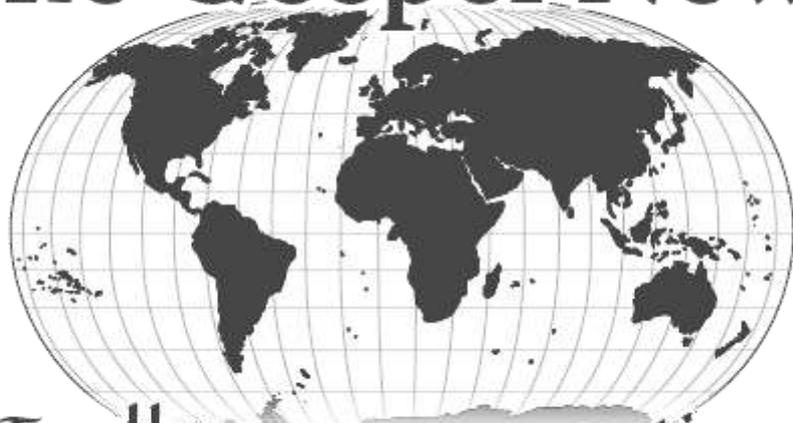
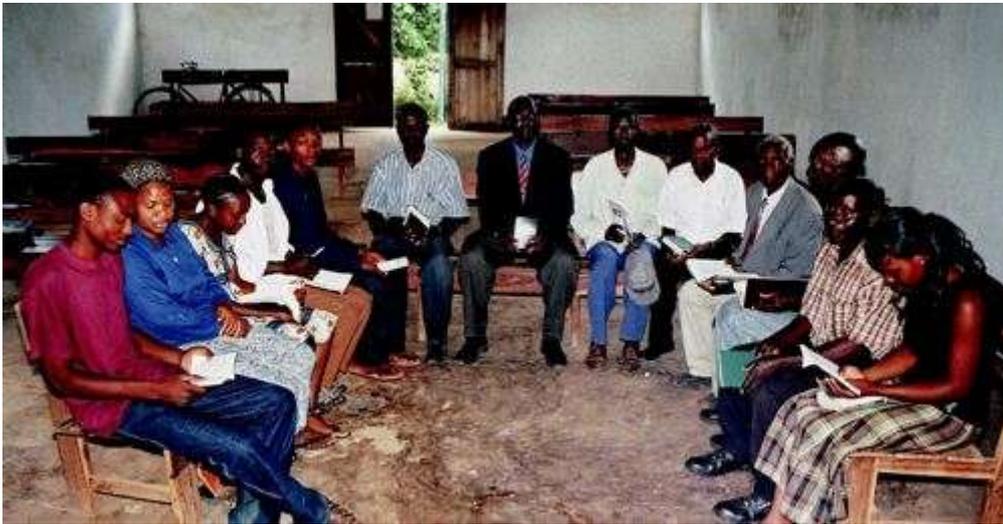


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



Editorial: All Things Work Together for Good (Rom 8:28)

That “all things work together for good for those who love God” doesn’t mean that somehow everything will work out OK for us in this life- for so often it doesn’t. We are asked to carry the Lord’s cross, to suffer now and be redeemed in glory later at His return. “All things” is a phrase Paul has just used in referring to “all creation” in Rom. 8:22, as if to say that everything in the whole of creation works together for our ultimate “good”. But that “good” must be defined within Paul’s usage of the term in Romans; and he doesn’t ever use it in the sense of material good in this life. Consider how he uses the word: “Doing good”, righteous behaviour (Rom. 2:7,10); “a good man”, a righteous man, maybe in reference to the moral purity of the Lord Jesus (Rom. 5:7); “no good thing dwells within me... the good that I would do, I do not” (Rom. 7:18,19). Paul is writing Romans 8 in commentary upon and extension to his lament in Romans 7 that he cannot do the “good” that he would. Now here in Romans 8:28 he is taking comfort that in the bigger picture, man is not alone in creation; all things in this world are somehow working together within God’s master plan so that we *shall* in fact do good, be righteous, both in our lives in Christ today and ultimately for eternity in God’s Kingdom. For those who “love God”, who in their innermost beings delight in God’s law, somehow life works out, albeit in a very complex way, so that we may do that which is good, and have the goodness of Christ’s righteousness eternally counted to us.

“For good”

Despite having lamented that he himself fails to “do good” as he would wish (Rom. 7:19), Paul urges us all to “do good” in the practical section of Romans. We are to cleave to the good, overcome evil with good, do good, be wise to that which is good and simple concerning evil (Rom. 12:2,9,21; 13:3; 16:19). Clearly Paul doesn’t wish us to understand his frustration with his human condition as any excuse for giving up the effort. The working of God’s Spirit throughout all of creation (“all things”) seeks to orchestrate all things in the whole of creation to work together so that we may succeed in that doing of good. Snow in Latvia or flash floods in Australia may be brought about by cosmic forces which operate exactly so that we may... help up that old man who has slipped on the ice, take in that family who lost their home.

And of course it all works out far more subtly than this, hour by hour. God has begun a “good work [same word] in us” and will bring it to completion in the day of Christ’s return (Phil. 1:6). All things in the whole of creation are somehow orchestrated to that end. Thus at baptism we were created in Christ Jesus unto good works (Eph. 2:10). And He gives us “all sufficiency to abound to every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8), we are sanctified and prepared [Gk. ‘provided for’] to perform every good work God intends for us (2 Tim 2:21); fully equipped by God to do every good work in His purpose for us (2 Tim. 3:17). Each time in these verses, the Greek word for “good” is the same as in Rom. 8:28. All this puts paid once and for all to the idea that we can do no good work because we don’t have the money, the life situation, the resources. We have “every sufficiency” to do those good works intended for us; but we must “be ready to every good work” (Tit. 3:1), prepared to grasp the moment, living in the spirit of *carpe diem*. And thus we shall be ‘established’ in every good work we put our hands to (2 Thess. 2:17), none shall ultimately harm us if we follow after performing these good works (1 Pet. 3:13), we shall be made perfect or completed “in every good work in the doing of His will” (Heb. 13:21).

“The Lord working with them”

All things work together for good especially when the “good works” are in the context of assisting others towards the Kingdom. Paul’s concise summary of us in this verse as those who “love God” recalls 1 Jn. 4:20,21; 5:2- we only love God when we love others. The uncommon Greek word translated ‘work together’ is to be found in the great preaching commission in Mk. 16:20, where it is observed that the Lord Jesus ‘worked together with’ those who sought to preach the Gospel in all the world. This appears to be a comment upon the Lord’s promise that in this work of preaching the Gospel, He would be with His preachers unto the end of the world (Mt. 28:20). Whilst this can be understood as the end of the age, it seems to me that the Lord is saying that in taking the Gospel to the whole world, He will be with us in it, right to the ends of the world- be it in witnessing to Amazonian Indians or to your unbelieving family in a run down apartment block in Moscow or London or New York. We are workers together with Him in the work of saving others (2 Cor. 6:1); yet all things in all creation are also working together to this end. By becoming part of that huge operating system, dynamized as it is by God’s Spirit, we will experience God working with us. Somehow, resources become available; somehow we meet the right people miss the flight, spend the night with the right family.

“Those who love God”

But all this happens if we are those who “love God”. If our love for Him and the furtherance of His glory in human lives is paramount, then we will naturally find ourselves part of this positive, triumphant system which always is led in triumph in Christ. All this isn’t only encouragement to those faced with decision making on a large scale- e.g. a mission organization wondering if they have the resources to open a new front of work, or provide significant care to a needy group. More personally, it applies to each of us. We each have good works before ordained that we should walk in them, to live a way of life which achieves them (Eph. 2:10). We need to ask the Lord to reveal what they are, to review our station and place within life’s network and perceive them, remembering that “the unexamined life isn’t worth living”, and seek to go for what God intends for us. The idea is commonly expressed that for now, I shall work in my career, in my business, and then I shall have the resources to serve God as I vaguely imagine I could in some specific way- not now, but later. But if we love God, we want to do it now; and we shall do so. Manic capitalism has succeeded in commodifying everything, turning everything into a price tag. But the good works God has in mind for us aren’t usually of that nature. Kindness, acceptance, comfort, forgiveness, interest in others’ needs and sufferings... these are the essence of being as Christ in this world. This is Christianity, Christ-ness, being like Christ. For He achieved all He did “with a minimum of miracle” as Robert Roberts put it, and with hardly any personal cash behind Him. And so all this working together towards ultimate “good” shall be possible and is possible, for those who in the core of their hearts truly “love God”. This is another allusion, surely, to Romans 7:15-24, where Paul is saying that in his heart he loves God, but is frustrated by his flesh. I have no doubt that most of you my readers are in this category- of loving God. The Jewish mind would’ve been jogged by the reference to ‘loving God’ to the classic definition of loving God- to love Him with our heart and mind (Mt. 22:37). And this is exactly what Paul is saying he does in Romans 7, delighting in God’s law in his mind, despite serving sin in his flesh. So don’t be phased nor thrown off the scent in your self-examination by your frustration with your flesh. Your flesh, your weakness, your dysfunction, lack of resources of all kinds... none of these things need stop us all the same ‘doing good’. If it’s your core desire to do good, to “delight in the law of God after the inward man” as it was Paul’s, then somehow, in the final end, we shall rise above even our own flesh, and do and be that which in our heart of hearts we so wish together according to some plan far larger than just your life- so that you and I might

indeed 'do good', both right here and now, and throughout the eternity of God's Kingdom.
Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from cameroon

MENCHUM

I am very happy to inform you that I received the Gospel News that you brothers in the Lord have embraced me with. Thanks for lifting my mind to the Kingdom of God. I have discovered the narrow path to God through the readings and actions of the CAT. I will be happy to get more literature concerning:

1. The devil – who he really is.
2. When Christ shall come on earth to establish his Kingdom. Shall he come in person or in spirit?
3. Shall labour have an end?
4. How shall man live without labouring?

Bro. Peter Kum

WEH

I cease not to pray to God day and night for the mission work. I wish to thank you greatly for the Bible Basics you sent to me, which are of interest to make me search the truth in the Scriptures all the time. Please pray for me that God should increase my knowledge in His Word in order that I may continue to find the lost sheep and bring them into His fold. I have just started to organize a Sunday School

I am just back from Mbgenwi where we had a visit from Brethren and Sisters from U.K. Bro. Chalse and myself found it very interesting and enjoyable and everybody there was fine.

Bro. Kum Donatus Cheghe

news from congo

On this occasion of the new year 2011. I take this opportunity to convey to all of you, our best wishes for this new year. Our prayer is it may be for you and your family, the year of joy, prosperity and blessings in Jesus Christ, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

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

Bro Kim's Mukambilwa

Bro. Martin's Mother died in Kinshasa, DRC, on Wednesday 11th January. Our heartfelt sympathies.

news from ghana

CAPE COAST

I was admitted to the Central Hospital, Cape Coast for three weeks as I nearly passed away. As you know, I am staying alone in my hired room and I had a problem in the night and my co-tenant rushed me into hospital. I am very thankful to the Lord for saving my life. At present I am suffering with my eyes and I am in dire need of spectacles for reading and long sight.

Whatever situation I am in, I pray to the Lord that I should always continue to serve Him as he knows all my problems and nothing comes upon me without him knowing. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber nor sleep." (Ps.121:1-4). I am always encouraged by these words from the Almighty God who cares for me. "For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death" (Ps.48:14).

There is very much hardship at present in Ghana, as things are in the shops and markets but money to buy them is very hard to come by. However, the good Lord is taking very good care of us all with the assurance that we shall all be in his Kingdom that His beloved dear Son is coming to set up on the earth and which we are all waiting patiently to enter. The present events going on in the world tell us that our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, will soon come to the earth and so we all have to hold fast and support each other as we are walking in that narrow and slippery road to the Kingdom. I know the love that you have towards me and I pray that you will all continue to send airmails.

Bro. Joseph Oppong

news from kenya

BULIMBO

I thank Almighty God for His love and glory in bringing us together as one family in Christ. We must put our trust in knowing that when we die, or when the Lord Jesus returns, we have been promised a place in God's Kingdom and we have no need to be frightened. We should always recall that great and precious promise. Many people today are concerned as to their future prosperity, no longer considering the things of God.

Bro. Sadique Juma

BUNGOMA

We have valued your assistance in the form of Bible literature, particularly Bible Basics in both English and Kiswahili, which have given us a new venture and in fact an easy way of reading and understanding the entire Bible. I received the book "The Real Christ" by Bro. Duncan Heaster and this has actually tried to answer the questions which have formerly puzzled me and which I raised in my letters concerning Jesus and the Law of Moses, God's plan in Christ and Christ's clear picture and image of Him in person. In Luke 6:40 we are told that when a disciple is perfected in the Word of God he shall be like his Master and Paul in his letters spoke about,

“Jesus, who is our hope.” This Biblical literature has given us and most others in our country an added opportunity to study the Bible for ourselves as it helps us to help others who have not got the chance to get this good and true Word of God. In any case it has given us clearance for the preaching of the Gospel.

Bro. Martin Sibolo Situma

Here, my family and I are enjoying life happily in our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ. Many thanks for sending me “Gospel News”. In Kenya, our homeland country, we are living happily but the people of Kenya are fighting to get a peaceful life through voting to change the old Constitution and get a new Constitution and they think they are succeeding but I know that things are still hardening.

I am continuing to look forward to preaching the gospel. Jesus said the truth, “Behold I come as a thief; blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” (Rev.16:15). So let us watch for him to come. I would be grateful if you would please send me a Bible.

Bro. Maina George Wabwile



Bro. Maina George Wabwile

DAGO

Some fundamental points on what the Bible teaches about God.

- a) There is one God, not three, as others believe. Deut.32:39.
- b) He is the immortal Creator and from everlasting to everlasting.
- c) God sees and know all things. Psalm 139:1-24.
- d) God is righteous and loving.
- e) God has revealed His purpose in the Bible.
- f) The power of God is described as God’s Spirit.
- g) The Scriptures were written by God’s Spirit. 2 Tim.3:16.
- h) Jesus was born as a result of the action of the Holy Spirit of God upon Mary. Luke 1:30-35.
- i) It is very important to our salvation that we should understand the nature of God Almighty by reading prayerfully the Bible daily.

Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

ELDORET

I am exploring the book, “The Real Devil” by Bro. Duncan and I do agree that it is well written and very good.

We read in the Psalms, “Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path, because of my enemies.” Ps. 28:7, “The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusted in him and I am helped, therefore my heart greatly rejoices.” Ps. 25:4-5, “Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.” Ps. 97:5, 9. “The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord” For you, Lord, art high above all the earth, you are exalted far above all gods.

Bro. Jacob Okoth

ISHIARA

Thank you for the letters and notes on day to day events and also the “Gospel News”, which helps us to learn more about other brethren and sisters all over the world. We always pray to our Almighty God to send His Son to restore His Kingdom on earth so that these worldly problems will disappear. In our country we are expecting rain but there seems to be only a little but all is in the purpose of God who has a plan for everything.

Sis. Caroline Aphaxard

KATITO

It is with profound sympathy that I have learnt of the falling asleep of Bro. Graham Scott Bacon of GPL Australia. We are going to miss him for his wise words in the League. Thanks to God for making it possible for Carelinks to reach all corners of the globe with the Gospel because it is not easy to get baptisms in Islamic nations like Iraq, Iran etc. Nowadays I am behind with much news from around the world so please send as much as you can for me. My prayers go to all around the Mission areas in these difficult and tempting times before Christ’s return. I really support the many ways to relieve suffering as suggested by Sis. Esther Worell (Canada) in Gospel News.

Bro. Lawrence Kowiti

KISUMU

Although Jesus had told his disciples that He would die but after three days He would be raised to life by His Holy Father, they could not believe. When Mary Magdalene learnt that the stone was removed from the tomb she could not remember what the Scripture said and she thought that somebody might have taken the body and laid it somewhere else. “They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him.” John 20:13.

Later Simon Peter and other disciples went back to the lake. “They went out and got into the boat but that night they caught nothing.” John 21:3. The disciples did not recognise Jesus when he was on the sea shore. When Jesus told them to cast the net on the other side of the boat and they caught such a lot of fish that they could not haul the net into the boat, they realised that He was Jesus. John 21:6.

Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, when told by the other disciples that they had seen Jesus alive, would not believe unless he could see and touch Him. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Now for you and me, my dear brethren and sisters, are we able to recognise Jesus? Remember all those people were with Jesus for three years, but we believe because of the Scripture, yet we have never seen Jesus. Let us remember His words that He may come like a thief and thieves

either come at night, daylight, when sleeping or when you are away on a journey. Let us take care and be able to recognise Jesus.

Bro. Richard Oduma

LURAMBI

It is with much honour to our Lord Jesus Christ that we at Lurambi Ecclesia send many greetings to all our fellow readers. We are indeed eagerly awaiting our Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming, to establish an everlasting Kingdom here on earth. It will be a great pleasure for all of us to be in that Kingdom to rule with Him in righteousness.

I would like to thank you for your letter and the good lessons like repentance, whether I should vote, marriage and also the Bible Planner which is very new in my ecclesia. As I am the only brother among 65 members of my ecclesia who has a copy, please send more copies, if possible, to uplift our brothers and sisters to read the Word more carefully. We would like to thank you for all the support you are giving us to enable our friends and even our young ones to know the Word of God that is the basis of our Christian foundation. We do appreciate the Bibles that you have sent so that more can understand the Will of God to mankind through Bible reading, study and teaching one another. The Gospel News, Bible Basics, Present Day Events and other literature have inspired us and given us spiritual food. We do thank you, brother, and pray that God will bless C.A.T. abundantly to enable it to carry out this work of feeding the flock.

Bro. Anthony Wafula



Bro. Anthony Wafula and his wife, Sis. Rhoda

MOMBASA

I have much pleasure in reading my brothers' and sisters' articles from all over the world. We read in 1 Cor.1:9-10, "God is faithful, by whom we were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ, we should speak the same thing, having no divisions, be perfectly joined together in the same mind." We are further exhorted regarding how we should walk in Eph.4:1-6. In this universe we are a really small, little flock and it is God's pleasure to give us the Kingdom, Luke 12:32. I like that verse in fact. We must not be slow; let us teach and preach to the people the faith and foundation of the WORD of God.

As you mentioned, I fully agree with you that many brothers and sisters and even our hopeful friends do not have Bibles, it is the one way of preaching. Let no one say that they had no Bible to read. May the Heavenly Father bless you for the thought of providing New Testaments, for those who do not have them. As we read in Psa.68:11, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."

Bro. Edward Kunikina

MUHORONI

Kindly receive greetings from Muhoroni Ecclesia. They are happy and blessed with the Gospel News.

Bro. Sylvester

NAITIRI

I am from Nyange Ecclesia and I take this opportunity to thank you for the good work you are doing in uplifting me spiritually through the Gospel books that you send to Bro. Haron Nasongo. We have been sharing these books as I am preparing for baptism.

Chrispinus Juma

NAKURU

We await the future ruler of the Kingdom of God. We are all fine in our ecclesia. Since there are signs of Christ's coming we should double our efforts in the Lord's vineyard.

Bro. Samuel Watako

NYANGE

We in Nyange Ecclesia would like to express our gratitude and interest in what you are intending to do for us. Many members of the ecclesia have been undergoing difficulties during Bible studies due to lack of personal copies of the Bible. We hope that your idea of supplying New Testament copies will make the work of spreading the gospel easier. Please keep remembering us with helpful items in order to make sure that we develop ourselves in preparation to receive our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Adriano Wanjala

SINDO

I have been reading the editorial by Bro. Duncan Heaster, "Conflict and Reconciliation", page 4. By forgiving our brother/sister we are judging righteously; we are in essence deciding our own judgment, which is to be revealed at the Lord's return.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION IN MY LIFE".

I was a former Roman Catholic, baptised as a child in 1954, confirmed later in 1963. Until 1975 my vision was to become a priest but the God of Israel never called me for that purpose. He had a plan for me; I spent six months attending mass in the city of Nairobi, early in the morning. When the time came for seminary, I applied but was not taken. I was always happy when I read the Bible and I felt comforted with God's message of life through Jesus Christ, but one major issue disturbed me. I used to ask my mother, "Where do we go when we die?" – but never get a satisfactory answer.

One day in 1978 I saw an advertisement in Nairobi advertising a talk about the Christadelphian faith. I went along and met a brother, Epaphras Wekati and I was pleased to learn the Truth and able to take the Bible Course under his instruction and attended Bible discussions and the Memorial Service. I was given a test of faith by Bro. David Rowley from England and passed the interview. On 21st August 1978 I was baptised in Nairobi City and made the most important decision in my life to become a follower of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. In conclusion, we read in

Heb. 2:3, “How shall we escape, if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at the first by the Lord and it was attested to by those who heard.”

Bro. John Onani

SUNA MIGORI

Thank you very much for the editorial “Conflict and Reconciliation”. I am sure that all ecclesias in my region have been touched. They all know what we have gone through following some changes in ecclesial management. God is using you to reach His people in a very special way.

Bro. Joseph Onyango

TONGAREN

Our Ecclesia has nine brothers and 14 sisters with 25 Sunday School children and five contacts or friends. The books of Daniel and Revelation prophesied the coming events of our days and that is why I need the definition of the books in detail. I am still waiting to see if Bro. Malcom can send me the books you requested for me. Tongaren Ecclesia is very interested in the Bukusu language. We are the only ecclesia in our area which operates its meetings in the local rather than the national language. Brothers like to read and exhort in Bukusu language, which is why the ecclesia has asked for Bukusu Bibles. Can you please help us?

According to world events, in our area, to kill someone is now no new thing. Nowadays we have seen people killing each other every week – a man killing his wife or a woman killing her husband. This proves that we are actually in the last days as the Bible prophesied. May Jesus come quickly to save the situation so that we may enter into his Kingdom.

Let us praise Almighty God for the work He has done to enable the printing of the New Testament, and put in some definitions of the verses on Bible topics, so that others may find Bible truths. Some Bible verses are very difficult to understand and because of this many people do not agree with each other. This is why we have got one Bible and many different churches. Yes, brother, you have done very well to try to protect the truth of the Bible and our belief in it.

Siko-Tail Craft School in conjunction with Tongaren Ecclesia has implemented some regulations that all newcomers for training should agree to attend Sunday services while in training. We now have over 20 experienced trainees in the first term but many drop out in the second and third terms. This is why we need 20 Bibles for the Tailoring School. In the attached photo are some Siko-Tail trainees in the Ecclesia. A trainee, Sis. Irine Sikolia is demonstrating to others how to fix a zip on a long trouser. On her left is Ruth Wanjala of Namunjiri and Wilkister Cheloti of Makhonge. Displayed are training materials which we received recently from CAT for training purposes. We are expecting to baptise some of the trainees, so may God, help us so that we may baptise some.

Bro. Isaac Kapa



Sis. Irine Sikolia demonstrating to students.

TURBO

Thank you very much for the parcel of Bible Basics, etc. These books are now helping us very much in the work of Bible proclamation. On 16th November we had a very big congregation for Bible Study in the house of a friend, Mary Muhonja Imbuka, who is chairlady of a C.B.O. group at Kiminini. After the discussion many of the friends were very happy and decided to continue with the Bible Study. I, Bro. Emmanuel Milimo, was the first teacher and taught about two topics – The Table of the Lord and the Kingdom of God and Bro. Martin Barasa then taught about Fellowship. Those topics amazed the multitude and the Bible Basics manual assisted us very much with answering questions. Most of our friends requested the Bible Basics in Kiswahili and also Swahili.

The Mother and Child C.B.O. has six hundred members and Bro. Martin and myself have been asked to conduct Bible Study once a month. The distance from Turbo to Kiminini is about 80 kms. The materials you send me are helping the brethren and friends too. We need your prayers and more materials. Mother and child members are mostly widows and orphans. Enclosed is a photo of leaders of a group and ourselves, seated from right to left in first row, Bro. Martin Basara, Bro. Emmanuel Milimo and Chairlady Mary Muhonja Imbuka, who is urging us to continue teaching the group.

Bro. Emmanuel Milimo



People at the Kiminini meeting

WEBUYE

The effort to present the living truth to others who are seeking salvation is a challenging venture first to our way of life so that the same results are reaped in the lives of our interested friends who receive the message.

We hereby request the New Testaments, which as per example provided will prove informative to the seeker and presenter of the truth alike. Please kindly include five Bible Basics in English or Swahili if available.

Bro. Shawn Tyler

news from liberia

MONROVIA

In Gospel News, October to December 2010, page 69, someone asked Bro. Maxwell Makah, “Why were we created black?” Please let me throw some Biblical light thereon. Noah and his family were all white, all eight of them. When Ham spied on the nakedness of his father Noah, he was cursed to be servant to his two brothers, Shem and Japheth. When they began to multiply each family went their way in different directions. Some went to the north, some went to the south, some went to the east and some went to the west. Those who came to Africa are the children of Ham who were cursed to be servants to Shem and Japheth, who went to the west and the east. Africa is situated right under the Equator, in the path of the sun, so to insulate the skin from the heat of the sun, God coloured those who migrated to Africa black – the colour God

differentiated between the Master “white man” and the servant “black man”, descendants of Ham.

Bro. Theophilus O Lartey

Comment: I do not know the answer to this somewhat controversial subject. Another theory is that in the beginning they were all black and so the question is reversed – How did black men become white? The various pigmentations of our skin and hair are determined, I understand, by melanin, sunlight and vitamin D. Would be interesting if one of our scientific members could give us a serious scientific explanation. *MH*

news from malawi

CHABONGA

Our preaching efforts are still taking part in many places where there are Christians found or not, and it is one way of helping people to know the Bible and how to use it.

We have received ten Bible Basics, together with Bible Companions. Our request is, if you can, please send more Bible Companions as we are still in need of these. The Bible Basics are helpful because we use them in groups, reading and discussing; in so doing we learn more than one can alone. In my mind I have another idea for spreading the Truth, by working with other Christian Churches, sharing ideas, by which I think we can help one another - or walking door to door, or from place to place where people are found, to discuss our beliefs.

Bro. Peter Mbingwani



Chabonga Ecclesia with their Bible Basics



Bro. Mbingwani and his family.

CHANGAMILE

The Changamile Christadelphian Church is still growing – we are receiving blessings from God Almighty. We were 20 in number, now we’re at 25 and we are joyfully meeting in our newly constructed hall.

Bro. Morris Assani

GONDA

I went to attend a Bible School in Wsanje Bangula at Kalenso. The journey is about 60Km. The course was led by Brother Mark Sheppard, Sister Ruth Sheppard and Brother Paul Turner. We had very good lessons about Israel’s Kingdom and we learnt about it.

1. Why Israel asked for a King (1 Samuel 8)

2. The anointing of Saul to be King over his inheritance and how he failed to obey the law of God in 1 Samuel 13.

3. The anointing of David to be King of Israel in chapter 16 of 1 Samuel

4. The friendship of David and Jonathan and many more points from 1 Sam.18.

We also learnt about Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the most high God (Genesis 14:18-20 and Hebrews chapters 5-7.) From this course I gained a lot, relevant to the days in which we now live.

1. World governments fail to rule over the earth and bring peace, as Saul failed in his lifetime.

2. Jesus, the beloved one of the Most High God appointed to be a King by God Himself as David was.

3. We need to be accompanied by Jesus, as Jonathan and David were by God.

4. Jesus is King and Priest like Melchizedek. While Saul was just a King, he was not a Priest. See Hebrews 5-7, especially chapter 7 v.17.

Through this I came to remember about Paul's letter to the Romans, ch.13:11-12, where we read like this: 'And do this, knowing the season, that now it is high time for you to wake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand'.

In these verses I think 'night' is people's governments which are soon to be swept aside by Jesus, appointed King of Israel through God's power. While the 'day which is at hand' is God's Kingdom, whose leader is Jesus, who is King and Priest of the people, appointed by God Himself. This Kingdom will bring peace and prosperity to the people, and there will ultimately be no more death.

Please remember me in your daily prayers and send me letters.

Bro. Robert Folley



Bro. Robert Folley at his Family Study

KASUNGU

I am finishing my third year with the Ministry of Health in June when we come to the end of our temporary work. No further opportunity of working with them.

The Malawi Government is now favouring those who voted. The Fertilizer coupon is given only to those who have voting cards. No voting cards, no chance of buying subsidized fertilizers.

My Mother, Sis. Manes, has been sick for two months now. She is crying day and night. She feels a very great pain in her thigh. She was treated for pain for a long time. She was admitted to hospital for just a week and was discharged before she was cured. The Government Hospital was helpless to me because they discharged my Mother while she is still sick.

This is a great problem to me because I am helping other people in the Ministry of Health, while the Ministry is failing to help me. I am very sorrowful because of her sickness, as she can never sit, never stand, and she always sleeps on her back day and night – she is full of pain. She is still at home and I don't know what God will do for our family.

I am happy to know that you always think of something good for me. You requested Chichewa Bibles from the Gideon International Society for my Ecclesia. If I receive Bibles from them I will tell you.

Bro. and Sis. Harmony Ntchalachala

MTENTHELA

The wonderful riches that are hidden away in God's Word can only be found by searching. Before a miner can find an ounce of gold dust, he has to persevere and work for a long time.

And so it is with God's Word; He shows us very simply how by trusting in the Lord Jesus we may be saved. But what other treasures there are in His book! We shall only know by prayerfully studying our Bibles.

Bro. Henderson Sosola

MWANZA

In the beginning there was darkness upon the earth, God said, let there be light and then there was light (Gen. 1:3). In John 8:12 Jesus Christ said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life". Jesus here was referring to the good news of the light of the Gospel which those in darkness could experience, but those in the darkness did not comprehend (John 1:4-5).

John the Baptist said of Jesus, he was "the true light which gives light to every man coming into the world (v9).

The darkness that came upon the Egyptians was because they did not receive the word of the living God. These people had their own God (Idols) e.g. Moon, Sun and others. The unbelief of the Egyptians was the cause which brought the darkness which lasted for three days and made them not to see each other. Only Goshen where the Israelites lived was there light. To day everyone who is walking with Jesus Christ is in the light, those who are denying him are in darkness. Jesus is still commanding us to follow his ways when he is telling us to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven (Mat 5:16).

Bro Hackwell Mwenye

NENO

It looks that almost all countries have their own problems and they are growing bigger and bigger all the time. In my whole life I only need the kingdom of GOD. At present there is nothing that makes me happy, I only face problems all the time.

Bro. Amison Liwawa

NKHOTAKOTA

I would like to inform you that we have a new group in a nearby district of Kasungu about 100km from Nkhotakota. This is more or less like a testimony to us as to how much the *Bible Basics* book distribution has impacted on the people around us. Brother Chaunga had given a copy of *Bible Basics* to a business friend from Kasungu District. After two months we have received information that a congregation of over 23 members are already meeting and they are expecting us to meet them there. To us that is a very good testimony about the work of God. Brother Chaunga is making plans to visits them next week. On the same note are there some books for teaching the children of ages 6 to 10 because as of now we sit with them together. Greetings to all brothers and sisters.

Bro. Esau Chirwa



Photo: Brother Esau sharing Bible Basics with a work colleague

NKHATABAY

Here I am fine, after a long time without communicating with you. In my long silence I felt lonely, but reading through Gospel News I become close to brethren and sisters worldwide, so please keep sending me the magazines.

A neighbour's house caught fire after the fire from my garden burnt his house. So the owner of the house wants me to pay him for the burnt wooden poles, plastic sheet, and the roof of thatched grass: it was an accidental incident.

Bro. Joel Singini



Bro. Joel Singini (left), with an interested friend.

SALIMA

Let me express my sincere thanks for your good work in placing your helping hand on the trips we took visiting our brothers and sisters, both at Dzaleka Refugee Camp and in Nkhotakota District respectively. These trips resulted in the baptism service on 14th November 2010 at Senga-Bay in our fresh waters of Lake Malawi.

Brother Muleso did his part by helping to transport two sisters and some brothers who escorted them on their way to Senga-Bay to witness the baptism from Dzaleka Refugee Camp. Bro. and Sister Chaunga were also provided with transport to and from the baptism ceremony, and also brother Ishmael, who is now working with Bio Energy Resources Ltd. at Ngodzi, which is some way from Salima town.

Still there are more who wish to be baptised, but they have not yet finished studying the lessons; therefore we propose to have another baptism service next year in the month of April, God willing.

Bro. Austin Nyirenda

ULONGWE

I want to thank you because of the things you have done for us, e.g. sending a Bible and Gospel News, and encouraging us to be faithful and to believe in the Son of God.

In my Ecclesia most people like to have Chichewa Bibles - only five members like English Bibles. We like preaching the Word of God by using the Bible, but many people do not have one of their own.

Bro. Harry Benito

We would like to have Bible Companions, as we have brothers who have none. We have 84 brothers in Nkanda Ecclesia with no Bible Companions.

We are very happy in Nkanda Ecclesia, waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Laiton John

ZOMBA

Before I set the ball rolling, may I greet you in the precious Name of 'Jesus Christ.' Thank you very much for "A New Preaching and Consolidation Scheme."

I have the honour to notify you that with effect from 30.11.2011. I am retiring from my career in the Prison service. My reasons are that my wife's health is poor for much of the time, as you know from my previous letters. I have been failing to get aid through my work-place to pay hospital bills for my struggling wife. I do sincerely hope, if I get my pension gratuity, this will assist me to get an expensive medical practitioner to save my wife's life.

With retirement I will be free to participate in all the Biblical activities. Brother, I have already submitted a letter of retirement, please do pray for me that my hopes and plans may be approved. My intention is to open an 'Orphan Care Foundation.'

Bro. Henry Madula Banda

I am happy that the family is growing in Latvia and China, also Malawi – even worldwide. In Malawi now it's the rainy season and in some areas we are experiencing it.

Thank you for the Gospel News, it's good to understand other things we don't know, and to hear how our brothers are doing out there, with some joining the family.

I have these chapters which I don't understand their meaning. When I was explaining to my friend that Satan is our own mind, he came up with these chapters asking that I should tell him the meaning. They are Job chapters 1 and 2. Please help me to explain these chapters to a friend.

Bro. Samson Banda

Comment: These chapters are not easy to understand. One needs to go back in history and get a comprehensive understanding of how such terms are used in the Scriptures, in harmony with

other first principles. Samson has been given 'The Real Devil,' a book which goes deeply into the subject and looks at every verse that mentions satan, devil, demons etc. MH

Would you please send me Bible Basics both in English and Chichewa? Please also send me a new version New Testament and continue sending Gospel News.

Bro. John L. Chikwama

What does the Bible tell about these events that happen in the world. I can just recall a few, just what happened in Kuwait in 1991, Then coming to Iran's war (million of people lost their lives). Now coming to Afganistan war thousands upon thousands of lives have been lost. Look what happened in Sudan, Niger, Now coming to Egypt, Mubarrack resigned on the 18th Day of demonstrations on 11th February 2011, giving Egypt an usure future. What's going to happen next - ha! time is near of the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot really understand what is going on in the world today it, is somehow confusing but the Bible is our guide, that is why Brothers and Sisters we are not shaken with what is happening in the world. These things should happen, lets not give up the truth. We have to work for it and if possible we have to die for the truth. At the right time we are going to get the reward. for the signs of the coming of our Lord in Mathews, Mark and Luke are being fulfilled. This generation we are fortunate, because we see all these signs with our naked eyes. Lets pray for one another as the coming of our lord Jesus Christ is mighty near.

Bro George Sanjama.

news from mauritius

Our Lord will return the same way as He ascended to the heavens. The return will be a great event undreamed of by men. It may be in our time, but we have faith that we will meet Him when He comes to this earth, which is full of problems.

Thank you for the literature and the book entitled "The Real Christ", written by Duncan. It is a book of reference like an encyclopaedia, like a pharmacy when we take the tablets for our daily life. The book is second to the Bible! Thank you for the new venture in publishing a new edition of the New European Testament. It is a lamp to guide us throughout our lives.

Thank you also for the encouragement. We, the elders, see the end fast approaching. We must prepare ourselves and keep our garments white and clean. The writer of "Present Day Events" is well known in the Christadelphian circle. Bro. Graham Bacon was present at my baptism years ago. He was a flight engineer for Qantas. He must be aged but his memory is alert and clear. I shall write to him for more information. (Saddly Bro. Graham fell asleep in Christ - we all miss his writings). Israel is always in the news. The Prime Minister Netanyahu is in having talks on Palestinian issues. The embargo to Gaza is again an operation under the supervision of Israelis for the smuggling of rockets!

We regret to announce the death of Bro. Mookram Sewsum, aged 68, who died peacefully after a long illness. Death was a relief. He regularly attended the table of the Lord for many years at the Quatre Bornes Ecclesia and was beloved by his two sons (doctors) and a daughter. The family is not in the Truth. He sleeps awaiting the sound of the trumpet. Our brother was baptised in the seventies in a nearby river. The infant ecclesia had 4 members at that time. We maintain the lamp shining in this island.

We regret to hear of the bad weather in Australia, part of which is under water and some brethren and sisters have difficulty in surviving. Here, we are at present facing a drought and water is being rationed, due to lack of abundant rain!

May the Lord bless you for working in the vineyard. Your name is already in the Book of Life for the whole family in His service. I received the Logos as an unpaid member but it was stopped because of an economic problem!

Bro. Lilkan Ancharaz

news from nigeria

ENUGU

I have received the “*The Real Christ*” and find it is very rich, educational and interesting to read – thank you. You help us a great deal and this book is the best.

We are now increased in number, but there is no material for our preaching work. Everybody is free to preach wherever he likes, all over the whole world.

Although a little late, I wish to pay tribute to Brother B. Idris. Although he has slept in Christ for a while, in the mind of people like me we often think of him. He served his Heavenly Father well, despite poor health. Notwithstanding, he was ill for many years, yet he always proclaimed our Faith. Our prayers and thoughts are with all his family at this time, especially his beloved wife, Sister Hellen Idris. Brother Idris has put all his earthly suffering behind and now sleeps, knowing that his next waking moment will be at that great resurrection call.



Photo: Bro. Idris Nkene

Time marches on – onwards to the great goal of the coming Kingdom. We are looking for the Kingdom of God this year. I realized that our God is hearing my prayers for all of you: keep on with your efforts to do God’s work.

See the enclosed of tracts I made with the help of Bro. Stanley. Blackstone. He designed it, with my ‘phone and address, and sent it back here so I could photocopy as many as I want. Please thank Bro. Stanley on my behalf for his love for us in supplying materials for the work. I travelled to my village 200 miles away during the Xmas holiday and distributed a lot of tracts and pamphlets there. People received them with happiness. Our teaching is quite different from Christendom. Soon I will go and see how things are.

Bro. Goddy Nwosu

IKWUEKE

Greetings in the mighty Name of Jesus. I am very sorry for the delay in my response to your kindness to me and Ikwueke Ecclesia. I have been sick with eye trouble and arthritis, which needs money and time to cure. I am taking this opportunity to let you know that we of the Ikwueke Ecclesia stand strong and firm in our prayers with your aid, awaiting the promise of

God, by His grace. We read in 2 Cor.12:9 “My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” He gives more grace as our burden grows greater, and He sends more strength as our labours increase. We glorify God for life and strength.

Thank you for the books donated by a brother and sister, which were duly received and stir up my desire for the betterment of Ikwueke Ecclesia and beyond.

I am delighted to announce the immersion of Sis Amarachi Joy Chinedu of Ikwueke Ecclesia.

Bro. Friday and Sis Jane Enyiogu

UMUAHIA

I am very grateful for the literature which I have received. I have started the work of our Master by giving most of them to many people, to give them insight to the truth of the gospel – the good news of God’s Kingdom coming soon.

Most of the Christians (who we used to call ‘Christendom,’) believe that a true child of God should never have any difficulties or trials, that all things should be well with them. Now, in Abraham, whose seed we are, we find to him was born Isaac when he was aged one hundred years. He lived as a refugee until his death and was buried without having God’s promises fulfilled (Hebrews 11 vv 8-9, 13). As Abraham’s was a true death, why should we of these days regret the stages of life we are passing through?

The Apostle Paul says that he was like a boxer who does not waste his ‘punches’, but he hardens his body with blows and brings it under complete control, to keep himself from being disqualified. (1 Cor.9:26-27) Paul was never a boxer, footballer nor a sportsman, rather he spoke of the material benefits to which he was entitled as a preacher of the gospel, but which he refused to have(1 Cor.9:11-18).

Please, if it is possible, I would like to have a Bible with a Concordance and Dictionary. With this letter you will see a ‘photo of three people. The person in the middle is my Sister Mother named Sis. Nyozi Ben Onyeri, whom Almighty God brought to become a Sister in Christ after many challenges; on the left is my Sister Wife, Sis. Ebene Chika Onyeri, who was having emails from Sis. Wendy, wife of Bro. Stephen Sykes. I am on the right - my name, Chika, means God is above all things.

Bro. Chika Onyeri



Bro. Chika Onyeri (right), with his Mother and Wife.

news from south africa



Picture of Gauteng Bre and Sis at Hermannsburg Bible School.

news from tanzania

KIBIRIZI

We take this opportunity to inform you that our postal box number has changed from no. 3 and we now use Box 770.

Bro. Edward Musabah

KIGOMA

Bro. Iyendya Amsini has written telling of his horrible experiences in Congo, where his family and some close relatives were killed by poisoning and he escaped by moving from place to place and narrowly escaped death, the reason for attempting to kill him was because of refusing the witchcraft of his family because he himself was a Christian.

We have received letters from others who also have been so badly treated and even in the refugee camps there are examples of extreme brutality and murders. Bro. Iyendya appeals that we remember such in our prayers and to pray for Jesus' coming to ultimately bring to an end such atrocities. MH



Photo Bro. Iyendya Amsini

What do you think about the coming of Jesus Christ? We cannot hinder a moment as it flies because we are not able to do so, but we are promised that we will be rewarded with everlasting life and nobody will die again. Jesus will come back to establish his Kingdom on the earth with its capital in Jerusalem. Are you really sure that you will be rewarded with everlasting life? If not, what are you waiting for?

The address of CBM Kibirizi is no longer P.O. Box 3, but it is now P.O. Box 770, Kibirizi, Kigoma, Tanzania, East Africa and the address of Bro. Habonimana Isaac has changed to P.O.Box 369, Kasulu, Kigoma, Tanzania, East Africa

Bro. Iyendya Amsini

NDISI



Photo Bro. Francis Osiro

NYARUGUSU

Please find enclosed the article to print in the Gospel News magazine. I would like to send you many articles for printing in the magazine but the big problem is that I lack papers. Please if possible send me a single copy of the following books: Bible Basics in English and 'The Real Christ'.

Bro. Isidore Mwibeleca

news from uganda

BUTIRU

I have a New Testament in our own language. Can I be allowed to send it to you so that you can help us make and produce more New Testaments in Lumasaba, as my people really want the New Testament in their own language. It will really be of use to them if you will allow the suggestion.

Thank you for the Bible Basics books in English which I received in good condition, though I was highly charged in Mbale Post Office. I also request some Swahili books, God willing. I thank you for 'The "Real Christ', which I am reading slowly and I hope it will be of help to me and the Ecclesia at large. The message contained in that book is real and will help other people who will be sharing the Word of God with me.

Bro. Boniface Masakala



Bro. Francis Maweli and Bro. Hassan Matsatsa baptising Bro. Dismas Makhafu at Butiru Ecclesia at Lutaaso River.



Bro. Hassan Matsatsa giving a hand of fellowship to the baptised members at Butiru Ecclesia.



Sis. Beatrice Namulinda, a sad sister of Butiru Ecclesia. You can see her grass-thatched house. She requests for all well wishers to support her towards shelter.

KIGANDALO

The Bible says that God has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth (Acts 17:31). For many people the prospect of being subject to any kind of judgment is unwelcome. The first human couple rebelled against God. As a result they lost the prospect of eternal life for themselves at that time and brought sin and death to all of their descendants, Gen.2:15, Rom.5:12.

Those receiving favourable judgment will live on earth and will enjoy everlasting life in perfect conditions, Rev.21:3-4. Look at this very carefully, because it matters for all of us, therefore considering the judgment day helps to accomplish God's original purpose for humans and the earth.

Bro. Samuel Onyango.



Photo: Bro. Samuel Onyango and Sis Jesca

MBALE

Peace, love and knowledge continue to abide in you as you minister to God's people. Receive greetings from my Evelyn and all members of my family. Receive more greetings from Butiru Ecclesia who assure me that the literature you sent is of great help to many spiritually. May God continue to bless you in whatever you are doing. I would also like to inform you that we had a women's workshop for sisters and close friends at Butiru Ecclesia.

Bro Boniface Buyeyi

news from zambia



Bible Study at Kafue Ecclesia, Sambia with some using the NEV New Testament

CHAMBISHI

I have a student who is keen to be baptised and there are some interested contacts. My prayer is that we have an ecclesia in Chambishi which I soon wish to start at my house that I am renting.

Bro. Christopher Mwewa

CHINSALI

I have three friends who are curious about the Truth; two are Catholic and the other a Pentecostal. They have asked for copies of Bible Basics. I had two copies, one of which I am reading and I gave the other to one of my friends. He has sent his comments to me and said that he found the book interesting and helpful and would like to read more booklets and literature. I have also lent him some copies of Gospel News. Please send some more copies of books so that I may give them to other friends.

Bro. Edward Mutale



Bro. Edward Mutale

KABOMPO

It was not my desire to overload you with a pile of work but I was encouraged by your letter. It is not so bad also to request Bro. David Nicholls to do the printing, as he also told us to translate the leaflets into our own languages for easy preaching. I received your Bible Basics for personal use at home and being our ecclesial treasurer and also the ecclesial librarian, I have many Bible Basics and a variety of books for borrowing and they are kept very safely. So please post all the translations to Bro Nicholls and I shall send him the remaining sixteen in order to cover all the topics. Otherwise we are doing our best in spreading the gospel.

Bro. Wellington Mukuma

KABWE

Christian greetings to you in the precious name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May the Almighty God continue blessing you and giving you good health as you do His work of spreading the Good News. I received the mail and the contents were wonderful and educative. May I request the following books: Study Guides to Revelation and Daniel, a Bible Dictionary and Bible study books. Attending to my epileptic son takes a lot of time and also my wife's continuing problems with fibroids. Raising money for medication is hard and tough and only God our Creator has the power to wipe out all these problems. Please continue praying for me and my family. Kabwe Ecclesia joins me in sending our love to you all.

Bro. Maybin Bwalya

KAFUE

Due to the location of my new position, I cannot yet meet with the brothers and sisters at Kafue Ecclesia, but as soon as I am stable with my new appointment I will join them. At the moment I cannot walk such a distance due to my leg problem and so when my financial position normalises things will be fine. I still feel we need to keep sharing, especially the things we see, hear and read about, though they may at times be very difficult to understand or appreciate. It is the time that we should keep sharing experiences all around us, also to pray about situations

like the Middle East conflicts, even when we feel spiritually bankrupt. There is hence the need to be nearer to God than ever so that we can always be refreshed by the Word. Signs of the times are what we now experience, so please keep sending me these updates. I am still thankful for these materials which I receive.

I really need some more materials; the Bible Missionary, Middle East Events, the Christaelfhian, Faith Alive. Gospel News and Glad Tidings, as I now seem in isolation. Perhaps more than that, all these are full of expressions of unity and information, and as such help to remove loneliness and to always be refreshing. In this way we hear news, opinions, benefits from others and perhaps most significant it helps us not to lose sight of the wonders of salvation for which we all long.

I will keep you updated of any new developments, but for now I hope to do a Diploma programme on Easy Childhood Education for the 2011 intake, God Willing.

Bro. Wilfred Chbomba

KALOMO

Thank you very much for your letter and for the New Testament Bible. This is a great tool for all believers to read and understand the Word of God and be able to preach to those who are still thirsting for the Word.

Sis Juliet Sakala

KAPIRI MPOSHI

I enjoy the opportunity of reading news from all over the world which includes so many encouraging references to the coming of Christ. Please continue sending me more books if you have them and also more Bible Companions, so that we may start to prepare more people to come to the Truth and know the true God.

Bro. Chisosa Ostine

KASAMA

May I please request Bible Reading Planners for students who are now studying 'New Life in Christ' with us. I visited Sis. Jane and Mr. Sunyanga in Chief Chulubanama's area as Bro. David requested. Mr. Sunyanga has never done any CBM. lessons but he has read through some pamphlets from Sis. Jane. However, I have asked Bro. Kunda to register Mr. Sunyanga as a student. I will also make myself available to him for further assistance.

Bro. Boniface Simpanzye



The Kasama Ecclesia

KASUMPA

Man shall not live by bread alone. (Matt.4:1-4)

These words were used by the Lord Jesus Christ after having been led up by the Spirit in the wilderness to be tempted. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry and the

tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread. But he answered, It is written, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD." What are the words that come from the mouth of God? From Old Testament to New Testament God has not wanted any man he has created in his own image to perish by turning away from him, practising all that is evil, but to repent, hold fast to His commandments and enjoy eternal life in the Kingdom to come.

In Acts 17:30 the Bible warns us that the times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men and women everywhere around the world to repent. In Zech.1:3-4 God requires us to turn to Him and He will return to us and we will enjoy His blessings through His Son. His Word is just and true and we should follow in the footsteps of Our Master, Jesus Christ, who never ignored the Word of His Father, our Father, spiritually, when we remain Christians with sound faith. It is a good lesson for every believer to follow His character. Jesus, having human nature, did not submit to the tempter, although He was hungry, because He had God's Word in Him all the time.

Bro. John Kasanda

KAZEMBE

I was so pleased when I received "The Real Christ", not realising that there would as well be "The Real Devil" and "Wrested Scriptures". I immediately looked up the references to "angels that sinned". I am now convinced beyond doubt and praise be to God for this knowledge. May God bless you for helping us to get into good shape before the return of God's Anointed Son.

Thank you also for the Bible Basics, Gospel News and leaflets on present day events, which I enjoy and am kept busy reading prayerfully in order to grasp all the information.

Bro. John Kasanda

KITWE

Thank you for the book "The Real Christ", which contains many topics and helps me to understand the true teaching of the Bible.

Bro. Robert Miwele

I enjoyed the visit by Bro. David Nicholls and Sis. Lynda four months ago, when they came to meet us in Kitwe. I am still in isolation and trying hard to make people understand the Christadelphian doctrine. I live on the farm some five Kilometers from the district. I have five children in all, for Sunday School: three are my children and two are their friends within the neighbourhood. I am a brick-layer, but not in formal employment. Sometimes I do chance work and walk to the district to build for a few hours. I lead a very simple life and am happy about it. Three of my children go to school. God has blessed me abundantly.

Please send me the required number of New Testament Bibles and a few Gospel magazines, some Sunday School material and easy to read booklets especially for the Sunday School scholars. I am very interested in youngsters, because as they grow, God willing, they become full-time Christians and they don't easily forget what they learn. I also have a number of visitors who are interested in learning the Truth.

I am happy that it is the rainy season and we are preparing the land for planting. It gives us work, and we are always busy.

Bro. Willies Simbowe

LUSAKA

I am glad to hear that you intend to print the whole of the New Testament with supporting notes on Christadelphian beliefs and I hope that this will be another tool for our effective preaching here. I am also thankful for this extraordinary book, "The Real Devil", which is so interesting and gives a clear picture of what a 'devil' is.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi

I am doing great and am so happy to contribute to the Magazine again. I may not be able to count my blessings but am certainly able to share them. I loved the new preaching scheme which has to do with the newest and very special kind of New Testament. It is going to help a lot of our students in real need. Our extremely good Heavenly Father has pampered us in the year 2010 with lots of stunning blessings; so I say a blessed 2011 to every person and let us continue to wait for Jesus Christ with readiness of heart and mind. Your fellow-pilgrim to God's Kingdom,

Sis. Lyn Tembo

MATERO

I thank God for the letter you sent me which I appreciated. Please send me a book about Muslims and their beliefs so that they will not be a problem to me. I also need a Bible with the Old and New Testaments and cross references so that I can understand and enjoy it better. What is the Holy Spirit and what are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Is prophecy about my present lifetime or things which are in the past?

Bro. Joshua Banda

MAZABUKA

Let us continue praying for one another as if we lived side by side. It is my sincere hope and trust that all is well. Thank you for the book about the Holy Spirit and Holy Spirit gifts which will help me explain any doubts about the subject with my contacts. As always in the mission field this subject is a problem, especially when teaching those with a strange doctrinal background.

I receive bi-monthly copies of the Logos magazine from Bro. Goodman of Australia as thankfully copies are sent to some of us in third world countries who cannot afford them. It is a good magazine which has exciting articles and teaches much about the past and current history of Israel. I liked the signs of the times leaflets you sent on Israel. Yes, Israel will soon have no other friend in the world. We should always look closely at Israel. In the near future, if war breaks out, America will wash her hands of Israel, who will then have no super power to help her. If this happens then our Lord Jesus will return and save Israel – may that day be soon.

I am pleased to hear that the New Testament project is underway. I always put such good initiative in God's hands and pray that the project will be a success. Thank you for letting me know that Duncan is in China. We pray that God will protect him, especially as you said there are governmental problems there. We only water the seed but God gives the increase. Give my brotherly love to him when he returns. The return of our Lord is near and there is no time to waste and we must be busy doing the Lord's work. I pray that one day we can meet in person,

perhaps when Christ returns, which would be wonderful, and I will make a great effort to find you.

I have minor pains, please pray for me.

I liked the leaflets containing the signs of the times, and I would request for more regular ones to be sent to me. These teach us a lot about what is happening around us, with Biblical interpretations. These papers will help to give us a general picture that the return of Christ is very near and that we need to use our time wisely for Kingdom purposes.

Bro. Gideon Hankomone

MUFULIRA

Brothers, we have a big problem with our daughter, Sis. Thresser, who is very sick. We went with her to the hospital and were given a prescription for drugs costing k400,000 in Zambian money. At the moment we do not have that amount of money as it has been used to pay for her education – this time she has finished grade 12. There is no peace in the world and we have to be watchful as our redemption draws near in God’s most wonderful Kingdom; we sincerely pray that we will be given a place therein.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Cathrine Daka

All in Mufulira Ecclesia are waiting for our Master, Jesus Christ, to come and establish His Kingdom here on earth. I met a student and discussed with him about baptism. In his church when you want to be baptised you have to pay a fee of about k10,000, equivalent to two dollars, to their pastors, but as it was difficult for him to pay this amount he was baptised on credit and he had to pay at the end of the month. I explained to him that baptism is free and it should be performed when a person understands God’s Will and repents, as Peter replied in Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins”. You don’t have to pay a certain amount of money. Paul’s letter to the Romans tells us that “we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4.

Bro. Fred Mumba

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

As I am writing this letter, people are busy running to and fro in the fields planting tobacco, maize, sorghum and soyas. The weather promises to be fine, while we are living in a changing world.

One year has passed and we are now well into 2011. As we read through reviews of the past year, we are reminded of events that have already receded into the forgotten past. They are history. It is not easy to let go of the things of the past, yet the Bible presents us with a God who not only creates, but is always recreating.

As we move on through the year, let us be glad for what is being left behind – much of it evil and all of it transitory. Let us be glad also for what is coming, for the new creation, for the new heavens and the new earth God is creating. Pray for the perfect heavens and perfect earth which Christ will bring soon, when he returns to rule.

Bro. David Yelulani

CHINHOYI

It shows the love of God when He continues to urge His people to spread the Gospel of truth. We now know the truth, and that is setting us free from problems and troubles. We also now know how to overcome the powers of evil (Ephesians 6:14).

I am OK – God is keeping me safe.

Bro. Calvin Chitano

CHIPINGE

I am delighted to report the good news of my baptism. I was baptised here at Ratelshoek Tea Estate in Chipudzana River in Chipinge District. I was baptised by Bro. Moses Dhlakama, with four other students. Though Bre. Patrick and Admire were unable to attend, things went well, in peace and harmony. May the Lord keep me in the way to His Kingdom. We all enjoyed the nice meal prepared by my wife Ronica Madhimba at my house. Ronica is taking some lessons with other students. I was given the right hand of fellowship at Rimbi Ecclesia by Bro. Rhobson Sithole of Bulawayo.

We are busy doing meetings on a rota for Breaking of Bread here in Chipinge North with Bre. Moses, Farai and Sis. Evelyn, either at Bro. Moses' farm at Christine, or at my house here at Ratelshoek. Again, we normally have our monthly meetings at Rimbi, Tanganda Halt and Christine Farm.

Thank you very much for the books you have sent me. I have finished reading Bible Basics and 'The Real Christ.' May you keep on sending me others.

I am also looking forward to the baptism of my wife Ronica Madhimba. We are baptised into the saving Name of Jesus Christ and must be men and women of faith. Through baptism we are related to the hope of immortal life at the return of Jesus, when the Kingdom of God is established on David's throne in Jerusalem, here on earth. In that day peace and righteousness will fill the earth and all nations will be blessed and subject to him, so let's keep watching, for the time is near.

I am glad to announce to all that very soon I will be transferred, God willing, from Ratelshoek, my working place, to another Estate around Chipinge. I will soon inform you when transferred. Thank you, and may God bless you all.

Bro. Simon Madhimba



Bro. Simion Madhimba being given the right hand of fellowship by Bro. Rhobson at Rimbi Ecclesia.

Here at Ratelshoek we are fit and strong in the Word of God. I thank the Almighty God for His love in bringing us together as one family in Christ.

From our community Bro. Farai Makandeni is being transferred with his job from Ratelshoek Tea Estate to Jersey Tea Estate around Chipinge District. I am parting from this good brother with whom I spent time doing God's work. Our preaching ranged from Ratelshoek areas to Mpenge and Dakata, part of Mozambique. However, we will keep up our regular meetings, meditating upon the great salvation we have been shown. Myself and Bro. Moses will always keep paying regular visits to Bro. Farai at Jersey, helping people there to grow in Christ.

I also remain here at Ratelshoek as a labourer in the Master's vineyard. I have a good number of students who are doing the 40 lessons, including my wife Ronica.

Please will you keep supplying us with more information, books and pamphlets to guide us spiritually until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Simon Madhimba



Bro. Simon and his wife (student) Ronica Madhimba, holding their newly born daughter, Needmore (Martha) Faith Madhimba.

In our efforts to have an ecclesia at our farm, very soon we will have two baptisms, and these two students learned the Truth through Bible Basics.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

GURUVE

Guruve Brethren and Sisters were busy clearing the land where the Ecclesial Hall is to be built. All the members are well united, and the work is being done in an amicable way. Although we are a small Ecclesia, we are growing rapidly, as there are many students on the UK 40-lessons course and another group of students on the oral lessons under Brother Fawiel Mawooeka.

Many people nowadays are very keen and eager to learn more about the coming Kingdom of God on this earth. Here we give handouts and pamphlets to outsiders.

We are people who live in a drought-stricken, rural area which also receives poor rainfall each year. This year we had a severe drought, but we hope God will help us, as our only Heavenly Father (Psalm 34:10).

Bro. Nice Yotamu



Guruve Brethren and a Sister preparing the land for the Ecclesial Hall.

HARARE

May I start by saying thank you so much, I received Bible Basics books and a second hand good bible from Durcan & Marcus May I say once again I appreciate everything you have done, You have blessed me so much. Thank you so much I am very grateful. Be blessed and continue to do good for the rest of people seeking your service.

Dennis Mudzinganyama

MATHABISA

We can only know God through His revelation of Himself and His ways. This revelation is in the Bible, which clearly claims to have been inspired by God through faithful men (2 Tim.3:16). We can learn about God's nature, His character, His mind and His purpose. Do we love Him and follow His commands? We should, because He created heaven and earth, and we too are being formed spiritually by Him. He gave His beloved Son Jesus to this world to teach us about His ways, so that we can enter the future Kingdom.

Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my Name, there am I with them' (Mat 18:19-20). 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, 'These three remain, faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.' Let us follow His commandments to preach the Word of God, the Bible, to our fellow men in areas where we live, as God and His Son Jesus love us.

Bro. David Ngwenya

MT. DARWIN

We had arranged to start some rotating meetings for Breaking of Bread here in Mt. Darwin with Sis. Esther Chigiji, who lives 80Km south of our place. This did not materialize as Sis. Esther cannot get to our place on a Sunday to Break Bread, as there are no buses in the morning, and her return journey would be in the dark, which would be difficult as her failing eyesight is worsening. Our prayer is that one day bus operators will bring in more buses to our place, which is still remote.

Bro. Sylvester Chakaipa



Bro. Sylvester Chakaipa

MUTARE

Thank you so much for sending us the book 'The Real Christ,' it is very interesting and explains much about our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please pray for visitors from overseas not to divide brothers in ecclesias: we expect them to make us come together and do effective preaching.

Bro. Gilbert Tevere

SANYATI

As we are now in isolation, we miss the brethren in Chegutu and around Zimbabwe, although we sometimes hook up during visits to Chegutu.

We read our Bibles every day as a family, a practice we have been able to maintain since 2004. I have not so far been able to get replacement Bibles, hence we have continued to use the old Bibles which have some missing pages.

Sanyati Growth Point has a problem of seasonal workers who rely mainly on the Cotton buying companies that go off season after the ginning is completed. That then makes contact difficult, as interested friends disappear to their rural homes for various farming activities. The place is also full of immoral vices and it is difficult to get serious contacts who keep in touch. But all the same, the Lord God has kept us and protected us as we strive to live under His commands. Our faith remains strong as we await the coming of our Master and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Itai Tembo

ZAKA

The idea of your thought is marvellous! It helps in preaching, making it much easier with these comments. I showed your letter to the Brethren and Sisters of our Ecclesia. They fully commend it and wish to have this New Testament with additional comments: the number they request is 12 to 15 books.

Bro. Svuure Faustino

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from belarus

I am heartbroken to inform you of the death of my husband and our Brother in Christ, Vladimir. He was a good man and loved his animals and tried his best despite all our limitations, and now I look forward to God's Kingdom, although for now I have simply so much work to do on the farm.

Sis. Nina



news from germany

We're delighted to report the baptism of MAHSOUD; may God bless him to His Kingdom.

I really enjoyed reading about the true Jesus, His humanity, yet how great He was and is, this has been a practical strength to me in my problems at work. Thankyou for all the Russian literature you produce.

Sis. Vera

news from israel

KIRYAT ATA

I have now returned to Israel after a long time away in the Crimea in Ukraine where I was with my son visiting family. I appreciate the exhortations which are emailed to me from brother John Thatcher. Our only hope is the soon return of Christ.

Bro. Vladimir

news from italy

NAPLES

Getting to know you and having been baptized by you has really been a great blessing. This is to let you know that I received the books today and have started studying the book "The Real Christ". We are hoping for more baptisms in our study group next time you come.

Bro. Festus



Photo: Studying Bible Basics at the study group in Naples

news from kazakhstan

I have had trial after trial in my life at the moment. I spent my last money buying new boots but they are leaking already, there has been so much snow and now when it melts there is water everywhere. I suppose life must be hard for us so that we reach God's Kingdom but all the same it is difficult sometimes to live it.

Sis. Nina

I have come across a copy of the histories of Josephus. I am reading this with great interest. I never read anything like it. I really feel I can imagine the situation in which Jesus lived so much better, He has become more real for me.

Sis. Elvira

I wanted to write and say how often I think of how Duncan and our late sister Ludmila used to come here and teach us and baptize people, now I know I am with the Lord whereas before I knew so little about Him, and what I did know was so wrong, just supposition and assumption, or believing what others said. Ludmila has been dead a while now but truly we still remember her here.

Sis. Yulia

news from kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK

We are holding on here although the world seems to have forgotten us. We are trying to run our family here as true Christians.

Bro. Anvar

news from latvia

The Latvian Ecclesias report with joy the baptisms of sisters LYUBA, OLGA, GALINA, TATYANA, LEJLA, ELENA, VALDA, DIANA, KSENJA, IVETA, SOLVITA, ZANE, AGITA, VERA, TANJA, and brothers MIKHAIL, WARNER, YURI, VADIM, VILNIS, MARIS, ALI, JURIS, and PIOTR. May the Lord continue with them all until the Kingdom comes.

AIZKRAUKLE

Thank you that you don't forget me here in Aizkraukle, although I am unable to travel much anywhere. It gave me such joy to receive a packet from England, you really do try to look after me and I appreciate it, I will try to respond by remaining faithful to God.

news from lithuania

I am very pleased to say that we have had a second child, a baby boy called Vytautas.

Bro. Valdas

news from macedonia

I would very much like to run in a marathon here, with T-Shirt advertising Carelinks, the true Gospel etc. This is my dream, I think I could serve God well in this way.

Bro. Hristijan

news from moldova

We're delighted to report the baptism of ALEKSANDRA; may God bless her to His Kingdom.

DUBOSSARY

Again I was unable to get to the Bible School but it is my great desire to go there and be with you all who are reading the same chapters from the Bible each day as myself.

Sis. Tamara

news from norway

We're pleased to report the baptism of ALEX; may the Lord continue with him until the Kingdom comes.

It is my strong desire to do work for God in my homeland of Ghana, I look forward to distributing our literature there.

Bro. Alex

news from russia

We're delighted to report the baptism of ALEXEI; may God bless him to His Kingdom.

CHELYABINSK

Thank you for the magazine and for the invitation to the Bible school. Sorry to say we can't meet again, it's too far to go there, too much time from work. We are really sorry to receive the information about the death of Brothers Vladimir and Albinas, we loved them very much. We also hope to meet them in the Kingdom of God in the future. Send our love to brothers and sisters. Much love in Jesus,

The Belyaev family

MOSCOW

I am suffering as we all are, but I really am learning the truth of the fact that blessed or happy is the believer who can endure tribulations.

Bro. Igor S.

MURMANSK

Greetings to all from far northern Russia! As you know we were transferred here but we have found it not as cold as we had imagined it would be. We think of you so often.

Bro. Kostya & Sis. Nastya



Photo: Kostya and Nastya at Nastya's baptism in 2008

SANKT PETERBURG

I am surviving OK here despite the huge flu epidemic there has been. I read each day according to the *Companion*. I am currently under a very strong impression from the fact that what is written about Jesus personally is written about us too very often. His whole mission to forgive sins and save people He has put into our hands, we are in the world as representatives of Him. This makes me look at my life and witness very seriously.

Bro. Valerij

SARATOV

I returned with much joy from the Bible School, I am so grateful that I was enabled to come at the last minute. Our lives here continue to be dominated by the problem with my grandson who was hit by a falling high voltage cable; he is blessed to be alive but his arm and leg seem unusable, but they are suggesting an operation, the cost of which is huge for us. All our family are gathering what money they can from here and there so he can have it and so that he can have the after care which will be needed. I am praying for him many times each day. Please pray for him too.

Sis. Raisa



Sister Raisa [right] with other sisters at the recent Bible School in Poltava

SHAKHTY

Thank you all so much for your prayers for my health. I am slowly improving. I look back at the photos of my baptism and I know whom I have believed.

Bro. Sergej

VORONEZH Obl.

I am now 75 years old and have many weaknesses in my health. I read and re-read Revelation 21 about the wonderful time which is to come upon the earth and, I hope and pray, for me personally. Thank you for sharing with me the hope of the Kingdom.

Sis. Tamara

news from serbia

BELGRADE

I continue in contact with a community outside Belgrade which exists to help people like alcoholics and drug addicts to recover. I have given them *Bible Basics* and I hope some of those poor people will find the real new life through this.

Bro. Vladislav

news from spain

My situation here is worse and worse, I am moving around looking for work. I do trust in God, I pray in my room a lot. I also received New Testaments for distribution and this I am doing amongst English speaking people I meet. Greetings to all in Christ.

Bro. Rachid

news from turkey

We're delighted to report the baptism of GULHAN; may God bless him to His Kingdom.

I have so many problems here and so many problems at home in Russia, I really don't know what to do and feel so lacking in wisdom, although I ask God to give it to me and keep reading His word looking for that wisdom.

Sis. Anna

news from ukraine

We're delighted to report the baptism of brothers PIOTR and VALERIJ. May God bless them to His Kingdom.

KHARKOV

I am grieving very much after the death of my father. Thank you for all your support.

Sis. Marina

KIEV

I received things for my new baby, thank you very much! I gave birth to a boy, a true gift from God.

Sis. Olya

KRASNY LIMAN

I continue caring for my wife, Sister Lena, she can't care for herself now. Each morning we begin the day with prayer and Bible readings. We read some of the basic teachings from *Bible Basics*. We break bread about twice a week for the comfort it gives us. May the God of Heaven and earth be with us and with you until Christ returns.

Bro. Vasily

News from the Americas

news from haiti

We're delighted to report the baptism of Sisters CLERIMA, GAELLE, ADLINE, SHARLINE and FILOMENE; and of Brothers OLIVER, YVES, JEAN, MICHELE, SIMONVIL, LUXON, FITO, JONAS and ALFONSO. May the Lord continue with them until the Kingdom comes. Brother Charlie Klennert comments: "Who would have thought how blessed the Haiti situation turned out! God is amazing".



Photo: Brothers Nick Cox (Huddersfield, UK) and Charlie Klennert (Tacoma, USA) with the ecclesia in Haiti

news from jamaica

ST. ELIZABETH

The world is dismayed with trouble on every side, with men's hearts failing them for fear, but the coming of Jesus draws near. The Bible says that we shall not all die but we shall be changed in a moment. We have only one life which soon passes, only what is done for Christ will last. I lost all my copies of *Glad Tidings* magazines and another magazine because my home was flooded and most of my readings were washed away but I am happy with my copies of *Gospel News* as I keep them and read them again. Please continue to pray for me and remember to post the Bible reading materials to me.

Sis Icilda Logan

news from usa

Carelinks USA via brother Charlie Klennert of the Tacoma Ecclesia report the baptisms in recent months of ALEXIS, TED and HEIDI as a result of outreach with *Bible Basics*. May God continue to bless His work in North America.

News from Asia

news from china

We're delighted to report the baptisms of Sisters ONA and LU, and Brothers WEI and XUNJUN. May God bless them all to His Kingdom.



Photo: Sister Lu reading Bible Basics

The Chinese version of *The Real Christ* is of much value here, here is a list of people who would benefit from having it.

Bro. Ai

news from india

Please continue sending *Gospel News* and also please send the book "*The Real Christ*". I hope that you are well by our Heavenly Father's grace. My address is: J. Barnabas, 17 5th Street, Defence Colony, Guduvanchen 603202, Tamil Nadu, India.

Bro. J. Barnabas

news from myanmar

I need just prayer because prayer can do great things. Continually pray for me, please, I mean, for our work here. I need to get to the many unconverted people and help them in truth to Christ. This is my prayer. We don't have much more time, before the great time comes let us do as much as we can.

Bro. Suumpi

news from nepal

We have one man here interested to be baptized from far away from Kathmandu. We shall try to arrange. We appreciate the *Bible Basics*, we are distributing them as far as we can.

Bro. Santosh

news from philippines

We faithfully love to regularly receive the copy of the *Gospel News*. The magazine is kept in our tiny ecclesial library and it is shared among our brethren and sisters and also our interested friends. In fact, it has served as a spiritual bridge that links us together with those of the same precious faith. All those enlightening words of confessions, encouragements, strength and examples read from participating brethren and sisters near and far are invigorating spiritual nourishment and sustenance to us.

If it is not counted as a financial burden, we would also love to have a copy of the recent book, '*The Real Christ*' and a free subscription to the *Glad Tidings* magazine. Other similar leaflets and

pamphlets sent to us are all guiding lights on our faithful waiting for Christ and our journey towards the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Sergio A. Bumadilla

News from Oceania

news from australia

Western Australia

Bro. Lloyd Peake writes encouraging letters to a number of *Gospel News* readers which are much appreciated.



Photo: Bro. Lloyd Peake

The Gifts of the Spirit – Speaking in Tongues

As a matter of some importance, the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, informed his readers about the gifts of the Spirit, “The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ... to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues” (1 Cor.12:7-10).

Altogether there were eight different gifts in this list and it is noteworthy that the gift of the tongues and their interpretation were listed last as being of the least importance. The reason for this would be that these gifts were effective in the ecclesias generally for their immediate profit but the ability to speak in tongues or languages was only useful when preaching in a foreign country where that language was spoken.

It must be remembered that the use of the gift of tongues or different languages was not mentioned in any of the four gospel records. This is because the preaching of Jesus was confined to those of his own race, the Jews and occasionally to Samaritans who apparently could also speak the same language as the Jews.

The Preaching at Pentecost

The first time that speaking in tongues is mentioned is in Acts chapter 2 which describes what happened on the day of Pentecost. The twelve apostles were commanded by Jesus before his ascension to heaven not to depart from Jerusalem where, “ye shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days hence” Acts 1:5. This baptism is described in great detail in chapter 2. ‘And

suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance' (2:2-4).

It was the unusual sound of a 'rushing mighty wind' that excited the curiosity of a multitude of devout Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem for the feast from all over the Roman Empire. On this occasion a wonderful miracle occurred as Peter addressed the crowd because, although they came from many different countries, they heard Peter's message in their own mother-tongue.

'...the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galilians? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites...and strangers from Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speaking in our tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:6-11).

Because of this miracle, the whole multitude that consisted of dwellers in so many different countries (the full text names fifteen) were able to hear and understand what Peter and the other apostles had to tell them.

In this connection Peter quoted a passage from the prophecy of Joel, chapter 2:28-32, to prove that the miracle of being able to speak in various languages which they were then experiencing was an initial fulfilment of the promise of God that he would "pour out his spirit upon all flesh."

It can be appreciated that, because of his remarkable outpouring of the spirit enabling the use of tongues, many of these visitors to Jerusalem found the preaching of Peter so compelling that they wanted to be guided by him and be baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this event the membership of the early Christian Church was swelled by the addition of 3,000 new disciples of the Lord Jesus.

Those who were baptised also received a gift of the Spirit for Peter had said, "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:38-39)

Holy Spirit – not Holy Ghost

You may have noted that in some of the previous quotations from Acts the word 'spirit' has been substituted for 'Ghost'. This substitution is justifiable because the Greek for 'spirit' is 'pneuma'. In the AV 'pneuma' is actually translated 'spirit' in the passage containing the words of Jesus when he said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." (1:18) This statement clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is the power of God by which he enables the apostles and others to perform miracles. As a translation of 'pneuma,' therefore, it is decided that 'spirit' is preferable to 'Ghost'.

The Use of the Gifts of the Spirit in the Early Church

It is only natural that the brethren and sisters should be enthusiastic about using these gifts of the Spirit. Paul describes this as follows, "When ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying." (1 Cor. 14:26) Here Paul points out that the Spirit gifts were given for the

express purpose of edifying the Church. This means that the gift of tongues must be used to the same end. So Paul adds, "If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God." (14:27-28)

The whole purpose of these gifts of the Spirit was to build up the Church with knowledge and understanding so that it attains a state of maturity, an appropriate Holy Temple for God to dwell in. Consequently Paul, when writing to the Ephesian Church about these gifts wrote, "And he gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph.4:11-13)

The phrase 'perfect man' means a mature man. The word 'perfect' (Gr. Teleios = of full age) refers to the maturity of the members of the ecclesia. One can see from this part of Paul's letter to the Ephesians and his many other letters how that these gifts of the Spirit were instrumental in building up the members of the early Church in knowledge, doctrine and practice.

The ability to bestow Holy Spirit gifts not permanent

One may wonder how long the ministration of the Spirit gifts would continue. Paul gives us a good idea when comparing the influence which the practice of love among brethren had with that of Spirit gifts. He wrote, "Charity (love) never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail, whether there be tongues they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away... But when that which is perfect (mature) is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." (1 Cor.13:8-10)

It is probable that the apostles were able to bestow Spirit gifts for as long as they lived (Acts 8:14-17); by which time the Christian Church would have attained maturity. This being so, any claim in later times to the possession of Holy Spirit gifts, especially speaking in tongues, does not agree with what we have found in the foregoing Scriptures and therefore should not be accepted as valid.

The New Testament

Finally we must not overlook the fact that most of us have been blessed with a copy of the New Testament which contains four accounts of the ministry of the Lord Jesus and many epistles all written by men possessing the Holy Spirit. All these provide ample guidance to lead us to eternal life. There really is no need for any further revelations. Let Paul sum up the matter for us;

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect – PERFECT, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim.3:16-17).

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

Jehoshaphat's Alliance (2 Chron 17 to 21)

These five chapters give us a picture of a man who had a good beginning, but a bad ending. He made bad alliances and reaped the consequences. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab was a bad one. The bad seed brought a bad crop. This principle is as true today as it was then, and it is as applicable to brothers and sisters as to others. Let us beware, therefore, of joining hands with those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to remember that with Jehoshaphat there was zeal for God at times, but at this time he was off his guard. His beginning was a very happy one and he was in God's favour. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because at first he walked in the ways of his father David (2 Chron 17:3).

How wonderful to be approved by God and what satisfaction to rest in His favour! It is a wonderful thing that God loves us. Think who God is, and who we are. The One who made the worlds, thinks of us. His love to us is revealed in the Bible and there is no book like it. Where else can we find such thoughts as are therein contained? Who could have been the author of such thoughts! My desire for you is that you will not choose as your companions those who do not love the Lord. As you meet those who are not in Christ, talk to them and tell them about your Saviour, but do not go, with them as companions.

Bro Henderson Sosola (Mtenthela, Malawi)

Out of Bondage

While Israelites toiled as slaves in Egypt they sighed by reason of the bondage. Their agony did not go unheeded, for they were beloved for the fathers' sakes. God heard their pleading, and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 2:23,24). In that covenant, He promised that the nation whom they shall serve will be judged, and afterward they shall come out with great substance (Genesis 15:14). The time had at last arrived for this pledge to take effect. God indicated this in His message to Moses at the bush: "I am come down to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians" (Exodus 3:8). This being so, Pharaoh was powerless to frustrate the Divine purpose. Within a short period, Israel had come out according to God's word.

But did those who were delivered by that word, regard the exodus to be an end in itself? Or had God's purpose stopped when He delivered them from bondage? No. It would have been a meaningless and futile act. There were rebels who made protests and were not only mutinous, but in human terms they were logical and unanswerable. They asked Moses, "Have you taken us away from Egypt to die in the wilderness, because there are no graves in Egypt?" They concluded bitterly that it would have been better to serve the Egyptians, rather than die in the wilderness (Exodus 14:11,12).

God's answer was the marvel of crossing the Red Sea. This should have silenced their murmurings once and for all, yet within a short time they complained again to Moses and Aaron: "You have brought us forth into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Exodus 16:3). God's answer was the provision of manna. But they were still not satisfied that the miracle would suffice to preserve them from the same folly on subsequent occasions. But the people continued to betray an insultingly low estimation of the character of God Himself. In speaking

out, they ignored the covenant with Abraham, “In the fourth generation they shall come hither again. Unto your seed I have given this land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates” (Genesis 15:16). They acted as though the pledge had not been given. But that same promise had been repeated in God’s assurance to Moses, which had already been vindicated itself in their miraculous deliverance, “I am come down to bring them up out of that land unto a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8). The exodus was a guarantee of the entry into the land of Canaan, and God had spoken as if everything had already been an accomplished fact, “Thou in thy mercy hast led forth they people which thou has redeemed, thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation” (Exodus 15:3). “I will bring you in unto the land which I did swear to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I am the Lord” (Exodus 6:8).

The book of the covenant legislated Israel’s settlement in the land (Exodus 21:13; 23:19). God clearly regarded Sinai as merely a halt on the march from the land of bondage to the assured rest of the land of promise.

Bro Johnstone Kaliwanga (Kilembe, Uganda)

By Listening You Become Wise

I never learn anything when I am talking, it is only when listening that true learning can make me wise. Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I want to gain anything by learning, I must do it by listening and reading. I must open my ears to learn, rather than opening my mouth to talk. Talking can bring me into much more trouble than listening. Once I say something it is out, and I cannot hide it.

The way to keep from sinning by saying things I ought not to say is to stop and think before speaking. I can blurt out in anger something I will regret for the rest of my life, as Moses did. He became exasperated with the children of Israel and said words that kept him from entering the Promised Land. The Bible tells us that, “... they provoked his spirit, so that he spoke unadvisedly with his lips.” I need to remember Solomon’s advice, “Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.” David prayed, “Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.” In the New Testament Jesus warns us, “But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall render an account for it in the day of judgement.”

Saying nothing is much better than saying the wrong things. The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong things at the tempting moment. “It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open a mouth and remove all doubt.” Solomon stated that “even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise, and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.”

When I speak I should say the right things: how would I know what would be best to say? - by listening and learning beforehand. “To know wisdom and understanding is to perceive the words

of instruction, and is to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice and judgement. A wise man will hear and increase learning: and a man of understanding through listening shall attain unto wise counsels and will fear the Lord's ways. A man has joy with the answer of his mouth, and a word fitly spoken in due time." "A soft answer turns away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger. The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge. He that refuses instruction despises his own soul; but he that hears reproof gets understanding. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility" (Pro 1:1-7; & chapters 15 and 16).

Bro. Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)

Waiting Patiently Upon The Lord

We live in an age of speed. We must make coffee, prepare meals – and even telephone overseas in less than a minute. We have become accustomed to the immediate results – perhaps that's why we find it difficult to 'wait on the Lord.'

A preacher once told a woman who sought his counsel about a serious matter: he told her 'there are two options open to you, one is to take the decision in your own hands – this should bring an immediate solution, but may also result in a broken home. The second is to wait upon the Lord to provide the solution. Your patience may be severely tried, but in the end you will have a permanent and satisfactory solution'. To wait upon the Lord does not, however, imply passive submission, but an attitude of patience. Isaiah 40:28-31 talks about running well in the course of life: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding no-one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and grow weary and the young men stumble and fall. But those waiting upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary; they will walk and not faint."

When you face an insurmountable problem and are in panic, remember that our Heavenly Father acts for the one who waits on Him. God does not make you wait in vain. Habakkuk was perplexed and impatient. First he complained to God about the evil of the Israelites (Hab 1:2-4). The Lord responded by saying that he would use the Babylonians to scourge them. The prophet raised a new problem – the Babylonians were much more wicked than Israel.

Though frustrated, Habakkuk did not panic or get in a rush – instead he showed reverence for God by waiting for Him to clear things. God spoke again and He assured the prophet that he would have to wait before seeing all the wrong made right. The delay was a trying time and a difficult experience for Habakkuk, but the answer eventually came and just at the right time. He exercised patience and faith, leaving the matter in the hands of God. God will reward us for our patience – but in His own time.

To earn an imperishable crown, we must wait on the Lord. Patience, self-control and laying aside sinful burdens are the secret tool of running well (as also referred to in the Psalms). Comforting words for those who patiently wait upon the Lord: they will be rewarded, 'they will fly on wings like eagles and never grow tired.'

Bro. Nelson Anyals (Ahero, Kenya)

From Carelinks Reports

WINTER WELFARE

We continue to assist a large number of brothers and sisters and their families in various ways, thanks to your kind support. The snowfall in Eastern Europe has been extraordinary... for our bre & sis and contacts from the night shelters, life's pretty awful having to be on the streets all day when the streets are unwalkable... so we have been running hither and thither for various things. Just one of many examples- we saw a sister sitting in the snow at a bus stop, clutching her plastic supermarket bag where she has her few possessions. The bus had just left and she stayed sitting there. "Why are you sitting here?". "Well they've cleaned the snow off the pavement around the bus stop, I am just too tired to keep on walking these snowy streets as anyway I have nowhere much to go until the shelter re-opens".

Confronted with cases like these, one can hardly drive on by. But it all takes a lot of time and resources. And it's not hard to go out onto the byways and compel people to come in to hear the Gospel and have a coffee... The new hall is a real blessing and all the sacrifices well worth it. Here's Br Peter Stringer enjoying himself clearing snow off the roof, but the snow mountains were huge:



For the old folk in the night shelters who have nowhere to go, trundling the streets with their walking stick and bag or so of belongings is just awful- we took this photo out of the window at our new hall. As our blind brother Oleg remarked, having a white stick isn't much help in the Winter:



We received the following photos of the situation in Russia, with problems caused for brothers and sisters not just by the drifts but by the weight of snow on flat



Cindy's been trying to get the kitchen up to EU standards, one of which is that workers must wear cooking uniforms, which we've just received. Our African brethren looked rather smart in

them:



We need to be producing 150-200 meals / week to feed just our own brothers and sisters twice / week. Please do consider donating monthly for this as the costs are significant.

We're really grateful for the arrival of welfare packs from kind brothers and sisters. Here they are being shared out along with scarves and other material sent over from members of the Maidenhead UK ecclesia, and a set of woollen hats donated by Selco Builders Merchants [on the prodding of Br Mark Leadbetter, thanks Mark for that!]:



BROTHER YURI AND SISTER VERA

It was our honour and privilege to baptism YURI and his sister in the flesh VERA. Yuri's 69 and Vera's 73. Born the son and daughter of a senior Red Army officer, they lived their lives through the height of Soviet power. Falling upon hard times with the fall of the Communist Party and collapse of the Soviet Union, they both came, through quite different paths, to turn to God. They also reconnected with each other. Yuri lives in a man's night shelter and Vera lives in a woman's night shelter, but they spend their days together all the time, looking out for each other and trying to get through life together. They have taken to the Bible and the things of the Kingdom and the Lord Jesus like fish to water. They really love coming to the meetings. They always wear the same clothes, which they do their best to keep clean. Here are some pictures of them at previous meetings- you will note on the table to Yuri's right hand side is a Russian Introducing *Bible Basics* with answer sheets, part of their studies before baptism:



And so the great day of their baptism came, performed with the help of brother Vladimir:



Vera said: "We feel like small children all over again!". Yuri added: "Yes. So this is what being born again is all about. I never thought a person could feel so new!". Sounds rather like the realization Nicodemus came to.

It was so hard seeing them off to go home. Each to their separate night shelter, to meet up at 08:30 a.m. at the bus station waiting room. They help each other along the slippery, icy streets as best they can, Yuri leaning heavily on his cane, clinging onto each other, playfully arguing with

each other about whose eyesight is better.



Of such is the Kingdom of God, and it's a pleasure to do our part in helping them walk there.

Second Impressions of Latvia

Brother Charlie Klennert

Arriving to the Riga Bible Center by foot from the Heaster's apartment it was encouraging to see so many brothers and sisters and interested friends already in attendance. As I sat in the back it was evident that there are brothers and sisters here originally from Iran, Latvia, Russia and parts of Africa... The diversity is an amazing thing. After being here a couple years ago, to see the growth of the ecclesia was kind of surreal. I see the *Carelinks newsletters*, I read about our brothers and sisters, so in a sense I already knew them through thoughts and prayers. Almost as if I was looking through a glass darkly, knowing their stories and not being able to communicate with their language was indeed a difficult thing...

So many things left unsaid with just a simple smile. To see the *Bible Companion* in great use was an encouraging sight! Knowing that our brothers and sisters in Latvia are reading the same chapters of the Bible as we do is a testament to how that plan has helped many all over the globe. The readings were done and discussed at meeting in quite some length and everyone was encouraged to read the Bible on their own during the week, to fill up their lamps. The need is great for Bibles in Russian and Latvian. So please do help and send or provide Bibles!

After meeting there was a meal and coffee prepared by the brethren for all in attendance. Quite a sight to see with nearly 100 people in attendance.! This makes for loads of dishes, which were happily washed up by some of the brethren. After the meeting, there was a young married couple, YURI and DIANA, and an elderly lady, TATYANA, who have been preparing for baptism and today was their day to choose the path of Christ! So we thank God with the Angels that others are coming to the cross and to the Truth! Hard really with photos to try to express the wonderful buzz from this meeting:

Line of brothers and sisters awaiting food:



Br Charlie greeting sister Tatyana after her baptism



Yuri and Diana before their immersion by Duncan & Cindy, the kitchen has been well done by an Australian brother recently, and there's a large baptismal bath.



Sister Zhenya's Testimony, "The Angel In Wellington Boots"

You asked, how I came to believe, to be baptized. I come from a village, actually a group of a few houses only, far in the Balozhi marshes. It is wet and boggy there, walking anywhere was always a problem, the only normal time was when there was a drought in Summer. In Winter the ice and snow were awful, we never went to school much in the Winter, say from November to April, you can see by my writing that I never was much in school. Well there were three things, now I think back, which brought me to God and Jesus.

1. My brother was killed in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation. We went to the kommandant in Riga to get the news. The officer there gave us a medal and a death certificate. As a child I didn't understand. I asked continually, but where is he, is he OK, where is his body, where is he? The officer said something about that he died "at the front", I suppose he meant the body wasn't recovered, and I didn't understand that. I wanted to know if he was suffering still, was anyone hurting him. I didn't know much about Afghanistan, even now I am not too sure where exactly it is. I knew just it was far from us, and our men always said it was like hell on earth, fighting men like monsters in huge mountains. The officer kept telling me not to worry, that he was dead, he was not alive, he was not suffering. But I so often asked myself, But how does he know? What authority is he? How does he know what happens to dead people? It was many years later, we were still meeting in the basement at Kalnciema, when I asked Duncan from the audience: So let's say someone doesn't know about God and they die, where are they, are they suffering? I was thinking about my brother. Duncan quoted to me from Ecclesiastes and some Psalms, that God says, no, they are not suffering. They aren't conscious, all is over. I was so relieved. From that day I knew I was in the right place to find the Truth.

2. To get from our house to the asphalt road was about 10 km. The paths were awful, always muddy. There was a collective farm, and sometimes a man with a tractor would drive to the asphalt road, and he would take us. He only had room for one person in the cab, and you had to almost sit on him. He used to touch me and grope me and I hated him. I used to walk rather than go with him, it was hours to walk. Then one day he drove by and stopped and apologized to me with tears, he said he had changed his life. I didn't believe him. For about a year he stopped and told me this whenever he saw me. Then we heard he had been arrested for being involved with some church. I guess he had become a Christian. He was taken away and we never saw him again.

3. We were simple country people. We grew berries and we caught eels, and we would take them to Riga and stand and sell them. I would walk to the asphalt road and get the bus from there. It was so wet and boggy where we were, we wore rubber boots ["Wellingtons"] all the time. I would walk to the asphalt road in my boots carrying my shoes. I had some shoes, I was rather proud of them, but never wore them much. I would hide my rubber boots under a tree which had a big hole under it, change into my shoes, then get the bus to Riga, so I wouldn't be

walking around Riga in rubber boots looking like a silly country girl, trying to sell my berries and eels to those clever city people. As I then thought of them, now I live there myself. Then I would get the bus back, go to the tree, change into my boots and walk home. The tree and the hole underneath it was my little secret. Nobody knew about it, just our mother. I did this so often, many times. Then one day returning from Riga, my boots were gone. But there was a note there, that said something like, I'm very sorry but I needed your boots because I have to walk far through the marshes, so I took them. I am very sorry and will try to return them. Keep looking in this place, you will get them back. And there was with the note a New Testament. I walked home those hours in tears, my shoes got ruined, I ended up walking barefoot. I had lost my boots and ruined my shoes, I knew my mother would be so mad with me. And all I had to show for it was this little book. Remember we were Soviet people. All we heard was the danger of the West, the stupidity of religion and the Bible, we weren't supposed to have Bibles. After I got over the shock of it all, I started to read this New Testament. I read every word of it. I read on the first page that it was published by some group called Licht im Osten [Light in the East], in West Germany. In my teenage simple country way I wondered if there was some spy from the West, from Germany [we kept hearing in those days how the West had spies around and wanted to bring down the USSR] who had been watching me and was in love with me. Just childish fantasy of a teenage girl. But I wondered what he wanted to tell me, this spy, or whoever this person was. So I read and read the New Testament. I liked the stories of Jesus, I thought Paul and Peter in Acts were great, I thought Mary mother of Jesus was great, I was disappointed not to read more about her after the Gospels. The letters and Revelation got me confused. I still don't understand some of those bits.

So then I came into contact with the meeting. I went every Sunday, every Monday, and I did the Bible Basics. It all made sense. So I got baptized. I asked Duncan what he thought of me getting the New Testament and who it was who put it there and took my boots. Of course it wasn't a spy. But I am amazed someone had been watching me in that country place where there are so few people. And I never got my boots back although I checked in that hole under the tree so many times. Who was it? Duncan says it was maybe an Angel. I don't mind who it was, but I am not sure about that explanation. If it was really an Angel then I would have thought he or she [are there woman Angels?] would have returned my boots. I can still remember all the problem I had losing my boots and ruining my shoes in one day. So here I finish my story, with thanks to God and Jesus.

Have You a Public Relations Policy? (Ps.133:1)

As we have to live with people, it pays to understand them and maintain a sweet relationship with them. In some cases this is quite easy and in others extremely difficult. So much seems to depend upon the attitude of other people; some are easy to talk to and their attractive personalities place no strain on human relationships. But not all people are like this.

There are many who are brusque and difficult, who seem to delight in making things awkward for those around them. These people, at some time or another, move into the orbit of our lives. If we attempt to solve this problem by ignoring it, we are by-passing, not solving, a complex problem. The probability is that we are missing the adventure of understanding a unique, if difficult, personality.

To come to grips constructively with the problems of human relationships we will require patience and sympathetic understanding; we will be content to keep our own counsel and let others talk, and even if what they say hurts, we will maintain our mastery of the situation by keeping calm. Under such conditions, as we listen, we will learn, and will discover that behind the brusqueness and apparent rudeness, there is a life longing for love and friendship. Once we see this, and can meet the need, we have discovered the art of releasing imprisoned personalities and turning potential enemies into friends.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

People of Jesus' Times

The Pharisees

Pharisees (so called from the Hebrew word “perushim” meaning separated), held that the “oral law”, or accumulation of interpretations of, and decisions on, the Law of Moses were equal in authority to the written Law (contained in the first five books of the Bible). These “traditions” had made “of none effect” many of the laws. they observed and enjoined upon others much washing of hands, garments and utensils, but neglected the cleansing of heart and mind of evil thoughts, desires and intents (Matt.23:25).

The Sadducees

The word means “just” or “righteous”. They denied the existence of an oral (or unwritten) law, but embraced some of the teaching. This developed into a denial of the resurrection and of the existence of angels (Matt.22:23). The Pharisees were thus astray on practice and the Sadducees on doctrine.

The Scribes

They were condemned by Jesus along with the Pharisees. They were not so much a sect as a body of men holding an office. They were originally those who copied (a scribe = a writer) the Scriptures and were custodians of them. Later they were consulted as to their meaning and eventually they became teachers of them. Many of the Scribes therefore belonged to one of the two great branches (or schools) of the Pharisees, and therefore supported the “traditions” or interpretations of the law held by these. One is given here (Matt 15:4). Christ shows that the command of Exodus 20:12 and the spirit of the command is to honour in all ways father and mother. But they taught that a son could neglect the supporting of father and mother in order to offer a gift to the synagogue or temple. This was far from honouring father and mother.

A further tradition is mentioned in Matt 15 v.20, for the Pharisees did not eat unless they had first washed, lest they should be ceremonially unclean. Though Christ does not advocate uncleanness, he shows that the vital matter was not what entered into a man by eating or drinking, but what came from within – from the mind and heart. If the evils of v.19 were manifest in a man, then he was indeed unclean despite all washing of hands, feet or body.

The Herodians

These were a section of the Jews who supported King Herod. The family of Herod were not Jews but Idumeans – the inhabitants of Edom. They were put into power by the Romans and therefore

considered by the majority of the Jews to be friends with the enemy. They were really those Jews who endeavoured to secure power and wealth by friendship with those in power. The questions they asked had therefore to do with paying tribute to Caesar.

The coins in common use were issued by the Romans and had the image of the emperor and his name and title stamped on them. This clearly showed that the coinage belonged to him (as head of the Empire) and that he could claim it. Jesus therefore confounds the Herodians by saying they should give to Caesar those things he could rightfully claim (see Rom. 13:7) *but also give to God* those things that belong to Him – service, obedience and even life. *Christ's question* to them concerning David's son put them, and especially the Pharisees, in a difficult position. They held and taught that the Messiah (or Christ) was David's son and therefore according to Jewish custom was subservient. Yet David, in prophecy, called him "Lord" (Psalm 110) and therefore acknowledged him to be greater. He was truly David's son through Mary, but greater than David because he was also Son of God.

Samaritans

The Samaritans occupied the central portion of Palestine between Galilee on the north and Judea on the south. They were of mixed origin, for in 2 Kings 17:23 & 24 we read of the taking away of Israel and the bringing in of people from Babylon (Cuthah) and Syria (Hamath and Sepharvaim). To these were sent afterwards a priest, which resulted in an adulterated worship of God. In the time of Christ the Samaritans read from their Samaritan book of Moses, kept the Passover, the day of Atonement and all the feasts of the Law, maintaining, however, that Mount Gerizim was the sacred mountain, Deut. 11:29. It was because the Pharisees regarded both their race and religion as polluted that "the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans". Christ on the other hand had begun to teach that all might come to God; and to proclaim that He could be worshipped everywhere.

Judaisers

Acts 15th chapter opens with the statement that men came from Judaea who contended that circumcision was necessary for salvation. Because of this the term Judaiser has been applied to all those who endeavoured to bring in again the Law of Moses and make all or part of it obligatory to the Gentiles. This really implied that the work and sacrifice of Christ had not brought salvation – that it was incomplete and insufficient. It was very necessary that this should be denied. Peter had said, "there is only one name under heaven, given among men, whereby we may be saved", and this was Jesus.

Paul, when writing to the Galatians warns them against this teaching and when writing to the Hebrews points out that if the Law had been perfect there would have been no need for another covenant (Heb. 8:8). Thus Peter, Paul and Barnabas testified how God had shown that salvation had come to the Gentiles without the Law; and the early church made it clear, once and for all, that the enactments of the Law were no longer binding. Very soon it was impossible for them to be binding upon the Jews, for they centred around a temple erected in Jerusalem, and they had respect to the conditions of one land – Palestine – and temple and city were soon to be destroyed.

It was necessary, therefore, in order that the prophecies concerning the Gentiles be fulfilled (Isa. 42:6; 49:6) that the Law "be taken out of the way" and "peoples, nations, languages and tongues" be recipients of God's gracious invitation to salvation.

Bro. W. Mitchell (UK)

Clinging to the Lord

God warns us more and more through His holy Word, in order to turn us all from wrongdoing and keep us from pride, to preserve our lives from the pit and from perishing, but man does not perceive it (Job 33:14-18).

Job is an example we must all follow if we really want to live forever. Job encountered many difficulties: he suffered too much, lost his belongings, and his sons and daughters died also (Job 1:13-22, 2:7-8). In spite of all this he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. May the Name of the Lord be praised." (Job 1:21) "Job was blameless and upright, a man who feared God and shunned evil" (Job 1:8). He was firm in the Lord (clung to the Lord), and the Lord God made him prosperous again and full of years. (Job 42:10, 12-16)

And so for us, Jesus Christ tells us that if we sincerely want to cling to him (belong to him), we must deny ourselves and take up his cross and follow him. 'For whoever wants to save his/her life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for him (Jesus Christ) will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?' (Matt. 16:24-26)

We are urged only to love Jesus Christ more than other things, and only believe in God's word - to be patient towards difficulties we may encounter during our lifetime. For if we find his word a hard teaching and fail to practise it, and turn back to love the world and its pleasures, we will, of course, lose eternal life; but if we suffer or even die (in the eyes of the world) because of giving ourselves to Jesus Christ, we will surely gain eternal life. For nothing in this present age can be compared to the Kingdom of God.

The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that the efforts of man are failure and vanity, but to cling to the Lord and give Him subservience can only bring benefit (Eccl. 2:11; 12:13-14). The present life has no hope of survival, we must seek first the Kingdom of God (Luke 12:31). 'A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions' (Luke 12:15) - 'being rich in God is great gain.' (Luke 12:21).

The day of the Lord will soon be here, but we, Brethren, 'are not in darkness so that that day should surprise us like a thief. We are all sons of the light and sons of the day...let us be alert and self-controlled, putting on faith and love...' (1Thess. 5:1-11)

Bro. Isidore Mwibeleca (Nyarugusu, Tanzania)

Relate Your Religion to Life (James 2:17)

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 and understanding heart, a mind filled with constructive thoughts and 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, practicalness, 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)

The Power of Prayer

Through nature and revelation, through His providence and by the influences of His Spirit Word, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual contact with our Heavenly Father. Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life.

What is prayer, by the way? Well, people may have different answers, but it's the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it's necessary, in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but takes us up to Him.

When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. And the assurance He gave them that their petitions should be heard, is assurance also to us. Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. Our Saviour identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial. He is our example in all things. He is a brother in our infirmities, in all points tempted like as we are: but as the sinless one, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Saviour of men, the Son of God, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer.

Our Heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there's reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God. What can the angels of heaven think of poor, helpless

human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite (endless) love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little and have so little faith?

There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers. One of the first of these is that we feel our need of help from Him. He has promised: 'I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground' (Is 44:3). Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who long after God, may be sure that they will be filled. The heart must be open to the Spirit's influence, or God's blessing cannot be received. He says, 'Ask, and it shall be given unto you' And, 'He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, will He not with Him also freely give us all things?' (Matt.7:7; Rom 8:32)

If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us, but the prayer of the penitent (feeling or showing regret that one has done wrong), contrite soul is always accepted.

Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. 'He that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.' (Heb 11:6) Jesus said to His disciples, 'What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them' (Mark 11:24). Do we take Him at His word?

The assurance is broad and unlimited, and He is faithful who has promised. When we do not receive the very things we ask for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears, and that He will answer our prayers, in the way that is best for us. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers.

When we come to ask for clemency and blessing from God, we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts. How can we pray, 'Forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors,' and yet indulge an unforgiving spirit (Mat 6:12)? If we expect our own prayers to be heard, we must forgive others in the same manner, and to the same extent as we hope to be forgiven.

If we would grow in faith and experience. We are to be 'instant in prayer,' to 'continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.' (Rom 12:12; Col 4:2). Peter exhorts believers to be 'sober, and watch unto prayer' (1Peter 4:7). Paul directs, 'in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God' (Phil 4:6) 'But ye, beloved,' says Jude, 'praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God' (Jude 20, 21.). Unceasing prayer is our unbroken union with God, so that life from God flows into our life, and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God.

Pray in your closet (private room), and as you go about your daily labour, let your heart be often uplifted to God. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. There's no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God, and plead for divine guidance, as did Nehemiah when he made his request before king Artaxerxes.

Let the heart be drawn out and upward, that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun. Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrow, your cares and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who

numbers the hairs of your head, the one who numbers the stars of the sky, is not indifferent to the wants of His children. 'The Lord is very compassionate and merciful.' (James 5:11).

There's no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there's no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children – no anxiety harass them, no sincere prayer escape their lips of which our Heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. 'He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds.' (Psalm 147:3) The relations between God and each one are as distinct and full as though there were not another upon the earth to share His watchful care – nor another for whom He gave His beloved Son.

Jesus said, 'Ye shall ask in my Name, and I say not unto you that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you' 'I have chosen you... that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my Name, He may give it to you' (John 16:26-27; 15:16). But to pray in the Name of Jesus is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and Spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace and work His works.

Bro. James Kambobe (Kasumpa Ecclesia, Zambia)

My Purpose Will Stand

The Lord God makes things happen, which we do not wish to happen, but because of His greatness a lot of things occur in His way. Isaiah 46:10-11: "I say, My purpose will stand and I will do all that I please. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do."

A lot of people often start to wonder, 'why did this happen to me? Why me?' The Bible clearly shows that God always does what He pleases. When the time comes for God to answer our prayers, He surely does. (Isaiah 49:8) "In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you." God declares that what He has planned will surely happen and His purpose surely will stand. "Surely, as I have planned so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand" (Isa. 14:24). In Isaiah 55:11 the Lord tells us that His purpose will always be fulfilled. "So is my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

God made his purpose stand, when He allowed satan to tempt Job. Now in God's purpose, there are many things that happen in our lives that we do not wish for, but because God has a purpose for them, these things surely take place. Job 1:8-12: "Then the Lord said to satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no-one on earth like him, he is blameless and upright – a man who fears God and shuns evil.' 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied. 'Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has and he will surely curse you to your face.' The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well then, everything he has is in your hands but on the man himself do not lay a finger.'"

We see that God wanted Job to show his commitment to him, and by so doing He allowed Satan to lay his hands on the things that Job had. By this God wanted to show that although bad things can happen to us, these are in God's purpose to test our faith in Him. Job 2:9-10: "His wife said to him, 'Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die.' He replied, 'You are talking like a foolish woman; shall we accept good from God and not trouble?'" So although Job went through a hard time, he never looked back to curse God, but we read about him asking God: (Job 10:1-3) "I loathe my very life, therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul. I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me, but tell me what charges you have against me. Does it please you to oppress me, to spurn the work of your hands while you smile on the schemes of the wicked?'"

Job really went through a hard time, but because he knew that what God was doing for him was for a purpose, he held on to his integrity. Job 27:2-6: "As surely as God lives who has denied me justice, the Almighty who has made me taste bitterness of soul, as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness and my tongue will utter no deceit. I will never admit you (his 'friends') are in the right till I die, I will not deny my integrity. I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it, my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live."

Surely God's purpose stands whatever the situation might be: Job 42:2 –"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."

Bro. Richard Phiri (Johannesburg, South Africa)

The Witness to Christ

The Acts of the Apostles comprised God's final offer of mercy to Israel as a nation at home and abroad, prior to pouring out the threatened judgement that took place in AD 70. The witness of the apostles therein answered the prayer of the Lord as he hung on the cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). It should have brought home to the Jews the full enormity of their guilt. Peter proclaimed to the Jews in the land: "Ye denied the holy one and the just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the prince of life whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witness" (Acts 3:14,15).

Paul taught the Jews of the dispersion: "They that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain but God raised him from the dead" (Acts 13:27-30). Thus both Peter and Paul agreed in preaching what the Lord had proclaimed in prayer from the cross, namely that the Jews had acted in ignorance (Acts 3:17; 13:27), and so called upon the nation to repent.

However, after their preaching, no longer could it be said that the Jews "knew not what they had done." Accordingly their day of opportunity was closed, and the apostles turned to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46). The 'bridge' had been crossed, and the Epistles that follow Acts are written to communities of Gentile believers. Previously, Paul declared, "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing ye put it from you, lo, we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46). But no longer did he do so. The practice of preaching 'first' to Jews and afterwards to Gentiles was discontinued once the terms of Christ's prayer had been fulfilled in

gospel proclamation. Therefore the Acts concludes with Paul “receiving all that came unto him,” whether Jew or Gentile. Henceforth “no man forbade him” as earlier members of the ecclesia had done to both Peter and Paul. Christ’s prayer had been answered. The Jews had received opportunity to repent and having rejected it, the door to salvation was opened wide to Gentiles. Today we do not follow the practice of the apostles, since the restriction no longer applies.

In the appeals in Acts, the witness of Stephen is fundamental. After a careful outline of Israel’s failure, any claim by the Jews of ignorance was clearly wrong. The Sanhedrin officially repudiated Stephen’s witness; his death by stoning was the national rejection of this clear witness. Though Stephen, like Christ (Acts 7:60), pleaded for the Jews to be forgiven the enormity of their crime, note that he did not urge this forgiveness on the grounds of ignorance (as Jesus had done, Luke 23:34). Stephen had clearly expounded unambiguously to the Jews the folly of their ways, and they knowingly rejected that message. There followed a mass exodus of ecclesial members into Samaria and other parts, where they proclaimed the gospel. The gospel spread throughout the Roman world to both Jews and Gentiles, even to the capital, Rome.

Bro Siamabi Stephen (Lusaka, Zambia)

A Call to Separation Re-emphasized

Brother Kimimino Muzanas of Ifakara Ecclesia and I were among the thousand or so teachers who were selected to mark O-level English examinations at Marangu Teachers’ College near the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro in the north of Tanzania. The task was so demanding that even the magnificent view of the snow-capped peak of the giant of Africa lying near the equator went unnoticed for all of the 30-plus days we stayed there. But one thing will never leave my memory. And that was the few hours we were granted each Sunday morning for everyone to go to his or her house of prayer to worship.

None of the thousand had ever heard of the Christadelphians! They kept wondering why we should not join other Christians in the many buildings of prayer scattered all over the college’s compound.

Here we had the privilege of introducing our faith to the few who cared to listen. Many just ignored us. “God has no time with just a few who do not enter His usual houses of worship,” some commented, referring to the R.C., Seventh Day Adventists, Moravians and Pentecostals among the many Christian sects abounding in Tanzania.

Bro Kimimino and I knew that after our baptism, we were called to be separate: to be holy and never to contaminate our clear understanding of the Bible teaching with the teachings of man. So while others sang loudly stifling our meek singing thus letting it go unnoticed to those around us, we were sure that the One to whom our singing was intended, heard every word we uttered. After all, why should we worry after His plain promise that whenever two or three of you gather in my name, I will be in the midst of you?

Bro Justin Mwakasege (Ipinda, Tanzania)

A Smile

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance" *Prov 15:13*.

"The light of the eye rejoiceth the heart" *Prov 15:30*.

A happy disposition - joyful heart - is the ABC of Christianity (Always be Cheerful) - *Berkeley*.

There are several expressions by different writers worthy of our attention. eg.

A Smile is worth more than Face Value'You cannot laugh without first a smile A smile is the beginning of Laughter and promotes friendship, and introduces cheerfulness and happiness into our life.

A Smile is the welcome mat at the doorway of Kindness.

Solomon Huber wrote these words:-.

"A Smile costs nothing but creates much. It enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts for ever. None are so rich they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits. It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business and is the countersign of friends. It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody until it is given away. Nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give. Smiling is so important- it reflects our inner self the radiance of our being - the Joy in our heart".

Our Hymn says:- "Why should His people now be sad? None have such reason to be glad as reconciled to God." Why so often do we appear sad, burdened down with care and the concerns of life?

Psalm 1:1... begins with the theme of happiness....Happy is the man that WALKETH not in the COUNSELS of the UNGODLY nor STANDETH in the WAY of SINNERS nor SITTETH in the seat of the SCORNFUL".

I believe we can relate to Jonah, a man so human, he knew the right thing to do and what was required of him. Jonah tried to run away from his problems rather than face up to his responsibilities. I believe GOD quietly smiled to Himself as he prepared a large fish to swallow Jonah. God did not want to destroy Jonah because He loved him even as He loves us and forgives our foolish ways. We think we have the matter in hand but it is God who is in control of the situation and for which we are eternally thankful.

"God careth for you" (Peter). In Psalm 4: 7 we read, "Thou has put gladness in my heart". Psalm 51:8... "Make me to hear joy and gladness that the bones which thou has broken may rejoice". Whatever our burden in life of anxiety and care, the Bible tells us "Joy cometh in the morning".

The prophecy of the future is one of joy and blessedness.. Isa 51: 11... We shall receive everlasting joy we shall obtain gladness...We shall rejoice and be glad in the LORD.

A good definition:

"A SMILE IS THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE".

"SMILE AND THE WHOLE WORLD SMILES WITH YOU, WEEP- AND YOU WEEP ALONE".

How true are these words Smile at someone and they smile back- the quickest way to make friends.

In south-east Asia you will find really happy people who have nothing, materially speaking, but they can afford to smile it costs them nothing but what a wonderful effect it has on themselves and on other people. To be greeted with friendly faces and captivating smiles makes us feel better also.

"Most smiles are started by another smile and It increases your face value". J G Whittier wrote, "To worship rightly is to love each other, each smile, a Hymn, each timely deed a PRAYER".

What greater beauty can you find than the TRUTH. What greater joy than to know that God loves us, with a Kingdom prepared from the foundation of the earth.

None of us has reached the maximum in our spiritual potential. We all have a good deal to offer our Heavenly Father, who has given us each one the gift of love in JESUS.

May I leave this thought with you as we strive to be better servants of the LORD.

"GOD'S GIFT TO YOU IS WHAT YOU ARE. YOUR GIFT TO GOD IS WHAT YOU BECOME.

Bro Andrew Lucas (Australia)

Look at World Events and Ours

Every day, events in the world puzzle and confuse us as human beings who pursue their own agenda instead of God's. See Greece's huge debt and large deception, the Thailand unrest, the killings in Iraq, the Afghanistan suicide bombers, the Jos mass killings in Nigeria, the threat of Iran to Israel and to the whole world, the UK election fragmentation which was an electoral hurdle before the coalition government emerged, the plane crash in Libya, the Hamas threat, the ash cloud over some parts of Europe, the unification of gay marriage in Europe and parts of Africa, the kidnappings in the world, especially Nigeria, unemployment especially in Nigeria, sex trafficking, the disobedience of children to parents, the egotism of leaders and the marked differences between them and poor people, selfish and self-centred behaviour –even in the brotherhood.

There are many social evils that are rampant in human governments – even Obama does not have power to stamp them out. What our world will become in the next 10-20 years causes nightmares to those who read God's world. The Hebrew Bible revealed these ugly happenings and more, but the world is not making any effort to redress these, or to make amends through the Bible; hence the need for Christ to come is now unquestionable for those who are lighting the candle.

If there is any good time to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, this is the right time, as peace in Jerusalem would change the political topography of the whole world and ultimately usher in the rule of righteousness. We are now living in the world, and what Christadelphians used to shun and speak out against, many are similar to Israel in the flesh in the wilderness, we are becoming eager and ready to copy the captivating and alluring Canaanites pattern of daily lives. We pray

that God will be kind to us that we may be like Abraham, Noah, Lot and Paul who, in the face of plenty decided to follow the path of thorns. However, Paul was moved by the spirit to caution the Ephesian brethren, Acts 20:27-38.

Every era is faced with one problem or the other. Our own age is faced with materialism, and only prayer without ceasing will disengage us from the malady. So may the Kingdom of Christ come and find us vigilant.

Bro Ikechukwu Ugwu (Asaba, Nigeria)

Do Not Be Weary in Well Doing (Galatians 6:6-10)

If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. Everybody is judged by their works to whom will render to every man according to His deeds.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

In the Epistle of James, 5:7, he said, Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord, Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in thine hand to do it.

Brethren, this is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men: distributing to the necessity of saints, and being given to hospitality.

Bro Friday Enyiohu (Ikwueke, Nigeria)