grateful to be in Norway. Beautiful Kristiansund , located in true fjord land, is the ultimate contrast from dusty, hungry Dzaleka refugee camp. We too are grateful to God that they got out of that awful place. So it was with joy that we baptized Claude. He was quite overcome after the baptism, it meant so much to him.



*Brother Claude being baptized with his family watching*

### **BROTHER VLADIMIR: PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

The day of my baptism was so wonderful for me. Brother Viktor accompanied me to the meeting room; I was so nervous, even entering the hall, which I know so well, was as if I were entering it for the first time. I am glad only Viktor, Duncan and Cindy were there as I was so nervous. Now this evening I sit here and am thinking about it all, trying to put together my various thoughts, to look back and see how God has worked with me all my life long. I thank Him for keeping hold of me all my 66 years. I thank Viktor for giving me Bible Basics and telling me about the ecclesia. I thank Duncan for teaching me, and now for baptizing me. I thank Cindy for feeding me and making special food for my baptism. I thank God who worked through all of them. I am sitting here feeling so thankful.

So, who am I, how did it happen, that today I was baptized? I was born in Moscow, I was a faithful member of the Komsomol, and so I entered the civilian flying college in Moscow. I graduated and worked as a flight engineer on Aeroflot. I never thought about God and just accepted the standard teaching of atheism which we received. I was then suddenly moved into the military air force. I have no idea why this was done. I was commissioned as an officer, and served as a flight engineer on AN-12 military transport planes. I had no qualification to work on these aircraft, I knew very little about them and received no training. It was so strange. In 1973, the USSR was sending support to Syria in their war with Israel. I made countless trips to Syria at that time. There were Soviet resupply bases in Syria and we were continually flying backwards and forwards from there to various depots in the USSR. Throughout October 1973 when the actual conflict was going on I was on the ground in Syria managing the depot and supposedly training Syrians and other Arabs. I was close to the front and several times was in bombardments. Remember, I was a civilian flight engineer, I was not qualified to do anything I

did, and both the Arabs and myself hardly knew English to converse with each other. I didn't know Arabic and they didn't know Russian. Only in the Red Army could there be such madness. So why was I there? I asked myself this question many, many times. It was to think about Israel, the Jews, who I now know are God's witnesses, witnesses to an atheist like me.

I then worked in other areas. There was a time in the late '70s when we couldn't put the wheels down as we came in to land. The warning light and buzzer were going, warning that our wheels weren't down and yet we were coming down to land. I was the flight engineer but I had no idea what to do on that particular aircraft. We circled around the depot landing strip until our fuel was almost gone. The other men baled out one by one. I was desperately trying to figure how to get the wheels down, so I stayed till last. And then I found there was no parachute for me. I prayed desperately to God. I took over the controls of the plane but I thought I had no fuel to pull up again and then swing down to land, and the airstrip was in the midst of forest. I prayed and prayed. I promised God about everything if I survived. I thought to jump out without a parachute but it would have meant death. To stay in the plane meant death if I brought it down onto the tree tops or onto the strip without wheels. Then suddenly there was radio contact from the depot. "What are you doing? Get on and land!" "My wheels won't come down", I replied. "They're down" came the reply. "No they're not". "Yes they are, I can see them" the controller said. "Tell me before God they are down" I said, and remember we were atheist Red Army men. "Yes I promise you they are" the man said. So I landed it. The warning light had come on as a false alarm. The wheels had been down all the time. It was the only time I ever landed a plane alone in my life.



*Photo: AN-12 Soviet military transport*

I then desperately started to search for God. But it was so hard. No information. I was fearful to ask anyone to help me. My wife however had been a secret believer earlier, although she had lost her faith, and she started to explain some things to me, and got me a Bible from an old friend. She was tragically killed in a road accident in East Germany, so I lost that source of teaching. But I read that Bible she got me. I learnt about baptism. Then I was posted to Afghanistan in the 1980s. We were hit by Taliban SAM missiles near to Kabul and baled out over a lake. As we were waiting to jump I said to God "He who believes and is baptized will be saved. I believe. Now I will be baptized when I hit the water. Please, save me".

Well I survived. And I survived many other things. I ended up here in Riga where my wife was from and where my children live. I met old army friends, many now alcoholics. But I couldn't find anyone who could tell me about the Bible. Until I met Viktor. He told me about the ecclesia, gave me Bible Basics and Duncan's phone number. And so I started attending. After some time I heard the weekend of talks by Brother Colin Green about "Faith". I took each word to heart, although I think I knew all he said. But it became ordered in my mind. I knew all these years I must be baptized. So after the breaking of bread on the Sunday I asked for baptism, agreed to meet for discussion later in the week, and now, shy as I am for my sins, I have been baptized, been forgiven, and can't wait till Christ returns.



*Vladimir [left in all photos] and his friend Bro Viktor reading the Bible together at the Riga Bible Centre; the baptism; welfare parcels from brethren in Canada which we shared with our brethren.*

### **Winter Welfare**

This Winter is one of the hardest yet faced by many of our brethren and sisters in Eastern Europe, and we are distributing aid and funds quite widely. We just had an email from a brother who's a schoolteacher, lamenting that he just got his heating bill and it comes to almost his entire salary. We mourn the falling asleep in Christ of brother Peteris in his remote rural home in Eastern Latvia. Peteris was baptized in 1993 and brought over 20 people to baptism in his time in Christ. Beset by various serious illnesses, the hard Winter was too much for him and he now rests from his labours. Many who have visited Latvia will remember his home, accessible only by tracks and around 7 km from the nearest road and 15 km from the nearest shop.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been distributing firewood, medicines, food and clothing throughout Eastern Europe, along with cash assistance to pay heating and utilities bills; all assisted are really so appreciative of your support.

### **Learning From Noash's Ark**

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead: it was not raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit when you are 60 years old. God may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground: that is, a solid foundation of faith.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed is not an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you are stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the ark was built by amateurs and it saved life.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God there is always a rainbow waiting.

*Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)*

## **No Lane Excuses, Brothers & Sisters**

When things go wrong, for some it seems an excuse that God does not love us or listen to our pleas for help when we are troubled. Inability to service hire purchase bills, school fees and other utility bills, one blames on a loveless God.

Yet the God we glorify is a living and loving God. The one thing that we know for sure is that God's time is the only time and the best time. He gives to whom He wills and takes away from whom He wills. He allows it to rain even in the field of robbers, prostitutes, the righteous and the unrighteous.

Now let us look at some inspiring Bible characters who stood the test of time and defied lame excuses to do great works for the Lord:

1. Abraham was too old for anything yet he was a righteous man who was used by God, had a son in old age, was called a friend of God and it was credited to him as righteousness.
2. Joseph was young and abused by his own brothers, and his father thought he was just a day dreamer, yet he ruled Pharaoh's household. He also fed the whole of his family during the famine years.
3. Rahab was a prostitute, yet she saved men of God from imminent death.
4. David pretended to be mad, had an affair and ran away from his own son, yet he asked for forgiveness and was promised a seed who would rule over his household.
5. John the Baptist ate locusts yet he preached Christ crucified.
6. Naomi was a widow yet she believed in God.
7. Job was bankrupted, suffered untold pains and losses, yet he did not dishonour God
8. The disciples fell asleep while praying, but they did not abandon Jesus. They continued to preach.

These are some Bible characters, who could have made excuses yet God continued to use them. The next time you think you have an excuse for not obeying/serving God, remember the above and many others like them.

*Bro Itai Temb (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)*

## **Slowly But Surely (Faith of a Canaanite woman, Matthew 15:21-28)**

May all brothers and sisters take an example from the Canaanite woman who exercised great faith in the face of great trials and temptations, despite being discouraged by the disciples. She cried out, "Son of David, have mercy on me". The Canaanite woman did not give in to despair and defeat, because she had a vision from her very positive faith. (So let us press on as given in Phil 3:12-14, until we take hold of it. Christ loves those who have their vision; the Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish.") Remember, our vision is our weapon, our direction, our path and our strength.

The Canaanite woman was not put off by the cold treatment of the disciples. She did not change her character of love and perseverance. She remained focused slowly and surely, not dejected. As Christians, we children of God must likewise exercise and possess these characteristics. The kingdom of God is not for those in a hurry; here the woman was slow, sure and persistent. Let us change our attitudes, stop rushing, stop worrying, (Luke 12:22-31). There is a time for everything (Ecc 3:8).

The woman had the following characteristics: love, patience, faith, forbearance and perseverance. She knew without doubt that what she was asking was coming, slowly and surely. We are being exhorted. Whatever we are asking for, we must not give up. Keep on pressing and it will come slowly and surely. The woman had knowledge that of wisdom and understanding for she knew that man reaps what he sows. On this occasion she saw youth, love, patience, perseverance and forbearing in Christ. By saying "Have mercy on me, Son of David", she did not limit Jesus. All she wanted was deliverance for her daughter. Are we focused on our visions, dreams, talents like this woman? She knew very well that Jesus was the turning point.

The greatest lesson we can learn is that Jesus eliminated the element of racial discrimination. In origin the woman was a stranger to the commonwealth of Israel, she was not Jewish. Jesus demonstrated that his ministry was not "For the Jews only but also for the Gentiles" (ie everyone who calls on the name of the Lord, Rom 10:13).

*Bro John Wilo Wise (Mazowe, Zimbabwe)*

### **God Takes and Gives**

Thanks be to my husband, Joshua, who introduced me to the Christadelphians, I now understand the scriptures very well.

When my one and only child, a son, Zadok, Mukarati, was taken away from me, it was easy to understand that God had taken away the flower that He had given me. It was a flower which was allowed to bloom for seven years. "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6) meaning that the children we have are a blessing from God.

God is the one who gives life and He is also the one who kills. "See now that I myself am he; there is no God besides me. I put to death and I bring to life. I have wounded and I will heal and no-one can deliver out of my hand" (Deut 32:39).

Before I became a Christadelphian, I thought Satan was the root of all evils. But now I know that God does everything for a purpose. When the time comes, there is nothing a human being can do. During the time of Moses, the firstborn were killed, "When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animals.

Let us not cry 'Foul'. God has a purpose for all of us. Let us pray that we will be able to meet with our beloved ones in the kingdom of God. What is important is to follow the path of truth and righteousness. BEWARE: follow God's ways.



*Sis Rosemary, Bro Joshua Mukarati and the late Zadok when young*

*Sis Rosemary Mukarati (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Unjust Judge**

In Luke ch18, there is the story known as the parable of the unjust judge. (A parable is a story that illustrates a point.) This parable concerns a widow who pleaded for a judge to recognize her claim. According to the parable, the judge was 'callous' (ie feeling no pity or sympathy) and the parable may have been based on a well-recognized local character (and, of course, there may be judges like him in the congregations today). The widow's persistence overcame him and he finally complied with her request. This judge had no fear for God and no respect for man (Luke 18:1-15). When we think of the unjust judge, it is of someone who is unfair in his judgement, one who bullies witnesses and one who tries to get innocent men convicted – just like a free man, Jesus Christ, who was convicted for no legal reason.

Now, we would never accuse God of being like that, would we? Think again. In Revelation we read of some martyrs who are crying out to the Lord: "How long, O Lord, are you refraining from judging and avenging our blood upon those who dwell on the earth?" These were Christian martyrs – people who were put to death for their faith, certainly they are included among the saved. I can give a real example of Bro. Faris of Afghanistan who was brutally murdered (beheaded) with a spade by his father-in-law, three days after conversion.

But Jesus spoke this illustration also to some who trusted that they were righteous and who considered the rest as nonentities. Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and began to pray these things to himself, "O Lord, I thank you I am not as the other men, extortionists, unrighteous, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and give the tenth of all things I acquire". But the tax collector, standing at a distance, was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward but kept beating his breast, saying, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus here says that the tax collector proved himself more righteous than the Pharisee, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. In this way, 'A Christian looks at the wise judgement'.

People who think that they are entirely in the right are usually eager for a chance to prove it. However, they may have deceived themselves in thinking they were so righteous. But let us bear in mind that God's judgement will end the injustice, the suffering and the uncertainty that are part of life in a lawless world. We look forward to the result of this judgement, and we should. The final judgement will include a clear statement as to who is in the right and who is in the wrong. Believing that we will be justified, we are to look forward to that. Everyone will eventually have to acknowledge God's power, His wisdom and His goodness.

Now, what about those of us who have a less than perfect record? Does any human being in fact have a perfect record? "No-one is righteous, no, not one" (Rom 3:10). The only way we can look forward to the judgement with assurance is to accept divine grace – grace that covers our past sins, grace that enables us to live a new life in Christ.

Some day the judgement which the widow demanded and which the martyrs cried out for, will take place. When it does take place, we will be asked, 'What is your claim to be admitted to the kingdom of God?' The reply, 'I am trying to cling on to Jesus Christ'. Those who are righteous in

their own eyes, and think they are ready for the judgement should be careful about demanding justice. They may get it, but it may not be what they expect. If God judges any human being purely on the basis of his past record, he would have no chance. In view of this, what we all need is mercy.

One of the problems with us human beings is that we tend to be either unjustly merciful or unmercifully just. God blends these two contrasting qualities perfectly. His judging of human beings, whether saints or sinners, is both just and merciful. Let us remember that the delay we find so hard to bear is for our benefit, as well as for the benefit of those who have not yet made decisions. God's 'delay' is designed to develop patience in us. God is even more concerned. He is not like the unjust judge of the parable, who could sit in his fine house and enjoy life without regard to the just claim of the widow. It is not that God needs to be reminded to answer our petitions, but our very persistence in asking, can bring us to the point where God can answer our prayers. The delay may seem hard, but the end is worth it. If we look beyond the delay which we find so distressing, to Christ, we will discover that the delay is easier to bear. God is merciful, slow to anger, abundantly loving, omnipresent and omniscient.

*Bro James Kambobe (Kazembe, Zambia)*

### **Peter's Confession (Matt.16:13-20)**

The acknowledgement of Peter that Jesus was the Messiah ('Messiah' is Hebrew and 'Christ' is from the Greek – they both mean 'Anointed One') and the Son of God brought forth the statement of v.18. This has been used by the Roman Catholics to assert that their church was founded by Peter and is therefore, Christ's church. From v.19 they also claim that when sins are confessed to one of their 'priests' they can be forgiven.

The first claim is based on something which cannot be proved, namely that Peter was ever in Rome and that he founded a church there. To support the claim they teach that Simon's name was here changed to Peter (meaning a stone) and that when Jesus said, "Upon this rock will I build my church" he implied that it should be built upon Peter. But the Greek words are not quite the same. The first – petros- means 'a little stone', and the second – petra – means 'a Rock'. Moreover, Jesus did not here name Simon by the name Peter. It was already his name (Matt.4:18). Jesus made a "play" upon the name by commending Peter for his true understanding of his position as the anointed Son of God, and stating that this true understanding (the confession) was the foundation of his church or ecclesia (called out ones).

It is clear that this is so, for the New Covenant is centred in Christ and rests upon the fact that Christ was a son of man through Mary (and could therefore die) and yet Son of God because God was his Father (Luke 1:35) and "without sin", so that "death could not hold him". The gates of the grave (the Bible "hell") could not prevail against him and now Christ has the keys of death and the grave (Rev.1:18) and can unlock it. Moreover, "the keys" were not given exclusively to Peter (Matt.18:18). Both Peter and the apostles used these keys when preaching the Gospel first to Israel, and then to the Gentiles (Acts 1:8).

*Bro. W. Mitchell (UK)*

## **Developing Habits**

Watching a football match played by professionals can be a delight; it appears effortless. Yet no-one can ignore that the ability is only acquired through many years of regular and consistent practice. An athlete displays the same ease and familiarity in their particular sphere, with graceful movement resulting from constant and devoted training. The commitment given by musicians and sportsmen to their pursuits can be almost religious in its fervour; their whole way of life is given over to a pursuit of perfection in their particular field.

We are reminded of the Olympic Games first held in Athens whenever we see the modern Games. They were already in existence when the New Testament was being written. Nowadays, sportsmen and sportswomen from all round the world have focused their minds on the challenge ahead in order to take part, and stick rigidly to a strict timetable in order to ensure that they reach the peak of fitness and ability when the Games are held.

Yet that same athletic world seems very different if he or she has not been able to practice or train over a long period of time. Skills quickly grow rusty, the body loses its agility; ease and grace are replaced by awkwardness and unfamiliarity. Only a period of hard work and diligent application will restore the abilities that once seemed so effortless.

The apostle Paul used the example of the athlete to stress the importance of the single-minded dedication required of those who yearn for an everlasting reward. "Every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown: but we an incorruptible" (1 Cor 9:25). Is it possible therefore that there are also spiritual lessons to be learned from such dedication when it is no longer applied? Our familiarity with scripture and the message of God's word will soon grow rusty through lack of diligence given to reading and meditating on its wonders. Unfortunately, this can be seen in the brother or sister who begins to spend more time on other things, perhaps because of commitments and responsibilities in workplace or family.

As less time is spent in godly pursuits, more time is available during which the temptations of the world can exert great pressures. Jesus said that a man's treasure is where his heart is (Matt 6:21), and he was warning against allowing our hearts to be drawn aside to other things.

The apostle made it abundantly clear to the Hebrews: "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together" (Heb 10:25). Indeed, every opportunity for meeting one's brethren and sisters should be grasped with both hands, particularly in view of the imminent return of our Lord. There is also a further difference. The Lord has promised to be with, and to support, his disciples at all times: "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world" (Matt 28:20). A greater consciousness of the nearness of our Lord would surely make a difference.

*Bro David & Sis Jacklyne Wanjala(Makonye, Kenya)*

## **Revelation 17, Part 2 - The Scarlet Coloured Beast**

Having considered in part 1 the significance of the great whore we now consider the scarlet coloured beast on which the whore was sitting. It is described as having seven heads and ten horns (17:3). These features are identified for us in verses 9-11; "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth." (v.9) "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one

is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh he must continue a short space. (v.10)  
And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.” (v.11)

### **A comparison with Daniel’s prophecy**

In Daniel 7 four beasts are described, a lion, a bear, a leopard and an unnamed fourth beast. These follow a similar sequence to the four metals mentioned in the image described in chapter 2. The gold, silver, brass and iron represented the Babylonian, Persian, Grecian and Roman empires. By this comparison it is suggested that the four beasts also represented the same empires, the fourth identified as the Roman. This beast is said to have ten horns (Dan.7:7). The beast of Revelation 17 also had ten horns; it would therefore also represent the Roman Empire.

In Rev.17:11 quoted above, it is said of the Beast that it “was, and is not, even he is the eighth”, that is, the eighth head. In this reference, therefore, the beast is identified also as the eighth head. The historical fulfillment of this we hope to give later on.

### **The Seven Heads**

Referring again to verses 9 and 10 we are informed that the seven heads are ‘seven kings’, meaning that there would be seven phases in the government of the Roman Empire. The historian Tacitus identified six of these as follows: Regal, Consular, Dictatorial, Decemviral, Tribunitian and Imperial. History verifies, therefore, that in the days of John “five (heads) are fallen, one is (the Imperial phase) and the other not yet come.”(v.10)

The seventh head was Gothic and was established in the 5th century. This change came about when Germanic tribes from the north invaded the Roman Empire. The first of these Barbarians was Alaric, king of the Goths who besieged and sacked Rome in 410. In 476 another Barbarian king named Odoacer fought against and defeated the emperor in Rome and took his place, thus marking the beginning of the seventh head. Later, another Barbarian, Theoderic – King of the Ostrogoths, fought against and deposed Odoacer and took possession of the whole of Italy. Concerning this seventh head, the text says, “and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” (v.10)

Theoderic reigned over the Popes of Rome but he had many enemies. After a long war the Gothic kingdom was brought to an end in 553; the Roman Senate was abolished and authority was retrieved by the Emperor in Constantinople. Thus the short space of the Gothic head existed from AD476 to 553.

Lastly, verse 11 has “And the beast that was (the imperial sixth head) and is not (because overthrown by the Gothic kingdom) even he is the eighth (head) and is of the seven and goeth into perdition.”

Eventually the Popes of Rome restored the imperial constitution in the west when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as Emperor in AD800. This event illustrates the way the Popes of Rome had begun to arrogate to themselves power to crown kings or depose them.

### **The ten horns**

The ten horns represent ten kingdoms which were established on Roman territory during the time when the Gothic head held sway. The victorious conquests of the Barbarian kings, Alaric, Odoacer and Theoderic encouraged other tribes from the north to follow and settle where they could. A list of these settlers as submitted by Brother John Thomas was as follows; Huns,

Vandals, Visigoths, Burgundians, Gepidae, Lombards, Franks, Suevi, Alans and Bavarians. These people adopted the Roman Catholic religion and recognised the authority of the emperor in Constantinople. Their measure of independence effectively brought to an end the mighty power of the Roman Empire possessed during its Imperial phase.

### **Developments in the last days**

To return to our text, we have extended it as follows, “The ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings which have received no kingdom as yet (with authority from the Pope) but they receive power (Gk. Authority) as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength (Gk. Authority) unto the beast.” (v.12-13)

Although in the past the Popes used their power to elect kings, in AD 1870 they lost this power together with their power to persecute dissenting Christians. In more recent times, however, the Catholic Church had been regaining some of her former power and has been encouraging the European States, the horns, to unite to form a European State. In this organisation she would be recognised and accepted as the authorised church.

The beginning of this movement began in 1957 when the Treaty of Rome was signed by six states to further this European unity. More recently the Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992, furthering the aim of a European Union and in December 2007 the Treaty of Lisbon established an enlarged European Union of 25 countries having a single currency; in this way fulfilling verse 13, “These have one mind, and shall give their power and authority unto the beast.”

### **The Advent of the King of Kings**

We are informed also that, “these (horns) shall make war with the Lamb and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” (v.14)

It is evident, then, that at this time the Lord Jesus will have returned with power and great glory (Matt.24:30). The prophecy in Zechariah, chapters 12 and 14 describe how the Lord Jesus will return to the Jews when they are being besieged by hostile nations and will rescue them from defeat in Jerusalem (Zec.14:3, 12:8). He will then be reconciled to these Jews (12:10-14) and be accepted as their long-awaited Messiah. The Lord Jesus is not only the King of the Jews (Matt.27:11, 37) but is also to be ‘King of kings’ by setting up and establishing the Kingdom of God.

Consequently, these horn kingdoms, now united as the European Union, will have to submit to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ enthroned in Jerusalem. With the ‘great whore’ sitting on the ten-horned beast, one can readily understand why the European Union, dominated by the Catholic Church, will resist the claims of the Lord Jesus. “They will make war with him and the Lamb shall overcome them (v.14) for he is Lord of lords and King of kings: and they that are with him are called and chosen and faithful”. (v,14) These are the saints who will have been raised, judged and made equal unto the angels (Matt.25:31,37 and Luke 20:36).

### **The Horns reject the Whore**

The next development is given in verse 16, “These (horns) shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will...”

This remarkable change of attitude by the Horns towards the Great Whore must be due to a good reason. It could well be because they have come to realise how much they have been deceived. In the past, the Catholic Church, in order to avoid the charge of being the Anti-Christ, invented the story that the Anti-Christ will appear on the world's stage in the future; that one reigning from Jerusalem will make false claims to being the Messiah but is actually the 'Anti-Christ'! At last the truth of the matter will come out and the Catholic Church will be revealed as the great deceiver. Not only will she be seen as a deceiver but her teaching will be seen to be erroneous, her morals profane and she had robbed the poor of the little they had by fictitious claims of being able to deliver their 'souls' from the pains of purgatory for a fee!

Being this disenchanted, these one-time devotees of the Church, being angry, will give vent to their fury upon her. Chapter 18 fills out some details of the judgements which one day will surely bring God's vengeance upon her. When Rome's dominance is ended, God's righteous kingdom, reigned over by the Lord Jesus Christ, will flourish and give glory to God "as the waters cover the sea." (Heb.2:14)



*Artist's impression of Rev 17*

*Bro. Ralph Green, (Torquay, UK)*

### **Seeking Knowledge & Wisdom**

Faith comes by hearing and understanding God's words. We are encouraged that faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26). But I really want to talk about someone whom I always regard as a good seeker of knowledge and wisdom. Among the twelve disciples of our Lord Jesus I have chosen Simon Peter because of his activities during his life with Jesus until Jesus' ascent into heaven.

When Jesus started his ministry he called his disciples to follow him. The first disciples he called were Simon and his brother Andrew, while they were casting their net into the sea of Galilee. When Jesus saw them he said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Simon Peter later had his name changed to Peter. Peter willingly followed Jesus without worrying about his nets left in the sea. He heartily wanted to hear the good news of salvation, and left not only his nets, but his family and all his household to seek knowledge. Peter put his heart into following Jesus at all times. Whenever Jesus asked how the disciples responded to his teaching, Peter was the first to answer. Peter was the first to ask questions. Jesus loved Peter, for Peter was not shy or fearful.

On one occasion, Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said to him, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah and others that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then when he asked them again, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter was the first to answer him that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is

in heaven” (Luke 9:18-20; Matt 16:13-20). Truly, Peter, for his effort to seek knowledge, was accepted by the heavenly Father to be faithful.

On another occasions, Peter would not keep silent but asked, “Rabbi, what is the meaning of your saying?” and Jesus was happy to answer him and teach him the word of God. Peter’s mind was no longer set on his family and his nets because his mind was touched by the good news of the kingdom of God. Peter’s trust in Jesus continued to grow and he became the recognized spokesman for his fellow disciples.

Once when Jesus walked on the sea Peter said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus. But his faith lessened, when he saw the wind and waves, and he began to sink and he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and took hold of him. The Lord said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matt 14:22-23). But notice that it was Peter who had sufficient faith to walk on the water to his Lord. Truly, whenever we trust in the Lord, He will help. Do things in confidence and faith in the Lord; say, ‘The Lord will help me’ because, of course, he does – so do not let us doubt him.

In my mind I always view Peter as a steadfast man of courage. I sometimes ask myself if I can match even a quarter of his faith. Nevertheless, only the Lord Jesus himself knows what he chooses for me.

On another occasion when Jesus taught the word of eternal life, many disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “Do you want to go away as well?” Peter was the first to answer him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life and we have believed and have come to know that you are the holy one of God” (John 6:60-71). We can see that, by this answer, Peter was troubled in his mind, but when there was the choice of earthly life and eternal life, he certainly chose eternal life. Peter was not a clever disciple, but he loved Jesus and Jesus loved him.

On the day of the betrayal of Jesus, Peter wanted to die with him but his initial willingness was not part of God’s plan. Jesus replied, “Peter, you will deny me three times before the cock crows”. But Peter made an effort to defend his Master, and drawing his sword, he struck at the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear (the servant’s name was Malchus). On this occasion, Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” (John 18:10-11).

Peter tried to follow Jesus when he entered the court of the high priest. As he stood outside the door, a servant girl who kept watch at the door said to him, “You also are one of this man’s disciples,?” Another later said, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” This was Peter’s final denial, and at once a rooster crowed. When Jesus gazed at him, he remembered the saying of his Lord, and went out and wept bitterly. Poor Peter had tried to die with the Lord, but had temporarily lost his faith when temptation entered into him. He was afterwards troubled in heart and repented. This was truly a very hard temptation for a person born with human nature to overcome. He was now actually afraid of losing his life for his Lord.

Likewise, on the day of transfiguration. It was Peter who spoke to his Master: “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”, not knowing what he was saying (Luke 8:28-36). There were so many events involving Jesus and Peter during the ministry of Jesus, whereby Peter gained his knowledge and faith.

At the time of the resurrection of Jesus, when the women went to the tomb and found that Jesus was raised, they went to his disciples, telling them that he had risen. Peter was the first to run past the other disciple to the tomb.

After Jesus' ascent into heaven, Peter was blessed with the task of encouraging all the believers, he was given a talent for preaching the good news of the gospel of the Kingdom of God on earth.

When Jesus said farewell to Peter, he said to him, "Simon son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?" Peter said to him "Yes, Lord: you know that I love you." The Lord said to him, "Feed my lambs". The Lord asked him a second time the same question, and Peter answered him with the same words. And a third time, he asked him the same question. Peter was very grieved. I hope that later in his life, he looked back to the time when he denied his Master three times; finally he said to his Lord, "Lord you know everything. You know that I love you". Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:15-19). At this time Peter became free and happy in his heart.

As I said earlier, in my own mind I call him a good disciple, a man who sought truth, knowledge, faith, love and wisdom. From the beginning of the Lord's three year ministry we find Peter as the spokesman for his fellow disciples and all believers. We can see Peter's permanent faith through all the rest of his life until his death.

In Acts we find him working hard preaching and healing the sick. On one occasion Paul had to oppose Peter, but this was an isolated incident, Peter did not worry about it and he carried on with the Lord's work. In his two letters to the believers he provided food for the spirit with much encouragement: he was brave and steadfast. I wonder how many of us are following Peter's works in faith? Let us pray hard to seek knowledge and faith through our Lord Jesus Christ. He will help us to be strengthened in the right path as we make our journey towards the Kingdom of God on earth. I beg you to pray for me, as I meet some temptations in different ways. The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you all.

*Bro Maxwell Mlakah (Ruwa, Zimbabwe)*

### **Use Adversity as a Means to Grow**

If the Christian faith were able to guarantee that once it was accepted it would bring release from all temptation and hardship, every one would wish to make it their own. Christ and his teaching make no such promise. Indeed, while Christ offered his disciples a new relationship with God, he made it perfectly clear that they would be tempted and experience times of difficulty and hardship.

One of the glorious themes of New Testament Christianity is that through adversity the disciple will grow in grace, and in greater understanding of his Master. The Christian is even urged to rejoice when the way is rough, for in every adverse situation it is possible to prove the all-sufficiency of God.

To be able to confront every difficult situation without squirming or running away requires a positive faith in the purpose and goodness of God. This necessitates a confidence in the living Christ that transcends the fear of the unknown, or of what might happen, and enables followers of Christ to experience the inner joy that comes from living in harmony with their Lord. It is true that if as a Christian, you can grow in spirit when confronted with difficulties and temptations,

and your adversities are endured in a positive and constructive way, you will be drawn into a deeper understanding and love for your Lord.

*Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **Prophetic Accuracy**

The accuracy of God's prophecies keep on amazing me. I would like to draw out a few examples.

Joshua pronounced a curse when the Israelites destroyed the city Jericho, this curse was on anyone who rebuilt the city: "Cursed before the Lord is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: 'At the cost of his first born son will he lay its foundation; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates.'" (Joshua 6:26).

We also read: "In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the Lord spoken by Joshua son of Nun" (1 Kings 16:34). Probably those who followed this prophecy came to realize the truthfulness of it all.

We read that "Elisha said, 'Hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord says, About this time tomorrow, a seah (about 7 litres) of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel'. The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, 'Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?' 'You will see it with your own eyes' answered Elisha, 'but you will not eat any of it. (2 Kings 7:1,2). And in 2 Kings 7:17,18, "Now the king had put the officer on whose arm he leaned in charge of the gate, and the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died just as the man of God had foretold when the king came down to his house. It happened as the man of God had said to the king: 'About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria".

What had been said to Elisha came to pass exactly. So the hand of God was at work. God works for those who truly believe him. No human prophecy can predict exact outcomes. There may be coincidences here and there but that is not true about the work of God.

There are also several predictions which have been said and come to pass. We have Pharaoh's dreams interpreted by Joseph and were fulfilled. In the same way, we have Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream and coming to pass as was said. We also have prophecies on the birth of Christ being fulfilled at his birth. Also included are those of his sufferings due to torture prior to his crucifixion. There are many more that are the works of God which are fulfilled without any doubt.

*Bro Alexio Kajowe (Harare, Zimbabwe)*

### **Jacob's Ladder**

“I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised” (Gen 28:15). Jacob was on the way to Haran, for him a completely new and strange country. All that he had loved and known was now a thing of the past. He had left his beloved mother, a deceived father, a brother ready to kill him. Truly, Jacob has reasons to feel lonely and insecure.

As night approached, he found no shelter, so he selected a stone to serve as a pillow, and went to sleep under the open heaven. During the night he had a very vivid dream: he saw a ladder reaching into heaven and angels of God ascending and descending on it. The Lord himself appeared above it talking to him, promising to lead and protect him.

Although Jacob had acted very deceitfully before his father, and so before God, the Lord did not leave him or denounce him. The foundation for the covenant God had established with Abraham, the grandfather of Jacob, was not resting on human abilities or perfection. It was a covenant of grace. And so Jacob’s transgression could not make void this covenant, even though his deceit brought him grief and suffering on earth.

The ladder Jacob saw in his dream was like a bridge between heaven and earth and it was used by the angels ascending to and descending from heaven. This ladder is an illustration of Jesus who, through his life, his suffering, and his resurrection is the connection between heaven and earth. Through him, we have access to God’s mercy and possibilities to communicate with our Heavenly Father. Through Jesus, God’s wonderful promises are fulfilled. As Jesus pleased his Father in everything, all those believing in Jesus are acceptable before God as His beloved children to whose service God sends His holy angels to protect and care for them.

The ‘ladder’—Jesus—reached into heaven, and he is the means by which all who believe the true gospel and are baptized can attain to heavenly glory on earth.

Jacob sinned in cheating his father by saying that he was Esau to obtain the blessing. We also, as true Christians fail and can receive the same forgiveness of sins and blessing. It is high time to repent and be baptized as we wait for our Lord to establish his kingdom here on earth. Amen



*Bro Benjamine Mwatu and Bro Samuel Msawa*

*Bro Benjamine Mwatu (Suna, Kenya)*

### **Christ Selects Seventy to Help Him**

Why did the Lord select seventy instead of any other number? I suggest that seventy was the number of descendants of Jacob who went into Egypt, the land of Gentiles. This small number was multiplied into a nation, “Your forefathers who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky” (Deut 10:17-22

and see Gen 46: 27; Ex 1:5). When the Lord Jesus sent out the seventy, I suggest he had this in mind, to have a nation of faithful people.

Seventy was the number of bullocks slain and burnt during the feast of tabernacles which Jesus had just attended. This seven-day feast of the seventh month, also called 'ingathering', was the final feast of the year and coincided with the end of the harvest. It spoke of the harvest resulting from seven thousand years of labour, when God will gather all nations to himself and is the feast which all nations will keep in the millennium (Num 29:12-40; Ex 23:16; Deut 16:13; Zech 14:16). So, accordingly, in Jesus' mind, seventy is the number which speaks of God's purpose to enlighten all nations with His truth. A lesson which had been forgotten by the Pharisees who were claiming to be the torch-bearers of the truth; Israel as a nation had already forgotten this.

God called Israel His 'firstborn'. This should have been enough to tell Israel that God intended to have a whole family of nations who would recognize Him as their father. But Israel mistook God's selection of them: to preach the gospel to other nations certainly did not mean that they should keep the gospel to themselves. So by sending out the seventy, Christ was reminding them that they should have been enlightening the other nations with the glory of God's word. A lesson that we should learn, not to confine the gospel to ourselves but to preach it.

(Note: "Nazareth Revisited" by Robert Roberts, chapter 23, is helpful.)

*Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)*

### **Our Refugee Brethren – Thought Motivating Action**

Keeping constantly in our thoughts and prayers people, especially our brethren, in the Refugee Camps, confronting the stark quality of their life - by remembering, for instance, their sleeping condition whenever we retire for the night in our warm beds; many sleep in crowded conditions, probably on damp earthen floors, under leaky roofs. Enjoying our meal at family gatherings or ecclesial luncheons, how many have even enough food to eat – parents distressingly aware that their children are still hungry after a meal? Parents, planning your children's education, when those parents have absolutely no hope of any academic help for their children, hence no idea of their future. We must not think that this is the kind of life to which these people are accustomed, and therefore they will not be affected. No, as human beings, they are no different. One brother, who providentially, was able to get out of one of these camps told me that many of the people in the camps came from well established comfortable homes with good living conditions, having to run for their lives leaving their belongings behind. What a drastic change in their lifestyle – now living under these horrible conditions - with no hope of relief in sight! Those with bewildered young children, suddenly in the midst of a corrupt and immoral environment created by the circumstances around them, not understanding the sudden change in their lives? Can we then just think of this situation and turn away without attempting to do what we possibly can to change their circumstances?

Many of them are God's children, who, like us, have chosen his offer of eternal life, striving towards his coming Kingdom. They are our brethren, whose problems, especially in this very distressing situation, should be ours as well, motivating hands-on involvement. In this situation, what would our Heavenly Father have us do? Are we giving any thought to

this? Considering the odds against us, if we are depending on our own strength, realistically we can do very little, not knowing how or where to start. So how do we handle this matter?

Our Heavenly Father has provided the following example for us: Israel, confronted with a very difficult challenge, against a very powerful nation, wondered, like us, “Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.”(Deut. 1: 28)– the same situation, where we, too, feel woefully inadequate in our problem. God understands and in His word He is trying to still our fears, encouraging us, as he did them: 29 “... Dread not, neither be afraid of them. v30 The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; and in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place”. Yes, God has likewise liberated us in our day, spiritually, from the power of sin and death, by offering up his son, and is still bearing us throughout our various fleshly encounters, to His Kingdom. He fought this battle for us, and will do the same for us in our present challenge with regard to our suffering brethren. So, aware of their horrible suffering, let us not turn away or give up in helpless hopelessness, but keep thinking of them, asking our Heavenly Father to show, guide and empower us to do our best for them. Surely, this way, we cannot remain inactive, and he will move us in the right direction.

Our goal is to initiate an ongoing programme to resettle our brethren, restoring some measure of comfort and hope. May our Heavenly Father instill in us the faith and compassion to work with our suffering brethren.

*Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)*

### **How Could David Be Called ‘A Man After God’s Own Heart’**

A man after God’s own heart is a man who answers to the definition given by God Himself: “This one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word” (Isaiah 66:2). God’s word commands the profoundest reverence and regard, and when convinced of wrongdoing, a person must be penitent to the utmost abasement. For example, when rebuked by Nathan for killing Uriah the Hittite because of Bathsheba his wife, David, though a king of Israel, confessed and forsook his sins (2 Samuel 12:13).

Brethren and sisters, there is a lesson for us here. Let us learn what king David left for us: what Shimei did for him (2 Samuel 16:5-8) and the advice of Abishai, son of Zeruiah (2 Samuel 16:9). Remember David’s words (2 Samuel 16:10).

Remember also what Absalom, his own son, did when he followed Ahithophel’s advice (2 Samuel 16:21,22), by lying with his father’s concubines before all Israel, but despite all this, what was David’s command toward Absalom (2 Samuel 18:13), and when he died (2 Samuel 18:33).

Also king David had a chance to kill Saul (1 Samuel 26:9-11), if he followed Abishai’s advice. Why did he not do it? Because Saul was the Lord’s anointed.

But even though David was the king of Israel, he confessed and forsook his sins. Towards God, he was “as a little child” while towards man he was “a mighty man of valour”. Thus he was a man after God’s own heart.

In considering his directions to Solomon concerning Shimei, Joab, etc, it must be remembered that king David sat in the seat of judgement for God, and the men in question had sinned against God in the matters of their offence.

If David had been personally vindictive, he would not have spared them as he did. As absolute monarch of Israel under God, he had the authority and power to take away their lives, which he would have done if characterised by the disposition suggested in the question. Instead of that, he allowed them to live as long as he himself was alive, but left the judicial punishment of their crimes to the wisdom of Solomon.

*Bro Walter Wanyama Wasike (Mombasa, Kenya)*

### **“As for Me ... I Will Serve the Lord”**

The last words of Joshua were “As for me, and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). Joshua was going the way of all flesh, and he wanted the people to make up their own minds and not to halt between two opinions. “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt, and serve ye the Lord. And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell.” They could not serve both. Joshua said, “Ye cannot serve God and mammon”.

But Joshua did not leave the people without an example to follow. He set the tone, he set the example, “As for me (in contrast to what others may do) I and my house will serve the Lord.” Never mind what others do, whether in their thousands or ten thousands. “As for me” confirms the importance of free will, and the opportunity to make up one’s own mind, and choose the right path. This simple, individual response encapsulates the spirit and the mind of Christ.

*Bro John Muyala (Nalonde, Kenya)*

### **Who Will Go for Us?**

This is the question God put to Isaiah in a vision, with full expectation of a positive response. It was obviously an invitation to Isaiah to take up the herculean task of being God’s spokesman to apostate Israel. In that vision, Isaiah was scared: “Woe to me, I am ruined ...” (Isaiah 6:1-5) he cried, recognizing himself as “a man of unclean lips”, but in the vision had “seen the Lord Almighty.”

It is an indication of how remorseful and contrite he felt when he saw that contrast between God’s holiness and his sinfulness. Besides, he realized his lack of the attributes befitting the spokesman of such a majestic King.

This lowliness and self-condemnation made God initiate a preparatory phase for His servant. He sent “an angel with a live coal ... touched my mouth” (verses 6,7). Figuratively, fire has purifying power (eg Isaiah 4:4; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:2; 1 Peter 1:7). After applying the “live coal” from the heavenly fire to Isaiah’s lips, the angel assured him that his sins were atoned for (verse 7), so he could stand to obtain God’s favour. Unhesitatingly, Isaiah responded: “Here I am! Send me,” regardless of what the task might entail. He neither asked what he would gain by taking up the assignment nor made excuses for eschewing it.

How heartening this is for us! We, too, are sinful and unworthy to be entrusted with any divine duty. Nevertheless, we’ve been sanctified by the blood of Jesus through faith and baptism into him (Romans 6:3; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27). Thus, we were enabled to approach God’s throne and receive His favour (Hebrews 4:16).

Isaiah’s willing spirit is a nice example for all of us today who have the commission to “go and preach to all nations” (Matthew 28:19), failure to do so may backfire on us. Regrettably, some are engrossed in worldly affairs, neglecting to carry out what has been entrusted to us. We have to stop that neglect (Matthew 24:14) despite the widespread unresponsiveness or resistance. “How can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14).

Thus, the question “Who will go for us?” today is to you and me, to make it a point of responding: “To preach the ‘gospel of the kingdom of God’” knowing that “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” We ignore this at our peril!

*Bro Innocent E’engele (Nairobi, Kenya)*

### **Relate Your Religion to Life**

It is not what you say, or how you argue that is really important, but what you are is of supreme consequence. There are numerous people who use religious phraseology with ease but the ultimate test of any religious belief is the quality of life it produces in the individual and society.

Inner resources and strength: a creative purpose: a natural courtesy to all men: a listening ear: an understanding heart: a mind filled with constructive thoughts: a spirit sensitive to God’s leading: all these, and other similar things, reflect the reality of a vital spiritual faith that can be seen in daily living.

While such treasures are God’s gifts to you, they cannot become effective until you have so accepted them that they are completely integrated into your life. There must be a start to such a life and this start can be dynamic and revolutionary, but after the initial start there must be a process of spiritual growth. Without such growth there can be no spiritual depth or living faith, and everything practised in the name of religion will then carry the stamp of shallowness and insincerity.

To grow in the spirit, so that you can live a practical faith, it is essential that time be spent in the presence of God, so that something of His greatness, creativeness, peace and poise, combined with His other attributes, become yours, in so far as you are able to receive them.

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## **Fellowship**

The term 'fellowship' is as it sounds, and it means having something in common. By reason of knowing and practising God's ways, we have fellowship with Him and with others who are doing the same through being 'in Christ.'

The way which we have to fellowship with others is stated in Hebrews 13:16, Philippians 1:5 and 2:1. The basis is the gospel. Paul speaks of "Fellowship of the spirit" ie fellowship which is based on our common following of the spirit mind of God. Because of this fellowship, there is need to travel great distances to be with others, visit isolated believers and make good use of postal and telephone contact. The greatest expression of our fellowship is found in Acts 2:42,46 and 1 Corinthians 10:16,17.

Fellowship is based upon a common understanding of the true gospel. The more we apply the gospel in our lives, seeking to overcome our sinful tendencies, and the deeper we progress in our understanding of God's word, the deeper our fellowship will be with God, Christ and others.

Our way of life should be in accordance with the principles which are expressed in the true doctrine (1 John 1:5-7; Psalms 119:105; Proverbs 4:18). Fellowship ceases when a believer starts to hold doctrines or a way of life which is openly opposed to Bible teaching (Ephesians 5:11). Efforts should be made to win such people back (Luke 15:1-7; Matthew 18:15-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Those in fellowship are commanded to meet together in "one place" (1 Corinthians 11:20), if distance allows. There ought to be no deviation from this (Hebrews 10:24,25; Psalms 122:1). For where two or three are gathered together in His Name, there He is in the midst of them.

All ecclesias should have the same basic constitution. Each ecclesia is responsible for sound doctrine and conduct among its members. We are in fellowship with those 10,000 miles away to just as great a degree as those with whom we meet weekly. Fellowship has no limits of time and space. It is a high responsibility, a glorious privilege, a joyful and unearthly relationship of minds and hearts united by, and in, the Truth.

*Bro Eric Wamalwa (Bungoma, Kenya)*

## **Faith Breeds Perseverance, Courage & Persistence in Christ (Hab. 3:17-19)**

Habakkuk, the prophet of the Lord, gives us a word picture of how spoilt and desolate the country was after an attack from their enemies. Nothing was left for the people to eat. All their wealth had gone. Still the prophet does not lose heart. His joy remains in the Lord and His provisions. He has riches, not seen by the eye, heavenly riches from which he cannot be bereaved.

The house of a widow had been burnt down completely and with it, all her possessions were turned to ashes. As one of her neighbours came to offer sympathy, she surprised her by saying, "I praise the Lord because my most precious possession did not burn and I can still make use of that." Asked what that possession was, the widow answered, "It is the throne of grace. It is still there and that makes me rich". What a strong faith that woman had!

This old lady had her eye opened to her true riches. She was living by God's grace, love and care. God henceforth provided for her through her friends and relatives. I am telling you, brothers and sisters, God can really provide for your needs in time of trouble. You just need to cling to His word. "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but store for yourselves treasure in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break and steal" (Matt 6:19,20).

Where is your treasure, brother and sister?

*Bro Benjamine Mwatu (Suna-Migori, Kenya)*

## **Nothing But Life Lasts Forever**

We see the flowers blossom and bloom but, alas, they do not stay long. Summer comes and we are greeted with lush greens: trees, flowers, grass and all the crops of the field. Yet in a little while it is all over. Then comes winter. Trees shed their leaves and lose their beauty. To the undiscerning mind, this seems normal routine. When we come to think deeply, we might be tempted to look at life with negative feelings, telling ourselves that there is no need to toil. But the reality of the matter is that we all want to live on and on, hence we plan ahead.

At this juncture, we need to re-focus. Where are we coming from and where are we going? We need not waste life's precious moments, but serve God while we can. We need to seek Him while He is still to be found, for this is the passport to the only thing that lasts for ever: - Everlasting life in God's new Kingdom to come.

Let us look at the captions of the book of Ecclesiastes:

Chapter 1: "Every thing is meaningless": "Wisdom is meaningless".

Chapter 2: "Pleasures are meaningless": "Toil is meaningless".

Chapter 3: "There is a time for everything".

Verse 11 says "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men, yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

Many have innate ambitions, for greater aspirations, a feeling to plan ahead and live on. Yet we ignore God and kiss eternal life goodbye. So here is what we should do to inherit eternal life:

- Take the life you have and give it your best shot
- Think positively, be jolly and let God rule over your life
- Take the challenges that life has laid at your feet, take heart and be thankful to God for everything
- Give your all to Good and know that life can last for ever.

*Bro Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)*

## **Anxiety**

Anxiety is the experience of worry and concern. It is undoubtedly normal that all human beings at times do get possessed by that feeling appropriately and inappropriately. Let us look at the positive and negative side and the cure for anxiety.

### **Appropriate concern**

For family members, eg Luke 2:41-48.

Joseph and Mary had a great concern for Jesus having stayed behind after attending the feast of Passover in Jerusalem. They supposed him to be in the group ahead, and had to search for him among the relatives and acquaintances. At last, after three days, they found him in the temple.

They were astonished to see him after such great distress (verse 48) We, too, can be worried under similar circumstances.

At the thought of having sinned, eg Psalm 139:23,24.

For sure, not only David sinned and felt sorry. We, too, sin and should get worried and seek God's forgiveness and be led to the way everlasting.

For the welfare of other Christians, eg 2 Cor. 11:28,29.

Despite all the sufferings and difficulties that the apostle Paul encountered, in toil and hardship, he had the daily pressure of great concern for all the churches (Christians). Are we today concerned for the welfare of other Christians? I hope we are.

### **Inappropriate concern**

For life's basic necessities eg Matthew 6:25-34

Everyday life needs food, shelter and clothing, but we all know that life is like a vapour and also that life is much more important than these basic needs. God is in control. Remember again that your anxiety cannot add even a single hour to your life span (verse 27: more examples are Ezekiel 4:16,17; Luke 12:22-31).

For some unnecessary things, eg Luke 10:41.

There are some trivial things we need not be anxious about, like Martha.

For cares of this present life, eg Mark 4:18,19.

The cares of this present life and the deceitfulness of riches and the desire for other things can choke us and make us unfruitful. We should be content with the little we have.

To summarize, anxiety makes a man's heart weigh him down, just as the wise man saw (Prov 12:25). There is the cure. We MUST:

- Remove much vexation (Eccl. 11:10; Matt. 6:31)
- Seek God's consolation to remove anxiety (Psalm 94:19)
- Cast all our anxieties on God because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7)
- Above all, offer prayers, supplications and thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)

*Bro Lawrence K'owiti (Katito, Kenya)*

### **Let Us Be Time-Conscious**

We read in Genesis, "So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law who were to marry his daughters, 'Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city' (19:14-19). But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city”. But he lingered, so the men seized him and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out, and they said, ‘Escape for your life’. And Lot said to them, ‘Oh, no, my lords. Behold your servant has found favour in your sight, and you have shown great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills lest the disaster overtake me and I die.’

What we learn from all this is that Lot was warned to escape because the city was going to be destroyed, but he did things slowly, wasting time, until he was brought out by the angels themselves.

In our life we always plan things well but we waste a lot of time postponing things until the next day, next month, next year, till we lose interest in doing something that would perhaps have been very helpful to other people.

Timely planting always gives greater yields in our fields, as it has been said, “The early bird catches the worm” and “A sluggard’s hand will never win the war”. The word of God has warned us to abstain from sin but still look back: “Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, I have no pleasure in them”(Ecc 12:1).

We keep from going to Ecclesial meetings on Sunday giving reasons that we are doing this and that. Let us do timely things without delay, before it’s too late.

*Bro David & Sis Jacklyne Wanjala (Chwele, Kenya)*

### **Grand Blessings from God**

“God will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more” (Revelation 21:3,4). Do you want to live in peace and happiness? Do you desire good health and long life to see wickedness and suffering end? Every honest-hearted person wants these things. But today, in all parts of the earth, violence, wickedness, crime, hunger and sickness are increasing. Why is the world so filled with trouble? What does it all mean? Is there any sound reason to believe that conditions will really get better in our lifetime?

Yes, there is reason for such hope, and it is clearly set out in a book that is published in more languages than any other book in the world. That book is the BIBLE. It tells us of God’s purpose to set up an entirely new system of things for mankind. If you had the power to do so, would you not bring to an end the conditions that cause so much sorrow? Of course you would! Should we think that the Creator of mankind will do any less?

The Bible tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Surely this loving heavenly Father knows what mankind needs. He has the power to fulfil and satisfy those needs and He will most certainly do so: “You are opening your hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing.” (Ps 145:16 and see Deut 32:4).

When will God satisfy man’s desire for true peace and happiness along with lasting health and life? Must mankind wait for thousands of years more? No! The time is near at hand. But how can

this be? Conditions in the world are getting worse not better. True, but the Bible clearly showed long in advance that those very conditions would be proof that we are living in the last days of the present wicked system (2 Tim 3:1-5). Soon the loving Creator will bring to their end both the wickedness and those who cause it. But God will richly bless honest-hearted ones who want to do what is right. The world is passing away and so is its desires but he that does the will of God remains for ever (1 John 2:17).



*Bro Francis Mayende*

*Bro Francis Mayende (Bungoma, Kenya)*

### **A Promise of Peace**

When the people of Noah's day did evil in the eyes of the Lord, He flooded the world and only those people who listened to the words of the Lord given through Noah survived. God was not pleased that the people died, because He really wanted people to live and not to die, so He set the rainbow to be a sign of remembrance. He wanted people to look at the sign, and remember, so that they would avoid destruction again.

The colours of the rainbow are symbolic:

Yellow = Faith

Red = Sin

Green = Eternal life

Blue = Heavenly

Purple = Royalty, a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 4:3; 10:1)

Jesus (royalty) will bring peace to the world, following all the storms and violence of the present age (Isaiah 32:17,18; Psalm 12:6,7). Since no-one really wants to lose this promise, let us hear the call of the Lord, believe in him and repent. Then we will become sons and daughters related to the promises.

Let us not make excuses or give a negative response when we are called. Let us not be like the man who was called in youth and said, "I am young, occupied with work and so I'll think about it when I am older". He was again called in middle age and he replied, "Please, I am busy at home and at work. I cannot neglect my responsibilities. Perhaps when I retire." Finally he was called in old age, and he responded, "I am now old, unable to walk long distances, and unable to read and write for my eyes do not see well." He finally died, denying God's call. Let us avoid that fate but give a quick, positive response to the call. Let us come to God, for God is peace (Judges 6:24).

*Bro Joseph Zishechi (Mhangura, Zimbabwe)*

## Who is My Neighbour?

'Who is my neighbour?' is the million dollar question which needs much meditation for us to grasp.

We look into the Bible to find the meaning: "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord" (Lev 19:18).

Truly, this would be really hard for us because when we talk of loving yourself it comes with a lot of commitment. Everyone wants to dress nicely, eat good food, sleep well, have a nice home, drive a nice car, and have a good job and a smoothly flowing life. However, attaining this for myself leaves no space for me to accommodate my neighbour. But does the Bible say that we have to do the other things: dress, feed, shelter and buy good cars for them? It does say, however, 'love your neighbour'.

Mark gives us the two greatest commandments: "The most important one, answered Jesus, is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord, is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'" So we see that love is what breaks the barriers and, as we practise it, we follow the way of Jesus. Let us look at the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:29-36. We will see that the man who was robbed, the priest and the Levite were all Jews. Surely, they were 'neighbours', but the two both ignored the man who was robbed. When we look at the Samaritan, he must have been a long way from home, and not a Jew, but in the time of need, he offered his help to the desperate man. So we see that although the Samaritan and the robbed man were total strangers, he still offered help. It is not the one who lives close to you who is necessarily the one who offers you a shoulder to lean on in times of distress. "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Luke 10:36,37).

To sum up everything, we look at Romans: "The commandments, do not commit adultery, do not commit murder, do not steal, do not covet and whatever other commandments there may be are summed up in this one rule: Love your neighbour as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law" (Romans 13:9,10).



*A brother in Johannesburg advertising the Truth by putting a poster in the rear windscreen of his car*

*Bro Richard Phiri (Johannesburg, South Africa)*