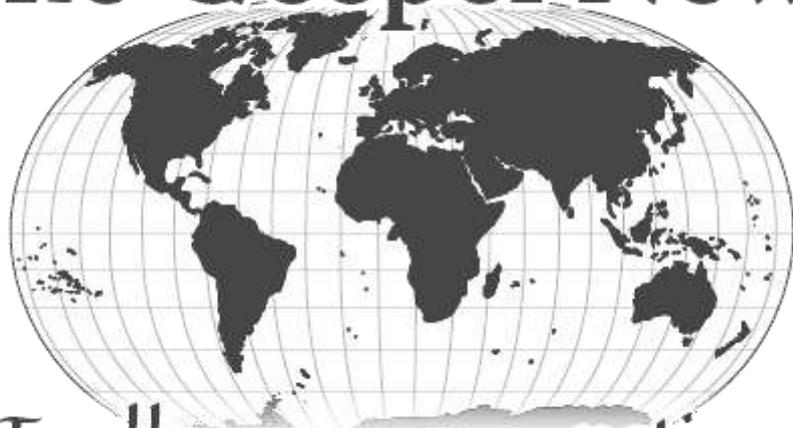
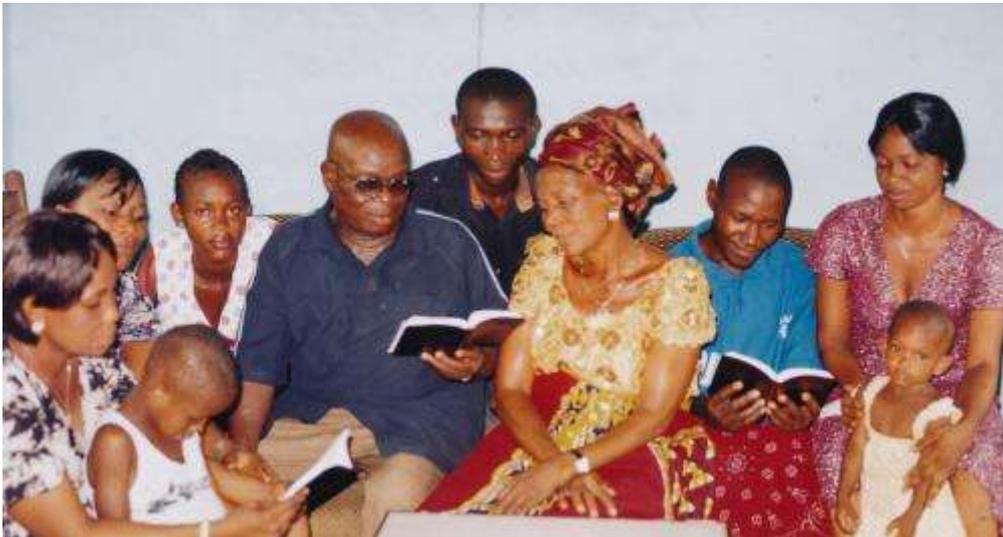


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



Editorial: Gap Theory

Brother Dick Hillhouse of Newcastle, Australia tells the story of how he was once apparently terminally ill. He went away from home and prayed intensely for an extended period, begging God to change what seemed His plan. And he was cured. During that time of prayer, he told God he would do whatever God wanted and go wherever He said. His illness was unknown to us, and my mother-in-law sent him an email enquiring if he'd come to Ukraine and speak at the Winter Bible School there. He recovered, and came to Ukraine- to tell us his story. In less dramatic ways, we can all go through this process, often. God declares a plan, but there is a gap between that declaration and its fulfilment; and during that gap, He is open to persuasion not to fulfill that plan, and is open to our suggestions as to other options.

The Biblical Argument

God says He is "shaping evil against you and devising a plan" against His enemies (Jer. 18:11; 49:20,30; 50:45; Mic. 2:3; 4:12). For the faithful, the Kingdom will have been *prepared* from the beginning of the world (Mt. 25:34; 20:23). But not all for whom the Kingdom has been prepared will receive it; some reject the banquet prepared for them. God's declared judgments against Israel and Babylon sound as if they are final; but the same prophecies contain appeals for repentance so that they need not come true. The idea of God 'preparing' implies that there is therefore a gap between the plan being made, and it being executed- hence when there was no repentance "The Lord has both planned *and done* what He spoke" (Jer. 51:12; 4:28; Lam. 2:17; Is. 22:11; 37:26; Zech. 1:6; 8:14). This 'gap' between God stating His plan and its actual fulfilment is the opportunity for men and women to plead with Him, as Moses did, as Abraham did regarding Sodom (Gen. 18:17-22), as Dick did... and He is most definitely open to human persuasion. God said that Nineveh was to be destroyed in 40 days; but Jonah understood the gap theory, and suspected Nineveh would repent and it wouldn't happen; and he was right.

God tells Samuel of His rejection of Saul, and Samuel cries to Him all night. I think the implication is that Samuel was pleading with God to consider another future with Saul (1 Sam. 15:11,35; 16:1). Amos 7:1-6 is another case- God reveals His intention regarding Israel, but then Amos makes a case against this and is heard. This is almost a pattern with God- to devise His purpose, and then in the 'gap' until its fulfilment, be open to the persuasion of His people to change or amend those plans. This could be what Am. 3:7 is speaking of: "Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets". It's as if He reveals His plans to them *so that* they can then comment upon them in prayer. And maybe this is why God tells Jeremiah not to pray to Him to change His stated plans against Israel (Jer. 7:16 cp. Jer. 11:14; 14:11; 15:1), and why He asks Moses to 'leave Me alone' and not try to persuade Him to change His mind (Ex. 32:10). He didn't want, in these cases, His stated plans to be interrupted by the appeals of His people to change them. Interestingly, in both these examples, Moses and Jeremiah know God well enough, the relationship is intimate enough, for them to *still* speak with Him- and change His mind.

The Struggle of Prayer

Understanding this means that we no longer fire off requests to God like a 'wants list', with the idea that we might just get a couple of them; hoping for the best, grimly submissive in an Islamic sense to whatever might be God's will. Prayer will become focused on specifics, and we will wrestle over those things. It's this which gives our relationship with God Almighty the dynamism, excitement and importance which is beyond me to paint in words. It's all this which makes

prayer, Bible reading and response to it so thrilling. It gives significance to our lives; the postmodern sense of insignificance and irrelevance is behind so much of the passive depression which fills human societies today. Those who've prayed to God in cases of serious illness [and countless other situations] will have sensed this 'battle', this 'struggle' almost, between God and His friends, and the element of 'persuasion' which there is going on *both* ways in the dialogue between God and ourselves. The simple fact that God really can change- there are over 40 references to His 'repentance' in Scripture- is vital to understand. For this is the basis of the prayer that changes things, that as it were wrestles with God. We may like Jacob come out of the wrestling limping for the rest of our lives. But Jacob's subsequent brokenness was to be worn proudly by him, as men wear their war medals the rest of their days; for he had wrestled with God and prevailed.

The gap theory leaves God earnestly waiting for our response; He therefore expresses a sense of hopefulness in His people, and therefore also, all the pain of disappointment and dashed hopes and expectations. Take Jer. 3:7,19: "I thought 'After she has done all this she will return to me'; but she did not return. I thought of how I would set you among my sons and give you a pleasant land... And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me [But] as a faithless wife leaves her husband, so have you been faithless to me, O house of Israel". So on one hand, God *can* know the future. But it seems to me that so often, He chooses not to, and like us, faces futures which are in some sense unknown. This is why we can read of God's surprise, disappointment, shock, joy at repentance- and accept that language as totally legitimate. As we sit down to read His word, as we decide how or to what extent to respond to daily situations- He must watch with as it were bated breath, and thrill at our positive responses, seeing as He does the billions of wasted potentials in the lives of so many. The very thought that we can break the heart of God with disappointment surely motivates us to be the more responsive to His word. Grasping this, never again can our relationship with Him be merely an occasional hobby.

Some Implications

The gap theory helps explain why try as we may, nobody can put all the prophecies of latter day events into any solid framework of chronological fulfilment. Those prophecies are statements of what could and might be, but there are various possible outcomes which depend on human freewill factors such as when and how extensively Israel repent and accept Christ, the spreading of the Gospel by the ecclesia to all the world, and the drive to spiritual maturity which there should be in the last generation of believers.

Spare a thought for God in all this. He knows all the billions of possible futures which there are for each person with whom He seeks to bring to Himself- and that is a colossal number, beyond realistic comprehension. And the vast majority of those futures never happen, because of human laziness, short termism, faithless selfishness, being so easily phased by negative experience. We mourn for the death of the young more than for the passing of the elderly, because we keep thinking of what might have been, the possible futures, how it could've been avoided (e.g. Jn. 11:21,32). It must therefore be tragic beyond our comprehension to be God. God saw how Israel *could have been* sons which made Him proud: "I thought how I would set you among my sons... I thought you would call me, My Father" (Jer. 3:19,20). He fantasized about how if the prophets had been faithful and if Israel had heard them, then Israel would have repented (Jer. 23:22). Because of His capacity to see possible futures we can feel the poignancy behind His words in places like Is. 48:18: "O that you had hearkened to my commandments!", "O Israel, if you would have but listened to me" (Ps. 81:8,13). It's as if He could see the potentially

happy future which they could've had stretching out before Him. Jesus as God's Son had something of this ability in what he said about the possible future of Tyre and Jerusalem (Lk. 10:13; 19:42).

And so we come back to Dick. We are all dying men and women on borrowed time. Our time of dying is now; we are a living death. From our first struggling breaths the sentence was pronounced: *You*, little sweet baby person, shall surely die. But we live now in the gap, the moments that slip through our hands as cotton wool clouds drift through the sky are in fact moments of colossal significance and opportunity. Having pronounced that death sentence, God is open to dialogue in His thirst for significant, live, active personal relationship with us His beloved children. Now is the accepted time; now, in this moment of unrepeatable history upon whose cusp we sit as we read these words- *now* is the day of salvation.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from burundi



The Burundi Ecclesia

news from cameroon

BONABERI

Many thanks for those books which you're sending they will help me a great deal. On August 29th I will be 2 years old in the truth, still quite a babe isn't it? I had started reading the "Real Devil" online some time ago and really loved it. Due to work constraints I could not go through all the pages but managed to print some of them out which I have already given to one of my contacts. With the coming of the whole book this time around at my disposal I hope to make quite good use of it.

Bro Cyril Noze Zang

BUEA

Thanks very much for the New Testaments which are of great use, not only to the youths in fellowship, but also to the brethren, who have gone down on it to revisit some details about Bible doctrine. They help very well, but it would be nice to have the whole Bible.

Bua Moses

Job, in his moments of trial, speaks about our life spans on earth. He uses the phrase, "appointed time". Job is asking a question: whether there is a time defined for everyone of us as to how long our present lives will be. In other words Job is saying that our days are numbered

and that we are as hired servants in this world, therefore meaning that we have a very short life-span, full of worries and vanity. Job 7:13.

In 2 Peter 3:8, we are reminded that one day before God is as a thousand years. It therefore means that nobody has ever lived up to one day, as seen in God's terms, though some like Adam, Methuselah, etc. who lived above nine hundred years, nearly to a thousand years, symbolically show how man's life span is very short as expressed in the eyes of the Almighty God.

Job's use of the words "appointed time", have got a deeper meaning. The actual Hebrew meaning is "time of service" or "warfare". Since our days are numbered and we know that we shall die, or 'fall asleep', we have to deal with our given life spans like armies do on war fronts, we have to fight sin and spiritual trials as if it were a physical war. When we are able to overcome sin, then it will mean that our time of service (warfare) was a good one.

In Job 14:14, Job says that he will make use of all the days of his appointed time (warfare), until change or reward comes; we are not exempted. Paul writes to Timothy to "war a good warfare", meaning to fight sin in the flesh, 1 Tim.1:18. Paul later confirms his own fight in 2 Tim.4:7, that he has "fought a good fight".

In conclusion, while we are still alive in this evil world, a generation of vipers as John the Baptist and Jesus called it, let us please do our best during our probations and war against sin. For our days in this life are numbered, "appointed time", a time of service like the Levitical priesthood, Num 8:24,25.

Bro Moses Tole

NKWEN

I was enriched after reading your work *Bible Basics for Muslims*. In fact it has given me a good insight of many things. I'm a born Christadelphian in Cameroon and was baptized in 2003. I'll be happy if you can forward me some of your articles or any book that can help me have a good understanding of the Bible. I also enjoy your editorials in the *Gospel News*.

Bro. Amin

news from kenya

BUNGOMA

I tried to find the interpretation of the book of Revelation chapter 12 and others, and found that I must have the book 'Eureka' by John Thomas and '13 Lectures on the Apocalypse' by Robert Roberts. I would appreciate it if you could send me the latter (13 Lectures on the Apocalypse).

Here we are going on well and I pray to God that in your country there will be peace for the gospel to be spread all over the world.

Bro. Alfred Wanyonyi

I want to send my sincere thanks to you for the letters, the *Gospel News* and other supplementary materials you have been sending me regularly. It is a tedious task which requires

devotion and self-sacrifice. This is so because it's a world-wide exercise, and I realize how expensive it is.

Similarly, may I also register my appreciation to you for suggesting the idea of a "New preaching and consolidation scheme." This is an essential project that will help rejoice the shortages of Bibles and eradication of spiritual illiteracy, thus promoting the gospel dissemination.

Bro. Wycliffe W. Wasike

BULIMBO

Our Bulimbo Ecclesia has thirty-two families and we have many friends coming to our meetings, and I have also converted the whole of an Apostolic group. We plan to hold a mini Bible School in our Bulimbo Ecclesia based on Bible Basics and the Youth Activities.

We shall be very grateful if our project is approved by you for preaching the Truth, as the brothers are happy with it. The book 'Bible Basics' you have sent us will enable us to preach effectively to those in the Apostolic church, whom we meet with every Wednesday at present. Please continue to pray for us.

Bro. Sadique Joumer

BARATON

We may have a love of the gospel theoretically; we may attend and enjoy the meetings, and in a manner be as strongly in love with the Christadelphian position as the Jews were with their Temple, and yet be lacking in the spiritual element that makes these things acceptable to God as part and parcel of a faithful service. They are good in their place – divine in their place, but if unaccompanied by the sentiment toward God which sincerely offers all to Him, and that disposition toward man which prompts to deeds of blessing and mercy, it may be all in vain. For on the two commandments of love hang all the law and the prophets, and therefore, all the gospel and all the meetings and the whole machinery of the divine service of our day. Therefore, what can we say more to the point than what Paul says? 'Let us, therefore fear.' Jesus says, 'Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be trodden underfoot.'

Bro. Martin Barasa



Photo: Left to right: Bro. Aggrey Wanyama of Luuya Ecclesia and (right) Bro. Martin Barasa of Baraton Ecclesia.

CHERENGANY



The Ecclesia at Cherengany

CHWELE

We are very fine here. Thank you very much for the copies of the New Testament Bible sent to us some weeks ago. We are very pleased to use these New Testaments in our group discussion, be it in the Ecclesia or in our working places. This is so excellent! Many are showing a keen interest in learning more about Jesus and God's Kingdom.

The photo is enclosed is of friends we discuss with – it was taken during house construction using interlocking bricks (a modern brick-making technique in the area).

Bro. Manasseh & Sis. Doricus Wamamili



Photo: Bro. Manasseh Wamamili and friends. Left to Right: Zebedee, Martin, Bro. Manasseh, Edwin and Evans.

ELDORET

All at once the world came crashing down on a single, innocent man, a man named Job: raiders stole his belongings and slaughtered his servants. Then fire from the sky burned up his sheep, a mighty wind destroyed his house and killed his sons and daughters. Finally Job was laid low with a horrible, painful disease. "What did I do to deserve such suffering?" he wailed. He went in emotional cycles, whined and wallowed in self-pity. Yet, in spite of all these calamities, Job was "a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil,...Though God slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before Him, He also shall be my salvation...So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than the beginning.---

"Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"(Phil.3:13-14). Forget that which lies behind, press on to the better things that lie before.

"Press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Forget the sins which lie behind: if you fail anywhere, if you fall, don't be discouraged, don't give up, don't brood over the sin – confess it instantly. Believe God's word, 1John 1:9: 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' There is always something better ahead, 'until we come to a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Eph.4:13).

Bro. Jacob Okoth

ISHIARA

I am happy now to have a baptised Brother in Ishiara after a long period in isolation; and hope to have some more people knowing the Truth here. It would be a great joy to have an Ecclesia so that we could teach people about the Gospel. I have distributed some Bible Basic books we had – some you had sent to my sister, and I pray that others may learn about the gospel here.

I am requesting, please, more copies of Bible Basics, the books 'Teach Me Thy Way,' and 'Who are the Christadelphians?' I will really appreciate them.

Sis. Joy Aphaxard

KAKAMEGA

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of a parcel of books for Kambi Muranza Ecclesia which you sent me - thank you very much. As the leader of the Ecclesia, I feel in need of a Bible with marginal references; if you could get me one I would appreciate it.

Bro. Gibson Amesa Ajere

KATITO

The effects of the drought here are felt all over the country. Many people are really starving. Some schools are forced to close down due to lack of water and food. Our politicians are bickering on constitutional implementations and 2012 Campaigns while the citizens are completely suffering. The cost of living has risen from 4.5% to 8% in the last month, and now the uprisings in Northern Africa have increased the prices of fuel. Life is very, very difficult; you can go hungry and at the same time fail to sleep because of the heat at night.

The only remedy that can secure food production is when Kenyans turn to irrigation farming instead of rain-fed. Greenhouses are good near riverbanks, but are very expensive to construct. We also need the type of water harvesting like those in the Netherlands – thanks to LEISA magazine. There are many sources of enterprises but lack of loans from the banks makes it sometimes difficult. If you look at it, we have shown some potential but lack very little assistance.

Bro. Lawrence K'Owiti



photo Bro Lawrence K'Owiti

KITALE

I have received the 'Good News' from Mr. Emmanuel Milimo-Tarbo who is far from me. I'm at Kimimiri Centre. The message he gave me is that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming to earth, which was of great concern to me, and I need help through your literature to get ready for this. I am Gertrude Simiyu, and I'm going to make sure that all my family, with my best friend, are with me in this faith...

I received my parcel and I'm very excited, with my family, to have from you the Bible Basics book which will help my family and friends. Also the revision of the studies; many brothers and sisters wanted to take them from me, but I have told them to make photo copies. I would like you to send me a 'Bible Companion'.

I go to Zurambi Ecclesia although it is 4 km away from me. I understand English well. My fellow neighbours have joined me – they are three in number and they were introduced last Sunday to the meeting.

Dear brother, please help me: I was lost for so many years. I'm 42 years old and have a family of five. My close friend, who I am converting, is Emily Osite.

Sis Gertrude N. Simiyu



Photo: Sis Gertrude Simiyu

The book 'The Real Christ' is very interesting and we have discovered a lot of things which we had not known before. We have six members and are expecting two baptisms soon.

Bro. Nasongo Haron

NANGO

I am glad to inform you that I have received the two boxes of Bible Basics and the fifteen New Testaments you sent to our Ecclesia.

Already I have dispatched some copies to some dear friends who needed them to help them enhance their studies of the Scriptures. We are therefore looking forward to some more, since we are planning to have a Bible Studies talk with student members of a certain Secondary School on some Bible topics. The students call themselves C.U. Members (Christian Union Members).

In Kenya, at the time of writing this letter (February), the situation is very bad indeed. The country is faced with one of the worst drought periods and starvation, which has not been witnessed before, and there are no signs in sight that the rain may come soon. The drought situation called 'Lanina,' has made many people lose their animals which they depended on, as well as the loss of human life, and it still continues. The real situation on the ground is that many people have died in some counties of Kenya, while animals are also dying daily as a result of drought all over the country.

All these problems are being down-played by those who should feel very concerned. This causes me to refer to Isaiah 11:1-10 for comfort. I hope you will still continue to offer your prayers as well as spiritual gifts to us, as you have done in the past.

Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

NDHIWA

How are you doing? In Kenya it is the toughest time ever. There is a dreadful famine which has made my feeding programme for the children very hard. But I pray my God to remember me.

I still need more and more books to read, although my eyes do not see well, but I hope God will enable me to see His word, to read it and use it after understanding it.

Sis. Emmy Millicent



Photo Sis Emmy with the children she tries to give a meal to and also tell them about the Bible

NAITIRI

It is with great pleasure that we in Nyange Ecclesia would like to express our gratitude and interest for what you are intending to do for us. Surely 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 some will help the work of spreading the Gospel.

Brothers, we wish to assure you that your labour won't go unrewarded – we hope upon the return of Jesus Christ we may all enjoy places in the Kingdom of God which will be established here on earth.

We hope that apart from Bibles, you will keep remembering us in any new thing you produce in order that we may develop our souls in preparation to receive our Lord Jesus. Finally, we hope that our Lord will bless you with financial support to ensure that you enrich people of the world with His word. We wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Bro. Adrian Wanjala

SINDO

I know you love me and I also love you. Proverbs 8:17: "I love those who love me and those who seek me diligently find me." I shall have to bear my burden of making sure I do the best I can to provide my children with God's message and to develop their minds to think about and observe His message in the Bible.

By 21st August 2011 I shall have been 35 years in the Truth: I was baptised into Christ on 21st August 1976 in Nairobi City, Kenya, by Bro. David Rowley of England.

I have to trust that with God all things are possible. The Bible is God's message to mankind, and God's love is shown by His plans revealed in the Bible. I am pleased that you have done so much to provide me with spiritual guidance since 1999 to the present day. Every day I face the challenge that men and women in the Faith have faced. We are given the promise of eternal life only if we obey, continue to remain steadfast and immovable to the end, when we shall be rewarded with salvation.

Unless we follow the example of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we will be punished by death. Only by the Bible message of love through our Saviour can our problems be solved. If you love someone, you must show your love by action. The God of the Bible has shown He is a God of love to all the human race by raising our Saviour from the death of the cross to conquer death and gain victory over sin.

That is why I love the God of Israel, for His love endureth for ever. I seek Him every day by reading His word and by witnessing His message to everyone I meet. For 35 years I have loved God's message and have sought Him every day diligently. But I have not finished the journey to the Promised Land. Every day I meet challenges and obstacles, but through patience and endurance I shall finish the journey, God willing.

Bro. John Owalo Onani

TARBO

I was very excited as I looked at the New Testament Bro. Chemiati received from you: I also applied for one but I have not yet received it.

I would like to inform you that now the brothers from the U.K. have helped us to open the Ecclesial postal address, whereby we have our keys now, even though the ones we had been using were of our nearest school.

I would like also to have a copy of 'The Real Devil,' 'Bible Companions' and the 'Testimony'. Our young people are doing well and the Sisters' Classes.

We greet all brothers and sisters who are doing the same work with you. May our Lord at his return not forget you – with eternal life and His kingdom we shall rejoice.

Bro. Emmanuel Milimo

news from malawi

We are pleased to report the baptisms of Brothers DAVID, LUKA, ABDULLAH, PAUL, CHARLES, ANDREW, ELIAS, JAMES, PETER, SWETHAN, DANIEL and INNOCENT; and Sisters TERESA, EMILY, ZIONE, FLORENCE, KATE and JOYCE, all on the recent visit of Brother Duncan to the ecclesias in Malawi. May the Lord bless His mighty work in this country.

BALAKA

We have brothers and sisters here that read Chichewa only, so we have problems with English Bible Companions and please help us with Bible Basics books in Chichewa.

I run an Anti Malaria Club and give talks on ways of trying to prevent it, which is primarily through medication and the use of nets, all of which are in short supply. It is a sobering thought to realise that 30% of the adults and children in these photos will die of Malaria, this would not happen if they had the right preventative measures and care it. Young children are particularly vulnerable and I try to care for sixty orphaned children under seven.

Bro. Lyton John



Bro. John discussing malaria with adults.



Group in the Ecclesia's grounds learning about malaria.

BUA

I am well and I really thank you that I will now be receiving your letters and I welcome all sisters who may wish to write and encourage me in my difficult situations. It was like a dream on a Monday morning in April when I received your Air Mail envelope containing a Gospel News to all nations magazine. I was like a lost sheep but have now found my way to the Kingdom of God.

Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Luke 10:27. Through the great work of CAT to all nations, many will be able to enter the Kingdom of God. His invitation is, "Come

unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, Matt.11:28. So it is up to us to pray without ceasing, to live in faith and to do all things with love and to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out more workers into His field. He said, "For God so loved the world (sinners and everyone) that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Our kind and merciful Heavenly Father has provided salvation through Jesus for all who avail themselves of His wonderful grace. So without CAT's work, "To all nations" we would not have any means of feeling bad about sin, as we would not know right from wrong.

According to Psalm 119 the Word of God is the central thing in the lives of any believer. Romans 10:17 says that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Brothers and sisters, may we all be like the faithful virgins with oil in our lamps, looking, waiting and longing for the Lord's return. Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be men of courage, be strong. Do everything in love (1 Cor.16:13-14). May all of us who worship God in sincerity and truth be ready to meet Jesus when He returns.

Sis. Bertha Khonje

Comment. The GN mailing list grows and grows and we need, from time to time to delete some recipients to keep the circulation within reasonable numbers. When we have not heard from someone for a couple of years we write and ask them if they still wish to receive the Magazine and if we do not hear from them, we delete them from the mailing list. In Sister Bertha's case there had been a change of P.O. Box number of which we had not been notified. MH.

CHIRINGA

Knowing that nothing can be gained under the sun without having JESUS in our everyday life, I sanctify my life to God. Even though I am in the congregation of the Christadelphian Church I require some spiritual materials and I feel glad when I read your Magazine which inspires me in my walk.

Bro. Kennedy Ndaweza

DOWA

I would like to share with you this good news. Last Sunday I baptised six people into the name of Jesus Christ(Acts 2:38) and in the evening we celebrated the Lord's Supper. Many people observed our great and unforgettable events. I do thank you for baptizing me and the spiritual support you sent me, especially the *Bible Basics*.

Bro. Innocent

DZALEKA

We lack Swahili Bibles and would appreciate it very much if you could help us with five or more Swahili Bibles and song books.

Bro. John Abwe



Some members at Dzaleka

DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP

I've received the parcel of the New Testaments you sent. I went to a college recently constructed near to the camp, and asked permission for distributing some pamphlets. The students were very interested but I didn't have enough literature. So please if you may send me others like: Introducing Bible Basics, Bible Companion and other New Testaments, at least 100 in general.

Bro. Bernard Wabene

Comment: The Christadelphian Advancement Trust sends out literature worldwide thanks to your donations which enable us to print and mail such things. Postage costs have increased radically recently.

LIRANGWE

We break bread and drink wine in remembrance of Jesus Christ till he come. We hear of him and say, "Whom having not seen we love". The love of Christ is not a mere phrase with the true saint, it is in reality the leading sentiment of his mind. He says with Paul, "the love of Christ constraineth me." There is not a more powerful motive among men at all equal to the love of Christ. Nothing binds men so firmly together as a mutual and conquering love of Christ and nothing divides them so effectually as difference in sentiment.

Please send four Bibles for our members who have not got their own.

Bro. Edmund Store

MZUZU

For sure, the life we have inherited in Adam is a wearisome life, for it was said, "by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, for you are dust; and to dust you shall return."

No one amongst mankind is exempted from labouring for bread for his sustenance for life, but even then a sinful-laden life has an end in death – "for the wages of sin is death..."

However, had it not been for the love of God for us we really would have been greatly pitiful. Thanks to the ALMIGHTY GOD for Jesus who invites us all to rest in him. This rest in Jesus may be given to any, only on conditions. One of the conditions is to walk according to his precepts. A good lesson for us is Israel. Many of them failed because they did not go by God's precepts and so they did not enter into His rest – the promised land.

Still more, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God – for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

On 3rd April, we received Mcdonard Jobe into our Central Fellowship, fulfilling his desire and wish. He is still very weak and pale recovering from TB, the whole ceremony took place at his house. It was all joy amongst us. Again, the New Testament Bibles you sent us are very ideal for our preaching endeavours. Please remember us if you have some more.

Bro. Sylvester Tembo



Photo Bro Sylvester Tembo

NENO

Thanks very much for the books, I have put them on the shelf only to be borrowed and be returned, but one *Bible Basics* and the New Testament are already given to one of my friends who is very much interested in reading our books maybe one of these days he will contact you as he may be studying the manual.

Bro. Amison Liwawa

NGABU

Thank you for sending me Gospel News which can encourage my friends to know more about the Bible. I would like to give a note to brothers and sisters worldwide who are spreading the Gospel, that without faith we cannot enter the Kingdom of God. We have to take the example of Abraham. God gave him a son, Isaac, when he was old and was also told to sacrifice him. Abraham went and prepared to sacrifice his son because he feared God, but God stopped him as he was about to slay him and God credited it to him as righteousness, Romans 4:3.

Bro. Diverson Folley



Photo: Bro. Diverson Folley

NKANDA



Sis. Mary Banda



Nkanda Sunday School

NKHOTAKOTA

My desire is to teach and have a strong ecclesia here and nearby areas. Here at Nkhotakota we thank God for opening our eyes through the books you sent us. I was a pastor teaching people the trinity which is not in the Bible and so many wrong things. At first I was alone, but now God gave us in all 18 baptized. Also we have contacts in other places, KASUNGU, MWASAMBO,

NCHISI and MNDULUKA. These four places need visits. Let's pray together that God will help us to reach those who need teaching. Bro. Duncan Heaster was here last month, he knows the situation here.

Bro. Leonard Chaunga

We have received copies of various Sunday school materials, copies of *Bible Basics* and The New Testament New European Version. Looking at the amount of materials which have been sent to us it is clear that a fortune has been spent on these materials. May the good Lord give back whatever has been lost. We greatly appreciate the effort you are making in trying to uplift our spiritual lives. It's my prayer that the books will go a long way in uplifting ours and other peoples' spiritual lives as we look forward to the kingdom of God. It is also of great joy to note that even other brothers and sisters are coming forward with the materials. May God bless you all. Your continued assistance is greatly appreciated. The Sunday School books have been put in our Library ready for use while the other books are under distribution. Some have gone to yet a new district of Mangochi about 400 km from Nkhotakota. This is yet another testimony on the mighty hand of God.

Bro. Esau C Chirwa

NTERALA



Ecclesia at Nterala awaiting copies of the New Testaments

TSANGANE



Bro. and Sis Medson Katopela

news from nigeria

ABA

I am a student in one of the universities that is 4h hours away from my ecclesia hall, Because of this I really need books like Bible Basics for comprehensive studies of the Word and proper spread of the Gospel to numerous people around me. I'll be very glad to receive a copy as soon as possible. Once again, I appreciate all your efforts both in preaching the word and in uniting all our brothers far and near through the wonderful work in Gospel News, I'll be glad if I can be getting copies of the Magazine at the University.

Sis Lydia Chidimma Ojike

Our Ecclesia is progressing, with more people coming in and a few leaving the fellowship due to some personal understanding of the Word. My Sister wife and I are still holding firm to our

understanding but none of our daughters are with us. The first daughter, who was baptised, married a Pastor from Living Word Ministry in 2006 and had her baby boy in 2010. The third daughter married a C.P.M. Pastor in 2007 and they live in Italy. She also had a baby boy in 2008 and is already expecting her second child any time. These two ministries are all indigenous Christian churches. I do sometimes feel unhappy as I cannot see any of my children by my side in the Ecclesia.

Bro. James Ogbah

ENUGU

You have fulfilled my dream by sending me a box of preaching leaflets. The Customs phoned me and I immediately went for the parcel and when I saw your address I laughed. The officer opened the carton and I saw many pamphlets with the books. I thanked God first, before you. Since then I have spent much time in photocopying and running to and fro. I have had malaria fever but the joy of the pamphlets and your encouragement made me feel less ill. I am living in one room with my children because of the high cost of living here and this time of year we have hot weather and mosquitoes. I hope that in the Kingdom of God all things will be quite different. May I ask you if these are the tracts that Bro. Blackstone told me last September that he had ordered for me and told Bro. Dafydd to sign for me?

Bro. Goddy Nwosu

news from rwanda

NYABIONDO

We were very happy to see the first edition of the Swahili Bible Basics you sent to Bro. Masimango Amisi of Goma. He was not selfish with them but shared them out with one book to each ecclesia. As people in the area are Swahili-prone, the books have created a thirst to everybody, so please send 50 books of the kind Misingi Ya Biblia. We also need 50 books in French: *Principes Bibliques*. You could send the package by post please as you usually do.

We are very happy to see our Ecclesia growing because from 2005 until 2009, the number of baptised were only seven brothers and one sister. Now God has blessed us during this last year and our number has grown from eight to fifteen. Six brothers and a sister from Nyabiondo have been baptised at Masisi, while Masisi Ecclesia has two brothers and Burora only one. We thank God because our area is receiving the Truth and the number of candidates preparing for baptism rises week by week, in spite of the troubles and our ecclesial room without a roof exposing us to the weather.

In the 13th chapter of Matthew's gospel, the first nine verses tell us about someone who went out with good seeds and threw them out over the land but in different areas: near the road, on a rock, on thorny places and lastly on good land. The results of the different stages could not be the same. In our century, the sowers have become several with a different quality of seeds.

According to the explanations given by our Lord Jesus in the first case, the seed is the Gospel. Now in Africa, many churches have become as non governmental organisations (N.G.O.) and are growing as mushrooms, altering the Truth to obtain profit, in violation of the warning of 2 Peter 1:20 and Rev. 22:18,19.

The artlessness of the majority of Africans has facilitated Christendom to make religion a genuine foundation in which profit of money is the objective, lying to the hearers that they are sent by Jesus is to infringe the Lord's own words in Matt.10:24. They are attributing to God what He did not say.

What is Christendom sowing now? The speech of the teacher, Jesus Christ, in Luke tells us all. Let us leave him to judge. However, let us meditate on the warning he gave in Luke 18:8, Shall he find the faith in the world when he returns?

Bro. Mumfano Dunia



Nyabiondo Ecclesia studying the Bible weekly. In the right hand corner – Bro. Mumfano.

news from south africa

KEMPTON PARK

Our new Sis Patrizia Straulino, a long time friend of Sis. Aneta from University days, was received into fellowship after her baptism into the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Sis Patrizia Straulino



Sis Patrizia Straulino's Baptism

KWADWESI

It is interesting and encouraging to learn the extent to which other brothers and sisters can go in fishing people for God. As I read the articles I was using a map of USSR, to see the places mentioned. I can see how far apart those areas are, and have learnt how dangerous some were and still are. Thanks to God for his providence, and those man-fishers who are faithful enough and prepared go to deep and dangerous oceans to catch man fish. I got baptized in 1999, having got an advert about Bible lessons in a newspaper placed by Duncan in Port Elizabeth in South Africa. I thank Duncan and Sarah Greeves for the lessons and encouragement. Since then a number of people have been brought to the Truth. Now we have an ecclesia at Kwadwesi in Port Elizabeth.

Bro. Zwelakhe Shologu

SOWETO

It is with much sadness that we are writing to let you know that our dear Bro Elijah Rabaji fell asleep in the Lord he loved, on Wed 27 April.

He had been in a lot of pain for a long time and we appreciate that God has been merciful to release him from the shackles of mortality . He is at rest till that glorious day of resurrection- He always spoke with such longing to be with his Lord & in the Kingdom As the founding member and father figure of the Soweto ecclesia he has been an inspiration of faithfulness and integrity. We are thankful he had the joy of seeing the establishment of an ecclesia which had always been his prayer.

Our love in the Lord of Life

Bro Paul & Sis Leonie

news from tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM

I am very interested in Gospel News, more than ever because our days are numbered before the second coming of Christ. The events in the Middle East, the uprising of masses against their leaders/kings, the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan are just a few SIGNS - to point towards the end of time, which are in line with Mark 13:8.

Bro. Samuel Mushi

MBOZI.

By the grace of God I am still alive but in hopeless condition after my house was burgled in the night and most of my assets, including my very valuable bicycle, taken away. My bicycle is very important to me as I am lame and getting old. Our Brother Leonard Chakupewa, who was baptized in July 2008, fell asleep in Christ on March 9th 2011 from Asthma.

Bro Raphael Mkeya

Nyarugusu

The Book the REAL CHRIST, is nice and most instructive. It helps me much to teach Brethren and contacts here at the refugee camp. Each week Bro John Aldersly (NZ) sends me exhortations that are encouraging. Regards to Bro Roger Beck also.

Bro. Isidore Mwibeleca

news from zambia

CHINSALI

I have received the 12 New Testaments and all are well distributed to ecclesial members, with many thanks. We need more Bibles please.

Bro. Isaiah C. Mumba

DAPHAN

We have decided to start preaching, first at home then go out, following the command of our Lord Jesus. We plan to go out preaching for a week or two using the literature you sent. This year our aim is to do God's work as time is drawing near for the Lord to come. Please we need your prayers and support of different kinds. We, as an ecclesia, despite being so poor, are wholly behind your work. We love seeing snaps in Gospel News. We need teaching information, encouragement and more literature for preaching.

Bro. Harry Hambula



Daphan Choir Members



Daphan Congregational Singing

FRINGILLA

I would like to enlighten my fellow Christadelphians of the misery I have. The month of March came to me on a wrong side. This is to say that my wife miscarried when her pregnancy reached 7 months. Before she miscarried I visited the hospital many times. They were saying that the baby was not well and was breathing very faint and the liquid they swim in was not clean. I tried my level best but all in vain and at last she miscarried on the way to hospital.

Nevertheless, during all these challenges I never forgot God, even on my darkest day when her pregnancy was destroyed. I read in the book of Job 2:9, "Shall we receive good from God and shall we not receive evil?" This book always strengthens me whatever situation I am involved in. Moreover it tells us how firm Job's character was and therefore we should emulate Job. I look forward to all brothers and sisters remembering me in prayers so that God will strengthen my mind and my heart.

I am hereby writing to encourage our brothers, especially those that are engaged in publishing literature such as, Gospel News, books and the like and to say that we appreciate their work. We always put them in our prayers for the smooth running of their work for Christ. These brothers face some challenges and that is why we ought to pray so as to remove any stumbling block ahead of them. God's hand is not short to bless these lovely brothers of ours.

Furthermore, as we receive the materials from our brothers let us put them to good use and always remember that there is a lot of effort applied before we receive any single item. Therefore we look forward to being in God's Kingdom through reading the books and to live an everlasting life.

Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa



Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa

KABWE

Throughout the world there are few who have their own Bibles so it is very good that you are printing a New Testament in modern English. I will be very glad to receive one because it is better to have your own Bible rather than borrowing or sharing one.

Bro. Greenwell Kunda

KAFUE

During the 1,000 years Jesus will rule from Jerusalem over the earth and make it into a paradise. Also he will cancel the sins of those who love God. Jesus will thus eliminate sickness, ageing and death. Read Isaiah 11:9, 25:8. 33:24, 35:1.

When will God destroy evil on earth? Jesus gave a “sign” to indicate when the end is near. Present world conditions threaten man’s survival and show that we now live in the conclusion of the system of things. Read Matt.24:3, 7-14,21,22, 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

Regarding God’s creation, including the first humans on earth, the Genesis account says, “God saw everything he had made and look! It was very good”. Gen. 1:31. Adam and Eve were made very good, ideally suited to their earthly environment. There was nothing deficient in their makeup. Created “very good” they were certainly capable of the good conduct that was required of them. They were created “in God’s image” (Gen.1:27) so they had the capacity to demonstrate to some degree the godly qualities of wisdom, loyal love, justice and goodness, decisions that would benefit them and bring pleasure to their Heavenly Father, but they failed to do so.

Bro. Lotson Kayuni,

Thank you very much for the New Testaments and the other literature that we received recently. At present we all have full Bibles. However, if you can afford to send extra New Testament Bibles for the brethren that will be most welcome. In Kasaka and Kafue there are 11 of us who read English. We do have 22 Bible students in Western Province, where we have recently opened preaching activities for the first time, and there are two brethren in isolation on this same route, so probably they could be assisted with 24 New Testaments, if possible.

Bro. Kelly Simayumbula

KALOMO

I and my family were evicted from our home area. I would like to tell brothers and sisters what happened to me. It happened one Friday afternoon when I heard from a neighbour that the Zambian Wildlife Association (ZAWA) was chasing people to move out of the area. I rushed home and there were beatings and cries in the community and houses were burnt to ashes. I was parking my goods when the game rangers came and forced me to move out. They burned my home and pushed me out. There was noise that day and people walked day and night, driving their animals and crossing the river to a safe place.

The area's population was 8,500 and had occupied the area since 1985. They were permitted residence by the late Chief, Nyawa Simbwizu. This incident has left me and many others in a worse situation. It reminds me of the mass movement of the Israelites from their original homes, which is now easy for me to imagine. But I thank God for his loving care to those many brothers and sisters who came to my help like Bro. Andrew and Sis. Josie Walker, Bro. Alfred Mututwa, Bro. Frank and Sis. Dorothy Abel for their spiritual encouragement to me and Bro. Patrick Sakala.

Bro. Bargley Muleya



The Bargley family living in a bush camp after eviction.



Bro. Bargley Muleya at his new building plot

KASAMA

The New Testament are well liked by our students and as you advised have been given to our serious contacts. It is true the many pages of our beliefs will help to guide them to the Truth. Please send more copies in the future. I am sending you a photo of the Eye Clinic vehicle which the CBM UK donated to Kasama General Hospital here in the Northern Region.

This is a wonderful witness to the care of Christadelphians for mankind. Please also support our appeal for Bibles to all in the Truth and those looking into the Truth.

Bro. Joshua Mushili



Bro. Joshua Mushili and the CBM donated vehicle



Left, Bro. Billy Srmulwles, Bro. Joshua Mushili in red shirt and other members of Kasama.

KALOMO

I just wish to thank you for the nice little Bibles though we are in need of even more. I am enclosing a list of names of my fellow residents of Lukashya who have expressed interest in

studying the Word of God on a correspondence basis. Sis. Christine is now not in good health and has been in and out of hospital several times so my finances have been overstretched.

Bro. Boniface Simpanzye

KAZEMBE

I have received a New Testament and a very thrilling book called 'Wrested Scriptures' and the leaflets 'Bible Views on the News.' Paul says, "Now I make known to you brothers, the gospel which I preached to you brothers, received wherein also you stand..." 1 Cor 15:1-5. As servants of Christ, we are standing a good chance of being steadfast for we are going to be saved as His followers. We may suffer hardships, even to bonds as a criminal, but the Word of God is not bound. Truly you are zealously preaching glad tidings. The publication you are doing is informing us to be in readiness for Christ's return, Luke 12:35-40. The Word of God has been preached all over the world and everyone has heard about our Master, Christ Jesus and His Father, the Creator. No one shall say he has not heard the gospel, Rom.1:18-23. You know, other churches do not get these publications freely - impossible, instead they just buy them, but for us it's a blessing from the Lord..

Sadly, I had a trip to Monsa two months ago to attend my nephew's funeral. As we reached the station. I went for my bag and it was a bad moment when I discovered that it had been stolen with my belongings inside. I had even taken a Bible and the book 'The Real Christ'. May I ask you if you could send me another copy please; it was a strong tool for preaching the Divine Word, but for the Bible, no problem, I will be using a Bemba version. It was sheer daylight robbery. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Bro. James Kambobe

I received my copy of 'The Real Christ' and it is very special and helpful to me while learning to preach the real gospel. May God bless you all who took time and effort to write this book to such an advanced level, analysing many sentences in the Bible to enable one to understand better. It has become my first book to touch after the open Bible for daily readings. It will take some time to claim having read it through several times. Meanwhile I am enjoying Biblical backgrounds about God's Kingdom in the future when Jesus reigns as King of kings. It is time to prepare ourselves spiritually.

Bro. John Kasanda

KITWE

My love to you all. I hope you are all well and still keep going, I am quite fine and enjoying the Lord's work. I enjoyed giving a talk on 'Spiritual Blindness', as per reading of the day. But my Sunday is never complete as long as my Sunday School class is not on. The children closed schools for second term, some have gone on holidays, others were feeling sick while the other two had no transport to bring them to the meeting place. So it was hard to meet them and have a chat. I hope next time we shall meet, if it is the Lord's will. We hope to have our Fraternal meeting here in Kitwe, will give you updates. Keep praying for us. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Bro Silas Chishimba

LIVINGSTONE

I am very happy to inform you that I received the 12 New Testament, 3 books plus other items you sent. Thank you very much for the effort CAT is putting in to help us grow up spiritually. May God continue to give you good health and strength as you strive to do God's work.

Bro Likando Lishebo.

LUSAKA

The Bible is plain about the power of God and how we can sustain our hope in our everyday life as there could be times when we tend to think that our hope is declining in bearing the truth. Let us look to God alone as the one who can nourish our hope though we face many challenges; moreover be calm and God will be there for us. The sweet message, like milk and honey comes from Lamentations 3:22-36, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth ... but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men, to crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth, to turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High."

Brother and Sister, let us make sure that we labour for our own salvation without looking back like some are in a habit of doing. Let us fix our eyes and ears on the only voice of God, which is His Word, in order for us not to be deceived in any way.

I am happy that so many brothers and sisters are taking part in writing from all parts of the world, and who knows that our writings may have helped so many. Let us continue to encourage one another in this manner till the Lord comes.

The burdensome thing in one's life is failing to confess their sins to God for forgiveness. God is willing to make us clean when we approach him with our whole being. However, we may not be confident enough to approach God because of some errors we have made, but he is waiting for us to confess them so that we can be pardoned and so think positively in life. If sometimes we think that we are not worthy to be accepted, then we are deceiving ourselves because God is wanting us to confess to Him in order to live at peace with him.

Let us go through the selected passage which I think will help us to make the right confession. Psalm 32:3-4, "When I kept silence my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart." 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

In conclusion: what a wonderful assurance is given to us if we only confess our sins. So let us labour to enter into God's Kingdom by making right confession to God, through Jesus Christ our mediator.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi

MAZABUKA

Thank you sincerely for your kind letter and for the wonderful exhortation and encouragement it contained. The events of the past weeks and months have surely reminded us that the Creator continues to work in the kingdoms of men. This should make us examine our own lives and if needed to repent and fall down before him in prayer and supplications.

I wrote an e-mail recently asking if you can arrange a Bible for me as I lost the one I had and am borrowing the one I now use. Thank you so much for the dictionary, I will make sure I put it into good use and it will help me search the meanings of words. There was a riot in Mazabuka from 3rd – 6th March, following the death of two people watching a football match in a bar in Stage two township. The police threw tear gas into a hall where people were watching the Manchester United versus Chelsea game. The following day people demonstrated that they were unhappy about the way the police handled the matter. The deaths rose from two to seven.

The world as we see it is in a mess. There have been many problems here and there around the world, some man-made and others natural disasters. As we consider the worldwide problems, it is a sound reminder to us that Jesus' return is near, so let us pray for the establishment of the Kingdom here on earth. The Laodiceans deserted God and were neither hot nor cold and will therefore be spat out. Our Lord Jesus also says in Rev. 3:20 that He is standing at the door and this really means to us that his return is near. So my brotherly advice is that we keep on watching the events in the Middle East; we have nothing to fear if we remain faithful.

Bro. Gideon Hankomone

MBERESHI

The Lord draws nigh. Men may abuse and defraud us but the Lord will see that justice is done and He can do it far better than anyone else. The apostle James counsels us, "Grudge not one against the other, brethren, lest ye be condemned. Behold the judge stands before the door"(James 5:9). Let one who is tempted to grudge beware lest he be condemned himself by unwise actions. The Judge is so near that he is even "before the door". Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? See Gen. 18:25.

This gospel of the Kingdom is not political neither is it a form of colonialism. It is the sign of the coming of Jesus Christ to set up his everlasting Kingdom of justice and happiness. It is a message of hope and goodwill for all and it is a message that makes sense – the only reasonable solution to the world's problems. The message goes out unto all nations; no one can keep it out for it is sent by God Himself. No one can stop the onward progress of the message for it is meant to come to the attention of every living soul on earth. The very fact that the Son of God died upon the cross for men makes it necessary that the message reaches all men no matter how fiercely they may try to oppose it.

Let us prepare ourselves to have this wonderful message. Where can we get help? "Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-3. Let us awake, the time is very close.

Bro. David Monta



From left – a Sunday School teacher standing with a New Testament, Bro. David Monta holding a briefcase, Sis. Royda M. Kofwimbi, right Bro. D.Chisenga committee member, together with some Sunday School children.

MUFULIRA

I believe there are calls for us to reach out to the needy, the poor, the weak and the downtrodden in society because Jesus came for them. I have received the New Testaments and have given them to the needy. If possible I need the complete Bible for myself and my wife.

Bro. William Sakala

NCHELENGE

I am here acknowledging that we received a parcel in March which contained 10 New Testament Bibles and one book, 'The Real Christ', which is highly interesting and informative. As an ecclesia we do appreciate this wonderful gift. Again, please send me any booklet which can continue guiding me while on the way towards God's Kingdom. Please continue the good work.

Bro. Evans Mwansa

PEMBA

The farming season has been good throughout this year. In Pemba, God Willing, even the harvest of the little we planted will be good, especially if the rains do not go beyond normal. As we continue to praise His name, to be good all the time means we also show to others our good works. Knowing the Truth, we should not be ashamed of our stand as believers. We know we were once sinners but now share in Jesus' suffering for our sins, Rom.8:17-18.

Just as we have been justified through faith we have peace with God. Rom.5:1-2, as we now should stand in him, Ps.16:11, our ways become perfect.

We are therefore supposed to tell others, like Paul is saying, Rom.1:10-17, longing to visit others in His Name.

Thus we need to testify in front of others, we need to be careful however what we say, Eph.4:29, so that we can help to build up others in the same way as we, too, were brought to the Faith.

Testifying to others what has really happened to us in life may help bring others nearer to God, for suffering will end, Rom.8:18, and pass away!

Preparedness to tell and confess on your own. We have all done this when we came into the truth, believing that Jesus died for our salvation. Show others, then, your real stand, Rom.10:9-13. You will do wonders. Acts 1:8.

Standing your ground in every way; at church, place of work, meetings and prayer groups will make others like and understand you better, then closer to God. You will therefore be working to His glory, standing firm, 2 Cor.1:21-22.

Bro. Wilfred Chibomba

BANKET

It's high time now that we must reflect on our true colours as Christadelphians. We are living in the last days, as shown by our Lord when he highlighted to us the signs which show his return (Matt.24:7).

The world we are living in is full of wickedness, as it was in the days of Noah. We are living in a world which is difficult to deal with, so we need to show the world that this is the beginning of poverty. Each and every believer, especially we Christadelphians, should not be astonished by this, because we know that Christ is about to return to earth to restore God's Kingdom. We must be prepared for His return, although 'no-one knows the day nor the hour, not even the angels or the Son, but God the Father only.' (Matt.24:36)

Some time ago we were in darkness, when we were not baptised. Now we are the children of light through Jesus Christ. Let us walk as children of life – led by light, seeking things from above, not earthly things. As true Christians we must live a different life from unbelievers. Let's be bold, not bearing our own witness but that of Christ and the Father. As Christadelphians we must live a life which is much closer and related to Christ. From the day we were baptised, we should have started to live a Christ-like life. We must not mix light with darkness, or spiritual things with worldly things. No matter how hard things may be, let's strive hard, through prayer to have everlasting life.

Above all, let us all wear a coat of love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the love of Christ rule in our hearts, to which indeed we were called in the one body. May God bless us all so that we can enter his Kingdom and receive everlasting life.

Bro. Nesbert Mhonda

CHEGUTU

The glory of God must be revealed in all that we do as Christians. We cannot do the things which only God can do – we are His vessels and only perform what He wants us to.

Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'I cannot do it.' Gen.41:15-16 'Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream and no-one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." Joseph humbled himself for the glory of God to be revealed. We need to do likewise, so that God's glory is shown in what we do in the ecclesia or in our everyday lives.

When we do our own will, rather than God's, He will punish us. Numbers 20:7: 'The Lord said to Moses, "take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water." (V.10) Moses said to them, "Listen you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. (V.12) But the Lord said to Moses, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." We must give glory first to God: He is the provider of everything.

Bro. Farai Phiri

CHINHOYI

I write this letter to acknowledge the receipt of the 12 New Testament books you sent for Zumba 7 Ecclesia, thank you so much for them; we Christadelphians are indeed blessed with many Scripture books. No-one will have any excuse to be ignorant of the good news. Each and every brother and sister and Sunday School child is equipped with the sword of the Spirit – the Word.

With the Word, each one of us can work out his or her own salvation. We must all help each other on the narrow path which leads to the Kingdom. Such is the everlasting gift God is extending to all mortal beings. This is the good time to live, as the message of the Kingdom of God has been preached to us.

I am spurred to persevere each and every day of my life. I am blessed with a wife who is committed to worship God with me. Our marriage and family are strengthened by praying, reading and singing hymns together. We pray to God each day so that nothing will separate us from the love of God and His dear Son, Jesus, who is our Saviour.

Bro. Obert Wiki



Sis Nhamo Wiki

CHIPINGE DISTRICT ECCLESIA REPORT

We have a refugee camp in Chipinge called Tongogara which admitted refugees from the following countries: Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, and these refugees are unified by one language, Swahili. In this camp there are four Christadelphians and several Bible students, and a large Sunday School. The baptised members were baptised in four different countries – Tanzania, Burundi, Mozambique and South Africa. The camp has 7,000 refugees, and every month 150 people are admitted. (I wonder how they managed to identify themselves as Christadelphians.)

On 20th March they came to Rimbi, where we met for our monthly rotational meetings, and arrangements were made for Sister Simangaliso of Maronga and me to visit the refugee camp. On 27th March, we visited the refugee camp, which is 1½ hours' walk from Maronga. Thanks to the modern technology of mobile phones, as we were able to communicate, and make them aware of our coming, they sent two brothers and one student to meet us on the way. On arrival we went straight to the house of Bro. Mutambala Nondo, where they meet for the breaking of bread. As time was not on our side, we did our three daily reading portions in Swahili, and I gave the exhortation based on Luke 19; we then broke bread with the four Christadelphians.

After the memorial service we had a 45-minute discussion – we wanted to find out how they managed their lives in such a difficult time. Really, life in the camp is very difficult: they do not get clothes, only blankets on admission at the camp, and get mosquito nets when admitted to the camp's clinic after a test for malaria. They wait for a person to get malaria before giving them a mosquito net for protection against it. There are so many problems at the camp.

Some time ago Bro. Marcus Heaster mistakenly sent me a box of Swahili Bible Basics and I gave it to them, with several Christadelphian magazines, including a CBM Zimbabwe Constitution

which they said was required by the administrator for them to be allowed to meet in the camp as a church. The truth is, these brothers and a sister need our help and prayers.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

Comment. Yes my mistake, but the hand of providence seems to have been at work MH



Photo Bro Moses Dhlakama giving out literature

I have been moved to Chipinge Jersey, where the place is so close to the Mozambique border, we can walk for 200m from Jersey to the nearby Mozambique township (Mashashani) The border is a free border crossing, so that no-one will ask anything of an intruder since most people who work at our Estate come from Mozambique. I am now very close to Brothers and Sisters of Mozambique where Bro. Herbert Mahala resides. I had asked people how long I would spend walking to Kaiseni and the journey is almost 6 hours by foot. I am planning to visit him and all contacts in that area.

But what the people of Jersey did to me is not good. I was away at my home area where I had gone to meet my newborn baby girl, Florine, who was born on the 1st January 2011, when someone gained entry into my house by breaking my lock and taking everything, leaving my home empty. They even stole all my Bibles and my hymn book. So far I have not done anything, but God is the answer to all problems.

I have managed to have about four contacts who need to join the CBM. Enclosed is my photo, standing on the Eastern border of Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Bro. Farai Makandeni



Bro. Farai Makandeni amongst the tea bushes along the border.

CHISHUMBA

God is love; nobody has this kind of love. He sent Jesus to die and take away our sins, and in him we take refuge. As we know, through faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain. Also it was because of his faith that Noah was warned of the flood.

It is the same for us; the Bible shows believers the way into the new world. By faith we shall enjoy everlasting life.

We have been thrilled to have Bro. Tafirenyika Mate back in fellowship with us. We find the literature you send us most helpful in our door-to-door preaching.

Bro. Ngoni Chikwata.

CHIVI

I am working as a chrome miner at Shuningwi. Brother, this work is very hard and high risk, with danger in many areas. But with God our times are easier.

Brother, how are you progressing with the New Testament Bible? We look forward to it. The world is now showing us that Christ is near. Look at the wars that are hitting the Arabs in Africa. That shows the end of time, as well as floods, earthquakes and hunger. Human problems are also very bad – each day we hear of crimes and killings in different areas. All these are signs of the last days.

We have many problems regarding my work. In the house we have no light, and we have about 15 people under one roof. We are suffering famine again. We were so glad from December to January when we had plenty of rain. But as from February it stopped. All crops have died before they reach the mature stage.

God has blessed me again with another baby girl on 18th April – now I am a father of two.

Brother, we are driving towards the edge of our time. Signs in the Middle East and now we see signs in Africa. The same tribes of Esau and Ishmael are causing world problems. We are now driving towards the gate of God's Kingdom. Let us keep our eyes and minds open.

Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

GURUVE

Thank you for your letter, Gospel papers and the cash. We managed to purchase the wine, as we had been about three months without breaking bread. Our area is an isolated and under-developed place.

Also, maybe at the end of this month, cell phones will start to operate in our area, as the network has been installed and it will make it easier for us even to send messages through the internet.

Lastly, we only have Shona (local language) Bibles, but would prefer to have English Bibles, if it is possible.

Bro. Nice Yotamu

A Problem

It is a command that we should meet regularly, if possible, to remember the death and resurrection of Christ. I was saddened that your Ecclesia was unable to do so owing to shortage of funds to provide the wine. CAT was pleased to help you financially to purchase wine. We also hear from some that they do not have wine at the memorial service, and in some ecclesias in Africa, Pepsi or something else is used – we have heard that sometimes lemonade, spirits, water, etc. are being used as substitutes.

My inward feeling is that as wine is fermented grape juice, I think wine – or grape juice, the fruit of the vine, are the appropriate emblems to be used to remember the poured out blood of Jesus. Whilst wine can be expensive, grape juice seems easy to obtain and fits the symbol well.

I have to confess that I have attended a meeting where Pepsi was used, but it just does not seem to me right, and I would welcome others' views on this matter. If one is unable to obtain an appropriate emblem, one could conduct the service as normal, then at the appropriate time,

thank God for the opportunity of remembering Jesus sacrifice and suffering, and ask for a blessing on what you are thinking, and pray it will be acceptable in His sight.

MH

I have enjoyed reading Gospel News through the year. It is good and interesting to hear what is happening around the world to our brethren and sisters, and have news of how they are carrying out preaching work – the glad tidings of God’s Kingdom to come. Surely, brothers and sisters, we must stand firm for welcoming our Master the Lord Jesus. He will be back soon; all the signs show it will be very soon. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

While we are waiting our Master’s return, please pray for us, as we, too, pray for you for God’s guidance. Until that day, may the Lord be with you in all your endeavours.

Bro. Fanuel Mawodzeka



Bro. Fanuel Mawodzeka on left (with glasses) and friends after a Bible discussion.

HARARE

It is so interesting to hear from brothers and sisters all over the world of what they are experiencing in life. I also would like to thank God for the work you are doing. It is not so easy to do. We also give thanks for the work done in printing the New Testament: may our Heavenly Father bless those who take time helping to spread the gospel world-wide.

Lastly I would like to thank God for being our Shepherd in the past, and pray He will ever guide us. We pray for more love and care for each other – love for one another and love for God.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up, and its faith, hope and patience never fail. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. This is my message for us all to practise, until he comes whose right it is – Jesus Christ.

Bro. Israel Mutunduwe

Thank you for your interesting and comforting letters. Whenever I receive your letters on reading them I always feel as if I am talking to you personally, or seeing you face to face.

You sent me the book, ‘The Real Christ,’ and the next book you sent is, ‘The Real Devil.’ These books are very different from any I have read in my life and are most interesting.

Regarding meeting with brethren and sisters, it’s still hard for me as they have changed their times of meeting: we used to meet from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., which I used to cope with, but nowadays they meet from about 8.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. which is not easy for me, as my area is far away 33km.

Bro. Maxwell Mlakah

Jesus Christ earnestly and sincerely asked us to be like Him. He is asking us to embrace everyone, the rich, the poor, believers and unbelievers. Let's serve one another and stop thinking only about ourselves.

True fulfilment comes not through ego satisfaction, but through service to others. I hold that each person has an obligation to alleviate the pain of other people. We should protect the rights of all people, for we are alike in the eyes of the Lord, no matter what colour we are, or what language we speak. Be righteous to every person and do not judge – protect the rights of the poor and needy.

Jesus Christ, the most outstanding personality of all time, came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. He was completely innocent and offered Himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including His enemies, and became the way of escape from sin and death. It was a perfect act. Believers should strive to follow their Lord.

O Lord, help us to do the hard right, rather than the easy wrong...

I would like to thank you for the New Testament Bible – I am pleased to have it. It has been a long time without my writing to you due to the fact that I have not had a stable place to live, but now I hope God will provide. I wish to spread the 'good news' in Belvedere now, where many Muslims live: I wish to tell them about Jesus Christ, for they do not preach about Him.

It is written that in the last days there shall be conflict amongst the nations, kings will rise against kings, and rulers against each other, but we as believers should fear not.

Bro. Calvin Chitano

KWEKWE

Let mothers come to Jesus with their perplexities, they will find grace sufficient to aid them in the management of their children. The gates are open for every mother who would lay her burdens at the Saviour's feet. He who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not," still invites the Mothers and lead their little ones to be blessed by Him. Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of its praying mother.

If we will live in communion with God, we can mould our little ones, even from their earliest moments. Fathers and mothers should look upon their children as younger members of God's family, committed to them to educate for the Kingdom. The lessons that we ourselves learn from Christ we should teach our children, as the young minds can receive them, little by little opening to them the beauty of God's principles. Thus the Christian home becomes a school, where the parents serve as first teachers, while Christ himself is the chief instructor.

Christ is speaking to all who are weary and heavy laden. All are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. 'The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.' (Isa.53:6) The burdens of care and sorrow also He will bear. He invites us to cast all our care upon Him. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. 'He healeth the broken-hearted, and bindeth up their wounds.' (Ps.147:4) 'Come unto me,' is His invitation. 'Take my yoke upon you,' Jesus says. The yoke is an instrument of service as long as life shall last. 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' He bids all to 'seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.' In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. We are to enter the school of Christ to learn from Him meekness and

lowliness. Everyone who confesses by sharing Jesus' sacrifice for the lost shall be confessed as a sharer in the glory and joy of the redeemed.

Bro. Melusi Ndlovu

MAGUNJE

God's Name and His purpose – what exactly is God's purpose? When God created the earth, the Bible tells us that God did not create it in vain, but He created it to be inhabited. God's purpose is with the *earth*, for we read, 'the heavens, even the heavens, are the Lord's, but the *earth* hath He given to the children of men.' (Psalm 115:16)

But the intention of the Almighty was not to populate the earth with a creation that reflected wickedness, violence and immorality; rather God desired a creation that reflected the same conditions evident in His dwellingplace.

The Psalmist tells us that 'the heavens declare the glory of God' (Psalm 19:1) and in keeping with His purpose, God created an environment and introduced laws by which men and women could develop characters which would reflect that glory on earth. But sin entered into the world, and the consequences are evident all around us today. However, God is a God who changes not and His word is sure and steadfast; consequently God's original intention has never changed.

God has declared emphatically, 'But as truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord' (Num 14:21). One day, therefore, and very soon, the earth will reflect the glory that exists in heaven. This is the simple teaching of the Lord's prayer:-

'Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven' (Matt 6:9-10).

Sis. Rangi Mauzhent

I am one of the keenest book readers at Chishumba Ecclesia, and enjoy reading books like 'the Real Christ,' which you sent me. We have three preaching sessions every month with 40-49 people attending, and we wish to share the 'good news.' Could you possibly send me 'Wrested Scriptures'? We have eight other students who need Bible Basics and other brothers and sisters who need to read Gospel News. 'The Real Christ' is the book that gives the full definition of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit and is easy to understand. It shows the difference between Bible teaching and the preaching of other churches, and you can see easily how much they are lost.

So please try to send us further Bible books to improve Chishumba Ecclesia and help us to improve our standards of preaching in our area. There are many churches here who are preaching a wrong gospel, but through our Ecclesia they should learn the truth from us. So we need to have a good knowledge of God's Word and spread the Truth to them. Good research and the reading of other books about the Bible will help us to achieve this. So in God we trust, and seek your help also.

Bro. Misheck Hondoma

I am praying and preaching: my purpose is that all brothers, sisters and students may be encouraged in heart and united in love. I pray they may have full understanding in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely the sufferings of Christ. 'Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

I would love a Bible planner.

Bro. Stanford Kuuzha

MT. DARWIN

We are living in a crucial time, where many people and all nations are seeking to remove Christ from the face of this earth, and remove any mention of the true God. God reminds us that there is a moment in time when Jesus Christ will return. Let us hold fast to our faith till his coming. We have all the indicators of how to recognize Christ's return in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 24 v.4 it says, "Watch out that no-one deceives you."

Bre. Sylvester, Patrick and Ignatious Chakaipa

TRIANGLE

Let me thank the CAT for the Gospel News and all those who assist in making it all it is. This is one of the best ways whereby we as Christadelphians of various countries share the good news of the Bible and the salvation which is soon to come.

Please remind everyone that God loved us so much that He offered His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins, and that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved. "Behold I stand at the door and knock. Whoever hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with me" (Rev.3:20). John 5:24 solidly assures us: "He who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life." So there now, brothers and sisters, it's not too late – remember one of those two robbers who were crucified together with Christ. The robber was saved at the last minute, when he repented and pointed out that Jesus was not guilty of any crime, and so asked Him to remember him when he came into His kingdom. Jesus definitely assured him that he would be in paradise together with Jesus (Luke 23:40-43).

Jesus is coming, and soon, so let's be prepared to meet him. 'Behold I come as a thief.' So let's not be caught on the wrong side of the law.

Bro. Servious Makondo

I would like to say a very big thank you to God for letting us be alive in 2011. Thank God for that, it is because of His mercy, because He loves us and the world, and that's why He gave us His only Son, Jesus, who later died for us to be what we are – redeemed. I am very proud of it.

Anyway, brother, how are we doing for God? Think how He gave us eyes to see, ears to hear, hands to write, minds to think, feet to walk, mouths to talk, stomachs to store our food –He gave us everything. But are we doing what He wants us to do? Are we using these gifts to commit crimes, or to praise Him who is our God. I am so worried about people who are not using these gifts for God's purpose. Let us be found ready and working for God.

Thank you very much for Basic Bible Principles 'Marriage – Only in the Lord.' What a good topic, one about which I was having a major discussion with church mates and nearby churches. They wanted to have more leaflets, if you have them. Also I have only a Shona Bible and not everyone speaks it, which gives me a problem when preaching.

Bro. Mobie Siziba

ZVISHAVANE

First, I would like to thank God for raising me up from my serious illness which I once had, though I am not in good health even yet. I am always happy to read and see that world-wide articles are multiplied, which shows the Word is going deep in brothers' and sisters' hearts. This helps us to be capable of preaching the Word seriously and achieves our goals to let others know the Truth and so repent, for the Kingdom is just round the corner. Now it is time to get busy in revising our thinking and our notes, as we know well the commandments.

May preaching be done true to Scripture without going into unspiritual teachings. I also need to remind brothers and sisters that God is the one true God and Jesus is our King, and there is much good prepared for those who believe in Him and his Father. If all items we write and read are deeply committed to the Gospel, we are knocking at the Kingdom's door, and it will be opened for us with Jesus' welcome.

Bro. Mesheck Shoko



Bro. Shoko, when working in a citrus fruit dept.

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from belarus

ORSHA

Here we are suffering from massive price increases for everything, but the money we get from selling our crops doesn't increase much, nor does our pension. Things are really so hard. I begin each day with prayer and ask also for health and strength to be able to go on providing for my grandchildren.

Sis. Nina

news from denmark

I ask God to grant me the grace to approach Christianity more spiritually.

I am your brother, and that is why I speak to you from the bottom of my heart that I love you all, in the name of our Lord.

Bro. Deogratius

news from germany

May God bless you all, I have been busy recently discussing the issue of trinity with people here.

Sis. Vera

news from iran

I am very proud to do anything for Jesus, so I will continue with my work of translating literature into Farsi despite my limited time and my weak English knowledge, and that I haven't ever done translation job before. It takes me much time, I have to study the material several times and understand it completely to translate it well. It's really hard for me but I am determined to do that it.

Bro. J

news from italy

We're delighted to report the following baptisms at the ecclesia in Naples: Sisters ANABEL, JOY, CHICHI, OSAMUYIMEN and DOROTHY and Brothers OUBOKHAN, OGO and OSAZEE. May God bless them all as they journey towards the Kingdom.

NAPLES

Thank you for the water baptism you did. May the good Lord empower you the more. Your effort for the Gospel of the Kingdom of God will not be in vain. We, the brethren here, are doing fine to the glory of God.

Bro. Festus



Baptizing the latest Bible Basics study group near Naples.

news from kazakhstan

We here are still meeting despite problems, and hope some of us can come to the Moscow Bible School.

Sis. Elvira

I still remember my baptism by you in 2001, the joy I felt at that time is still with me. May God continue to bless your preaching work.

Sis. Elena

news from kyrgyzstan

We are pleased to report the baptisms of MARINA, LUDMILA, ANYA and NATALYA. May God bless them in their journey to the Kingdom.



Photo: Brother Anvar, third from right, with some of the Bishkek ecclesia and their relatives.

news from latvia

We are pleased to report the baptisms of LARISSA, NONA, TATYANA, VALDA, NADEZHDA, VELTA, ANATOLY, AGNIS, ANDREJ, SLAVIK, MAREK, MILAD and JUDITE. May the Lord keep them strong in their path to His Kingdom.

AIZKRAUKLE

The growth of the ecclesia in Riga is very wonderful. Here in my town I do not have such blessing. I rejoice in what God gives me, not least at this time the warm weather after the long winter, and the blessing of knowing you are there for me.

Sis. Irena

news from lithuania

ANYKSCIAI

I like your tender and humble attitude, may God bless your ministry so that others with all their heart may seek God's Kingdom and to seek the real Truth. May we not be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand- otherwise the strong wind will come and this house will be crushed.

Bro. Irmantas

news from morocco

A visit was made around Morocco, visiting contacts and Brothers and Sisters throughout this large, Saharan country. Four brethren and two sisters baptized and another two Brothers and a Sister baptized by local brethren since. For security reasons we've not put the names online nor in print, but they have been sent to Carelinks recipients by email; let us know if you would like to be added to the distribution list- info@carelinks.net.

We are very shocked because of the death of our mother and the shame of not having the funeral expenses. Please note that to all brothers, we are so, so sad.

Bro. Badr

We are still praying that God will give us the power to announce His Truth in this country. Please remember our mum in your prayers and tell to our Brethren and Sisters with you in the fellowship that we love you a lot. God bless and love from us to you all.

Bro. Abdellah

We hope you will be safe and OK in your work in Morocco. Please pray for the recovering of our daughter Sara, we will be very appreciated of that, as we are in dire need of this. It is very good to knowing you and your good work you are doing for the people. Where we are in this place it is not good as all the people know each other and Morocco does not give the freedom to be religious in other religions, apart from Islam.

Sis. Zanoba

news from norway

Hi my brothers long time no communication. I am well, I went back to Malawi but now am home. I have greetings for you from Bro Samson Banda in Zomba Malawi.

Bro. Claude

news from russia

BELGORODSKAYA Obl.

I'm so sorry I can't come to the Bible School, I am working shifts all over the Summer which are every day with no days off. I am trying to persuade my wife to be baptized. Thank you very much for the literature. I am very aware I belong to your spiritual family and it gives me strength as here I live in a village with no other believers.

Bro. Mikhail

EFREMOV

I get discouraged at the lack of response to my preaching here, and that we who are baptized are all getting older and some dying, albeit in hope of resurrection. I so wish we could have the great growth seen in Riga ecclesia. But I do believe that all those whom we have baptized here into Christ shall live for ever, and I look forward to that day.

Bro. Oleg



Brother Oleg at Bible School

MOSCOW

I have been trying to arrange the Bible School here but I'm sorry for being slow, I work long hours and on the weekends the administrators at the venue aren't around. I will continue doing my best

Bro Igor P

MURMANSK

All is good for us here; we successfully finished our internship so we are now both doctors able to practice. We are going to Greece to visit my family there. We will try to spread the Gospel as best we can wherever we are. We very much miss you all!

Bro. Kostya & Sis. Nastya

ROSTOV Obl.

I would love to bring all my family to the Moscow Bible School but I think only I can come as we fear to leave our home unattended in this place where we live. Thank you for the prayers for my health.

Bro. Sergej

SARATOV

I continue to worry so much about my grandson Dima and pray for him a lot, that the various operations and treatments will be successful and he may be able to have a normal life. I fear to come to the Bible School this year in Moscow, as at my age I find changing trains too much; going down the escalators in the metro is all getting beyond me, but I am very much with you all.

Sis. Raisa

ST. PETERBURG

Truly all our lives are but as the flower of the field, even our finest years of our youth soon withered. The Bible is so very true, and I feel the truth of it all the older I get. As I see all the changes in the world, especially climate change, I feel that we are moving towards the end, when Christ shall come at last.

Bro. Valerij

SHANINO

I want to say that I appreciate God's truth in the Bible more and more as I go further into my old age and prepare for the inevitable. I see God's kindness to me all the time, that I have my daughter and grandsons looking after me, that I am not totally alone as some old people are.

Sis. Tamara

news from serbia

BELGRADE

I'm continuing to give *Bible Basics* to people, to the people I meet at the clinic each week, to other invalids and some Pentecostal people I know. But the power of the Orthodox church is strong here, and people are eager to believe any idea which offers them a better life now, rather than the hope of a future Kingdom with suffering now.

Bro. Vladislav

news from sweden

We are pleased to report the baptisms of MAZDAK, PARIA, ZIBA, TAHEREH and HOSSEIN. May the Lord keep them strong in their path to His Kingdom. They are all Iranian asylum seekers and need our thoughts and prayers in their unstable situation, having already suffered much for their faith.



Photo: Sister Tahereh prepares Iranian food for her family in Sweden

news from turkmenistan

My sister, Bilbil, came and had complaints that her belly has grown; later she knew that she has problems with liver and gall bladder. She is visiting our local doctor, but we worry about her very much. Her husband works another place and comes home once a month and she has small daughter (2 years old) and son (3.5 years old). Now we are thinking about her very much. I will scan and send diagnostics results to Sister Cindy. I am so much tired of all those troubles and ask you to pray for us, health for my sister, Bilbil, and my Mum. I can't see people here who want to be baptized; first people should have some knowledge about Jesus, because you'll never eat a meal not knowing its ingredients and so people not having a knowledge won't go to be baptized.

Sister G

news from ukraine

We're pleased to report the baptism of ANTONINA in Kakhovka; may the Lord bless her in her journey to the Kingdom.

DONETSK Obl.

We are trying to share the Gospel with people here but they are so traditional. We give them a Bible for birthday presents, things like that, and we pray each morning together, that some will respond. We are sure you all also pray each morning, so you are praying also with us.

Bro. Vasily & Sis. Elena

KHARKOV

I have been talking with my daughter about her being baptized. She is young but she is very serious. I pray for wisdom, and thanks for your concern for us!

Sis. Marina

KHERSON

I keep working with Nina to be baptized, but I don't want to pressure her. Here it's so hot and much work on our land. I look forward to meeting all at the Moscow Bible School.

Sis. Anna



Photo: Sis. Anna drying her brother Mikhail's hair after his baptism at a Bible School

KIEV

I need some more *Bible Companions* in English. I am working with some people from China and they are interested to begin to study the Bible.

Bro. Vladimir

LVIV

Thank you for copy of New Testament in English that I have got by mail. God bless for this generous gift and project, I pray for your work.

Bro. Ihor

POLTAVA

Brother Timothy from England visited us recently and celebrated my birthday with me. I have so many problems with my son living with me. I so wish I could get a separate apartment for him.

Sis. Veronika

TERNOPOL

Nadia and myself greet you all. We continue to get some interest from our friends who have also rejected the Trinity idea in various Messianic Christian groups around Ukraine, but we always find some other areas of difference with them and so we feel ourselves very alone here.

Bro. Piotr

News from the Americas

news from brazil

There is a young women here wishing to be baptized, I'm still not confident of baptizing her myself. Can Charlie come from USA? Anyway, I'll have to pray and know what God wants. If it is possible I'll be very happy.

Bro. Italo

I'm fine here and I'm glad there are more people interested in being baptized here in Brazil. Well, it would be great if you could come to Fortaleza or my place. God bless your mission

Bro. Francesco

news from haiti

We're pleased to share news of the baptisms of Srs: Mervil Nehemie; Mejane Leon; Marcelin Bejanette; Paul Danise; Clerima Bebete; and Brothers Jean Luc Berson; Isaak Lunette; Jean-pierre Amuricette; Cassignol Donatien; Gerald Cherival. May God bless them in their journeys to His Kingdom.

Grace and peace of God be with you all, I am so happy today to read your explanations to me about the witch of Endor. I feel so flattered the fact that you gave much value to my questions and you sent the answers rapidly. I have learned so many things through your writings, I do not have enough time at the cyber cafe to finish reading all things, but I copy it in my flash drive to go home, in order to memorize the entire answers by reading... I have learned so many things from you and I hopefully believe that God will allow us to be connected until the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. I am always ready to learn provided what I am learning is true.

Bro. Esmath



Photo: The Haiti ecclesia after their baptism before the earthquake; they have now over tripled in size. Brother Esmath is second from the right. The house they are standing in is now rubble.

news from jamaica

Why should we fear when we know that the end of all things is at hand? The Lord Jesus will soon be here and all these events will end. We read of these events but do we really long for the change? This is the time when Christians should pause to reflect on the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for our redemption and give us the hope of eternal life, so let us who possess that blessed hope, pass on the way of salvation to those around us.

Thank you for the copy of the New Testament; the commentaries bring the reading to life. I can almost see the Lord healing the sick or hear him speaking to them. I intend to pass the book on to a sister whom I think will show some interest. I would like to have a few books for relatives who may be interested.

Sister Daisy Wilson Allen

I have been so happy and cheerful. My heart rejoices to be in touch with CAT. God has you there to meet the needs of people, not only temporary but with the food from heaven, which is the Word of God. Jesus asked Peter, "Lovest thou me more than these?" He told Peter to "feed my

sheep”. Without the teaching of God’s Word there would be no salvation. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God and belief.

I enjoy reading the *Gospel News* and seeing the names of many different places in the world you have reached out to and those who have come to know Christ through *Bible Basics*. Thank you very much for the books which were appreciated by the Young People’s Group. The New Testament books, “*The Real Christ*” and “*Bible Basics*” were very welcome. Please send me a copy of the book “*The Real Devil*”.

Sis. Icilda Logan

news from trinidad

Thanks for the latest *Gospel News*. It is always a pleasure to receive and read it. Thanks to God I have been keeping okay and yesterday was the last day of school for this year. Although I am still behind bars I am thankful for all that God has done for me. He has given me a wonderful spiritual family; I could not desire nicer or more uplifting people to associate with and becoming a Christadelphian is the best thing that has happened in my life.

I can’t remember if I did it before, but I want to thank you for the day you contacted Bro. Samuel Edwards and asked him to visit me in prison – that was the beginning of my entering the brotherhood. Keep up the great work you have been doing, may God continue helping so many of us to be better persons in His sight.

Bro. George Constantine

News from Asia

news from china

YU, BELINDA, LI were baptized by Brother Ai and brothers X and Z by brothers John and Guy from New Zealand. May the Lord continue to bless His great work in this vast population.

news from myanmar

Our ministry in Myanmar is going fine. We have two families who are converted to the truth and they need to be baptized, so I praise the Lord for that; we need to disciple them. I have a plan to visit their village and share more, pray for me.

Bro. Suumpi

Thank you very much for the books that arrived safely to me, They are beautiful and the articles have blessed me. I have read and read them. I am interestingly studying them, because they are true and have inspired my life. If you have other Bible materials please do send me.

I am so sorry that, we, the Chin people, have never heard the gospel as taught by the Christadelphians before, as many have died without knowing the true gospel, but I pray that we are going to teach them according to what the Bible teaches us.

Mr. Van Cung Tum

news from nepal

I have learnt that God revealed His personality to people by making known His various names. These names are to help us understand His various attributes and how we can relate with Him and expect His blessings to be bestowed upon our lives accordingly. I look forward to how the Bible tells us that when we meet God face to face, He will give us a brand new name which only we will know.

Bro. Santosh Sharma



Bro. Santosh

News from Oceania

news from solomon islands

Please continue sending my *Gospel News*. I do appreciate reading it and learning so much about our beloved brethren and sisters far and near, especially those in Africa. Also I should like to receive a book, "*The Real Christ*". Brother, any books that you send to me help the ecclesia to grow.

Bro. Reuben Limah

You Choose the Influences that Mould Your Life

You may blame circumstances and conditions for what you are but the ultimate responsibility of what your life is at this moment rests upon you. It may be true that you have been denied opportunities that other people had, but there is no reason why this should influence the rest of your life. You are giving your disadvantages greater power than your ability to deal with them.

If you feel that life has given you a raw deal, and you are resentful, it is obvious that you are filled with self-pity and lack ambition. If you wallow in gloom and despondency you cannot expect to

be filled with enthusiasm and confidence. You will never know the joy of overcoming disadvantages and succeeding.

When you choose Christ as your moulding influence your outlook is completely changed. You see disadvantages as challenges; praise and thanksgiving dispel fear and gloom; confidence overrides inferiority, and you become a new person as you identify with the forces of righteousness.

When you commit your life to the living Christ all the failures and fears that have haunted you will be overcome and you will be filled with inspired confidence. You cannot know the true potential of your life until you have committed yourself to Jesus Christ. It is this act of acceptance that influences the choices you make.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

The Importance of the Individual

We are living in an age where everything is expressed in terms of greatness: gigantic, stupendous, fabulous, fantastic and many other such adjectives are used to describe ordinary articles and events. Religion has also fallen into the category of exaggeration when enthusiastic believers endeavour to describe the glories of their faith by the size of their followings.

Jesus showed by his example, that he did not set great store on mass movements. Large crowds did follow him wherever he went and he gave them spiritual food, but he never became identified with mass movements of a social or political nature, and on more than one occasion he left the crowds to be with a small group of faithful disciples. To these people he taught profound truths. He had the presence, the inner authority to stir the crowds, they would have followed him anywhere, but it was to the small groups that he revealed his innermost soul.

Today the world is experiencing a rise in mass movements, and the Christian faith is no exception, and we can thank God that there are strong indications that some are turning to God. However, in the excitement of the age do not overlook the importance of God at work in the individual. He may reveal His power in mass movements but He still speaks to the heart and mind of the individual.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

An Undesigned Coincidence (Rom 11:25-28)

It was Luke who wrote the Acts of the Apostles (compare Luke 1:3 with Acts 1:1). He wrote (Acts 19:21) that "Paul purposed...to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome".

He gives here no reason for going to Jerusalem, but in Acts 24:17 Paul says in his defence before Felix, that he came "to bring alms to my nation and offerings". From this it is clear that he was

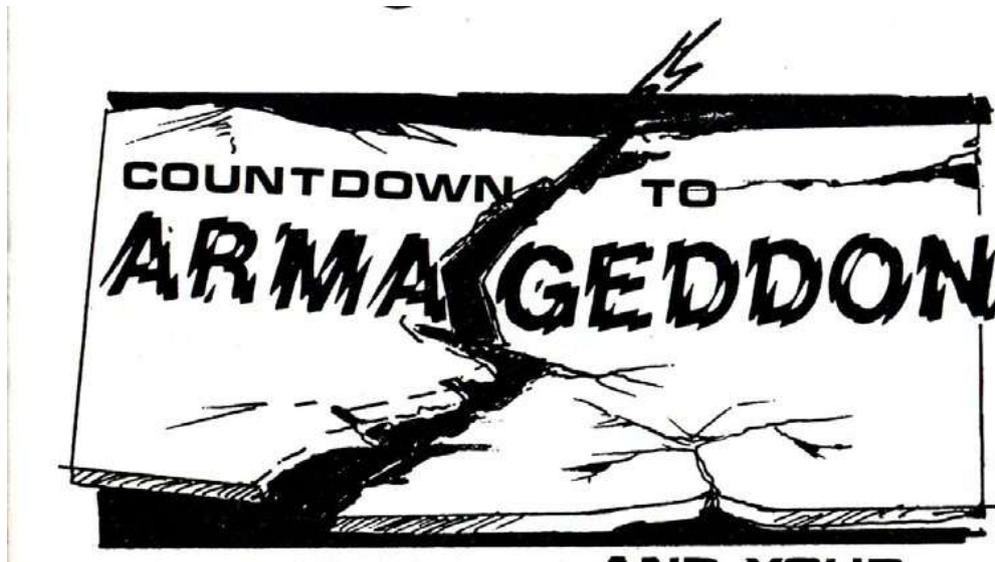
bringing alms which had been given to him, but there is no indication who had given them. For this detail we have to go elsewhere.

In 1 Cor. 16:1 he writes of a collection for the saints and says that he has asked the Galatians also, that he will send these collections to Jerusalem and that he may, himself, go there (v.3-4). There is no mention here of a collection in Macedonia, but when he writes again in 2 Cor. 8:1 and 4, he tells of the liberality of the Macedonians and exhorts them to be not only liberal but also ready with their gifts.

If we suppose for a moment that someone purporting to be Paul had written these letters to Corinth, they could have obtained no details from Luke's writings in the Acts, for Luke gives no details and only mentions alms casually in recording Paul's defence – only one who knew all the details could have supplied them, and this was Paul, and now the whole matter is brought together with all the details in his letter to the Romans (15:25-28). If again we suppose that a forger wrote the two letters to Corinth, he could only have gained the details from the letter to the Romans – but this letter was written after those to Corinth and just before Paul's last journey to Jerusalem.

Bro. W. Mitchell (UK)

Armageddon, What Does It Mean?



The word 'Armageddon' occurs only once in the book of Revelation, sometimes called the Apocalypse by Bible students. The sentence in which it occurs is, "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Rev.16:16)

'Armageddon' refers to the city and mountains of Megiddo which is a town in the plain of Jezreel. It is the place where many battles were fought in ancient times from the times of Joshua onwards. Although a future battle may be fought here, it is probable that the term Armageddon is symbolic of a war involving the whole world. To get a more comprehensive idea as to what is involved, it is therefore necessary to examine the context in which the word Armageddon is used.

The word Armageddon occurs in a section about seven vials and at the end of the sixth vial. What are these vials all about? Revelation 15:1 gives the answer, "And I saw another sign in (the symbolic) heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." And again in verse 7, "And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven vials full of the wrath of God who liveth for ever and ever." This chapter 15 is an introduction to chapter 16 which provides the details of these seven vials.

The Sixth Vial

The term 'vials of God's wrath' sounds very ominous; what follows now is a brief outline of the sixth vial in order to indicate the time for the fulfillment of vials six and seven.

The first part of the sixth vial is poured out upon the great river Euphrates and its waters were dried up (16:12). The symbolic river refers to the Turkish Empire which existed in territory through which the Euphrates flowed. The waters were dried up when rebellious subject nations broke away during the 1800's AD from Turkish rule so that its desolating power declined. Finally, during the First World War its main army in Palestine was defeated by the British in 1917 and a mandate was granted to Great Britain to administer the immigration of Jews to Palestine.

Three Unclean Spirits

The next verse (13) reads, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, ...beast...and false prophet..." These unclean spirits are said to be like frogs because their governments are democratic. You may remember that the French Revolution in 1789 brought an effective end in France to government by the Monarchy and the Clergy. This was succeeded by rule 'of the people, by the people'. This was effected by organizing a parliament; subsequently other European nations followed suit.

What were these unclean Spirits? I suggest they refer to major waves of anti-Semitism perpetrated first by the Russian Government, the dragon, led by Ukrainian forces in 1917 onwards. At this time an estimated 70,000 to 250,000 Jews were killed. These pogroms (organised massacres of Jews) resulted in a mass emigration of Jews to the U.S.A. Because the Jews are God's people, any campaign of persecution against Jews may well be regarded as being led by an unclean spirit.

Prior to and during World War 2 (1939-45) the German government, the beast, led by their leader Hitler, rounded up and put to death 6,000,000 Jews in a futile attempt to exterminate their race. At that time the Roman Catholic Church, the false prophet, connived at what was going on in the concentration camps and did nothing to stop it. The Church led by the Pope, the false prophet, may yet make moves in opposition to Israel, the young Jewish State, over the question of Jerusalem.

These unclean spirits and the spirits of demons are said in verse 14 "to go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty".

This enormous campaign, organised by ungodly and foolish leaders, amounts to a war against an invincible Divine Power that will inevitably end in complete destruction.

The Second Advent of Jesus Christ

The next verse contains a remarkable parenthesis announcing the return of the Lord Jesus from heaven (with power and great glory Luke 21:27), "Behold, I come as a thief, blessed is he that

watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” (Rev.16:15-16)

By this interruption in the main theme one is made aware that the ‘he’ of verse 16 is the Lord Jesus who will also be involved in gathering the nations to Armageddon.

The Seventh Vial

The next verses, 17 to 21, describe the pouring out of the seventh and last vial of God’s wrath. We may assume that this vial embraces what is meant by ‘Armageddon.’ “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done.” The pouring out of this vial ‘into the air’ could signify aerial warfare; but if the phrase is symbolic, it could mean the kingdoms of the whole world which are engaged in a war. Verse 18 reads, “And there were voices, and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great.”

The symbol of an earthquake has been used before; for example for the time of the French revolution (Rev.11:14). This earthquake is described in literal terms concerning the sounding of the seventh trumpet. “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (11:15)

One cannot imagine a more complete reversal of the powers that will rule the world in the age to come. The present nations will be brought into subjection by Jesus and the Saints in order to establish the Kingdom of God.

Verse 19 reads (ch.16), “And the great city was divided into three parts and the cities of the nations fell – (to invading forces supported by Divine power) and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

In this context of Armageddon it is not surprising that great Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church, whose judgement is more fully described in chapter 18, should be singled out for mention here. Throughout the past centuries, her activities have been political as well as religious and her persecution of ‘heretics’ has been notorious. Verse 20 (ch.16) reads, “And every island fled away and the mountains were found.” This verse is saying that every small nation will flee in trying to escape from the storms of judgement and there were no more mountains, major powers, to be found because they will all have been subdued by Christ.

Finally, “And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.” (v.21) This verse seems to be describing in more literal terms the way human life will be destroyed; enormous hail stones (or bombs?) on nations which will attempt to resist the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ to submit to his rule.

Conclusion

Revelation chapter 16 is not the only place where judgements of God are dealt with. In the Old Testament many prophets deal with the same matter. To illustrate this we will quote from Psalm 2 which adds an exhortation for us all:

“Thou (the Son of God) shalt break them (the heathen) with a rod of iron: thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and

ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” (Ps.2:9-12)

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

Resettling Our Refugee Brethren - Nehemiah’s Desire, Prayer, Faith and Action.

To encourage the brotherhood to attempt the daunting task of resettling our brethren in refugee camps, examples have been shown, as in the previous issue, of how God empowered the efforts of those, who against overwhelming odds, used what was available to them to carry out His will and His desires. Nehemiah shows how interest and concern for the afflicted prompted diligent follow-up action for a resolution, while also revealing God’s intervention in accomplishing what they could not. *This is a pointer for us in our own pressing situation.*

Nehemiah’s Great Interest and Concern: Ch. 1:2 - Clearly Nehemiah was not just enjoying a comfortable position and lifestyle in his secure job in the royal palace regardless of the distress of his brethren and the city of Jerusalem . In his all-consuming interest, and pressing priority he sought every opportunity to get information to facilitate urgent action.

The Grim Report Communicated to Nehemiah Upon His Enquiry: *“The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire”* (ch1: 3).

Nehemiah’s Reaction: *“when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,”* (ch. 1:4). In vs. 7, he aligns himself with his brethren’s sinfulness and consequent suffering, even though he was then in a relatively comfortable position, as he prayed for them day and night. In vs. 10 he calls to remembrance the fact that they were God’s servants and people whom He had redeemed by His power and strong hand, *just as our refugee brethren are.*

Nehemiah’s and His companions’ Mindset in Their Approach: *Their desire to fear God’s name (vs. 11) was the basis upon which he prayed for prosperity in their effort, overcoming his first formidable obstacle – seeking release from the demanding and indispensable nature of his position in his service to the king - “...grant mercy in the sight of this man” – an indication of how Nehemiah saw the king in his limited mortality in relation to the supremacy of his God in whose hand he was placing his problem. Should we not similarly view our situation?*

Nehemiah already had a detailed Plan: ch. 2: 5 – 8: The object of his mission, a time frame for its completion, acquiring the necessary authority from the King for his transportation, also for the materials required for his undertaking. Vs. 8 – God responded to his prayer of faith – *“And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me”.*

Nehemiah’s Constant Communication Throughout: *“neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem :”* (vs. 12). He sought and obtained direction from God for this massive undertaking. Vs. 18: At Nehemiah’s disclosure - 18 *“Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king’s words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”* Chs. 3 and 4 show the togetherness with which they worked and vs. 6 of ch. 4 - 6 *“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”*; also ch. 6:

15 "So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days." – all dependant on God.

1 Corinthians 10: 11, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." Let us therefore take courage, and arise to this great mission.

UNHCR Refugee Statistics:

The [UN's High Commission for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#) released its annual global report, [Global Trends](#), (2010) - which shows the highest numbers of displaced people worldwide since the 1990s. This means there are now 43.3m people forcibly displaced around the world - including: 27.1m internally displaced people (IDP) and 15.6m [refugees](#).

Those refugee numbers have dropped a negligible amount, but a 4% rise in people displaced within their own country and a huge fall in returning refugees - to the lowest level in 20 years - means overall numbers are up.

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Carelinks Reports

Antonina's Call

ANTONINA is an elderly woman living in a small town in southern Ukraine, where she lives up 10 flights of steps on the top floor of an apartment block which has no lift, with her daughter and 7 year old spastic grandson, who cannot walk and has to be carried up and down all those flights of stairs. She was baptized in May 2011. She came to the Truth through a woman who had learnt of our faith from sister Raisa, originally from Kazakhstan. It 'so happened' that there is a small group of sisters living in her very town there in Ukraine, with whom she has been meeting and studying for three years, resulting in her baptism. But how did Raisa come to Christ? Duncan takes over the story:

"Moscow, 1990. Gorbachev's glasnost had opened the USSR to the West, and the first McDonalds restaurant opened in Pushkinskaya in central Moscow. I was amongst the crowds who waited in huge lines to get in there; some people had come far from the provinces of Russia to go there. The lines were in total about 2 km. long.

I stood in line for a while, looking around me, and noticed the tall grey building opposite with "Izvestiya" written on it; one of the largest newspapers in the USSR. If glasnost means McDonalds, maybe it means newspapers accept advertisements about the Bible? I gave up waiting for a Big Mac and the speculations about whether we would find real Americans behind the counters inside, and walked over to that tall building. After a long debate, they took my US\$ and I scribbled out the text of an advert. And it was published, and hundreds of replies came in from throughout the USSR. One was from a man, Stanislav, in a place called Kokchetau in Kazakhstan. By 1993 he was ready for baptism, and I went there and baptized him.

Walking around the town I distributed a few leaflets, with my address in Vilnius, Lithuania. I received a total of two replies. One from Ludmila Kuritsyna, who was to go on to convert a few hundred people in Kazakhstan; and another from an old man called Valentin. He told me he

collected stamps and would like to get a package from Lithuania with our new Lithuanian stamps on. After independence from the USSR in 1991, we no longer had USSR postage stamps but our own new ones. I sent Ludmila her *Bible Basics* but I did nothing with Valentin's request; but something made me send it after a while. After all, when had the Truth ever got into Kazakhstan, I thought. I received a letter from him, thrilled with the stamps, and saying that he had also read the book and it was all he had been looking for about God. In 1994

I went there again, baptized Ludmila and walked from her block to the bus station and got the last bus out to Taynsha, the small town far out in the steppe where Valentin lived. I arrived late, after dark, and the few people on the bus soon disappeared and the bus station closed. The town was poor, dirt poor. There were no cars nor taxis driving around and few people on the streets. There were no street signs. And this was before the days of cell phones. I walked around and round, asking people where Proletarskaya Street was ['street of the Proletariat', a typical Communist era street name]. People were aggressive and wary of a stranger, and there were many wild dogs roaming the streets; and I'm scared of dogs. There was no hotel, no shops open. And it was cold. I walked and walked, gangs of Kazakh youths noticing me and coming up to me and talking in Kazakh. I asked where the Police station was, but after an hour's walk with vague directions I couldn't find even that. I thought to sleep on the street, literally, but the gangs of youths were worrying. I cried to God as I had no idea what I would do that night; everyone I asked seemed so aggressive and surely wouldn't let a stranger sleep in their home. There was a big grain elevator which was lit up in the distance, and I decided I would walk there and ask if I could just sit in there until morning. I also decided for sure that I would be getting the first bus back to Kokshetav in the morning- if I got through that night in one piece. The gangs of youths were now following me closely. I did think my number had finally come up. And what a desolate place to get it. I had long since given up any hope of finding Valentin, all I wanted was to get to that grain elevator, whose rumble I could hear, and find sanctuary there. At my most desperate, I noticed a faded street sign fixed to a house: "Proletarskaya 103". I wanted Proletarskaya 105. And there it was, next door.

It took me a while to wake up Valentin, and I had to show him my passport before he believed who I was, carefully analyzing it at the gate of his yard by torchlight. I slept at the home and baptized him in the morning. Great was our mutual joy. Raisa his wife looked on but wasn't baptized- until some time later. Valentin now sleeps in the Lord, but Raisa, her three children, her sister and many of her grandchildren and other relatives are now baptized. Her friend, to whom she taught the Truth was never baptized but emigrated to the relative safety of Ukraine (Kazakhstan is not a nice place for Russians these days). And there, her friend told Antonina about the Truth, Antonina studied *Bible Basics*, met with the local sisters, and what a significant moment it was to meet her and baptize her".

There are too many 'chance' events here to deny that the hand of providence is actively at work, too many things just noticed out of the corner of the eye, a newspaper office, a leaflet lying around, a street name. There is a God in the earth, eagerly working through what small efforts we make to bring people to His Kingdom and witness to the Gospel. As cotton wool clouds drift across the sky, God may seem distant and inactive, willing only to open the books at the last day and consider us. But not so. Man is not alone. God is in search of man as well as man searching for God, and in the process of their meeting in repentance and acknowledgment of each other in Christ, there's an amazing 'flash' moment, the 'click', brought about by the overpowering synergy between God and man which we may call 'providence'.

Hence all the Angels of Heaven rejoice at each baptism. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and His eyes are constantly running to and fro to show Himself strong for those many people whom He seeks to save and preserve in their walk to His Kingdom.



Sisters Valya and Nana after the breaking of bread meeting in their ecclesia of sisters



Group photo after the baptism. Antonina is in the center

An Ecclesia Is Born In Lake Malawi

We reported some time ago the baptism of a Malawian Brother Esau in Norway whilst on an extended training course there, studying fishery stations on an island off the coast of northern Norway. He returned to Malawi vowing to take his new found faith to his friends and former church in Malawi, located on the shores of Lake Malawi in the very heart of central Africa. This he did. His former pastor, Leonard, bravely accepted the Truth and was baptized by the nearest CBM ecclesia. For this he was cast out of his church, lost all income, and eventually a gang of thugs forced him and his family from his home. This is how badly religion can go wrong, and how badly people respond when they are told that their existing religious convictions are wrong and when their consciences are touched.

Despite chronic lack of resources, Brothers Esau and Leonard have been gathering the remaining church members and other people for meetings under a large tree and also within the house where Leonard now lives. They have been well supplied with *Bible Basics* and they have been teaching the people twice / week, going through the lessons. Leonard flies his colours to everyone, with a large sign outside his home advertising his new faith



The Banner outside Leonards Home

They got to the point where really there was nothing further to teach them of the basic Gospel, and it was our honour to be invited by these zealous brethren to be present at the baptisms. They were a wide range of people, from peasant farmers to a doctor, but united together by the hope of the Gospel. The Bible teachings were of a high standard with great emphasis on the need to understand God as one and not three, a human Jesus who didn't pre-exist, no Satan but the need to fight sin within, and the Kingdom coming on earth, with no eternal hell to fear.

No fewer than 22 people fitted into one pickup truck to be taken to the shore of Lake Malawi for baptism, just a few kilometres from where David Livingstone was based and bought slaves from

the slave traders on the lake, let them go free, and then told them to run for their lives so the slave traders didn't catch them again, which provided good material for the baptism address, based around Romans 6 and the freedom from sin's slavery which we are given and must preserve.



22 on the way to the Lake

With beautiful harmonic singing, the 16 people were lined up and baptized - Brothers DAVID, PAUL, CHARLES, ANDREW, ELIAS, JAMES, PETER, SWETHAN, DANIEL and INNOCENT; and Sisters TERESA, EMILY, ZIONE, FLORENCE, KATE and JOYCE. It was great to see their joy in anticipation of their baptisms, sharing Heaven's joy



Lining up for Baptism

Brother Leonard insisted on doing the baptisms wearing his best suit trousers, shirt and tie- because all the Angels in Heaven were watching as so many came to repentance:



Bro Leonard & Duncan

We marvel at God's ways; how internet contact with a Malawian man searching for truth about the trinity on an island in northern Norway led to his baptism and spreading the true Gospel in Malawi; the brave and faithful response of a pastor willing to lose his income, flock and standing in society, and now to the conversion of a wide range of people, a true cross-section of Malawian society, from doctors to peasants. We are pleased to say that this new ecclesia is integrating well with CBM Malawi.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Apart from donations, here are a few suggestions:-

- Post any useful books or Bibles you have to these ecclesias
- Obtain Sunday School materials and get them posted to them- there's an especial need for material suitable for under 11s, along with crayons, exercise books etc.
- Pray for them and thank God for them- you can all do that!

My Personal Testimony

I am a Christadelphian Brother born in 1953, living on the edge of Lake Malawi, in the very heart of Africa, in the area of the great missionary activity by Livingstone and others many years ago. My parents were Anglicans and I was baptized into the Anglican faith in 1965. I attended church and was active, but something was lacking, and I thought I could find it in the Pentecostals, whose meetings I began to secretly attend.

Eventually, in 1985, I got the courage to write a letter of resignation from the Anglicans; when I told my wife, she urged me to write it also from her and our children, because she wanted the whole family to be of the same faith. I was active with the Pentecostals, I planted churches and was a lay pastor, bringing very many into their ranks. But I began to have many questions, especially about how the Trinity, which we preached, could be squared with the fact that God is clearly one. I didn't lose my faith in God, but these questions meant that I began to be less active in the church.

One day I was helping another Pastor build a latrine for a church. He asked me why I was no longer so committed, and I told him my Biblical beliefs that God is one not three. I thought he would be shocked, but instead he said he agreed with me and had the same questions, so we should write to the Executive Committee of the church and get them to change their position. He did this, and they replied that I was demon- possessed, and he accepted them, wanting the praise of men more than of God. And so I totally stopped my involvement with them.

At that time I thought to leave the civil service where I worked, and go and work in South Africa, but I needed some more skills. I thought it would be good to learn to drive. I knew one man who had a car, and I asked him to give me driving lessons. He agreed, on the basis that I would clean his car regularly. I did so. This was now 1999. One day as I cleaned the inside of the car I came across a copy of Bible Basics, very dirty and greasy. He let me take it, and I read it four times one after the other. It answered all my questions. I knew it was from God and that I had found the Truth I had been looking for, for so long.

So I wrote a letter to Duncan, using the address in England which was inside the book. I was unaware at that time that he doesn't live in England but in Eastern Europe. Marcus replied to me, a very warm letter, and he sent me 10 British pounds so that I could go to visit the Christadelphians in Zomba. I can remember well the excitement I felt, and how I sent my daughter to the bank to cash that banknote and received 900 Kwacha, which we thought was wonderful. And so began my visits to various Christadelphian meetings, meeting at one time with the brothers from England, who answered my further questions very well.

In due course, I was baptized in 2002 by a nearby Christadelphian Bible Mission ecclesia, it was strange that some of the members didn't know doctrinally why they were Christadelphians, so I ended up even teaching them. My wife however wasn't baptized then. She realized that this time, it was more serious than just all being of the same religion. But she started to question things she heard in the Pentecostals and then she too, couldn't stand to be in a church where you hear things like Trinity, pre-existence of Jesus, going to heaven on death, Satan, immortal soul, hell, and all the other things we know are wrong. So she of her own freewill resigned from that church and was baptized in 2004, and three of my children too. Since then I have helped establish another two ecclesias and read the writings of Bro Thomas and Bro Roberts. I also had contact with Bro Duncan by email, and he introduced me to some of his contacts in other parts of Malawi whom I also baptized. Then one day now in May 2011 I had a phone call. It was Duncan. He had informed me of his coming to Malawi by email but I hadn't received it, and he had only that day got my phone number from the brethren in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp. He said that in 40 minutes he would be passing by my place, as he was passing by the lakeshore road going up Lake Malawi to baptize some people in the north! So he came to my workplace and we sat in my office after the workers had all gone home and had a very wonderful fellowship. It was like the coming of Christ will be - suddenly we will know we have a visitor whom we feel we know well and whose words we have read many times, but have never seen in the flesh. We went on our ways rejoicing very, very much.



Bro. George Mayimba and Duncan

Bro. George Mayimba (Senga Bay, Malawi)

From Natural to Supernatural

Some people do not understand the nature of Jesus when he was born. Some claim that he was supernatural when he was born. Many Trinitarians believe this. Let us examine some of the Bible passages and find out how Jesus was born.

In Luke 1:34,35, the holy spirit power formed Jesus in Mary's womb. The Bible goes on to say in Hebrews 2:14: "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too, shared in their humanity". Jesus had human nature with flesh and blood.

Jesus became supernatural after he was resurrected from the dead. "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus stood among them"(John 20:19,20). The doors were locked but Jesus passed through the locked doors.

The apostle Paul explains how the body of Jesus was before, and how it became after, resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). So it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable and ultimately it will be raised imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:46). The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The same applies to those who will be resurrected and granted eternal life.

Bro Robert Miwele (Kitwe, Zambia)

Our Debt To Christ

What of ourselves? We are indebted to Christ and our debt is very great, something we can never repay. That debt was incurred through the giving of the very life of Jesus, who laid it down for his friends that the way could be opened that they might be forgiven (John 10:11; 15:14). He has effected our reconciliation with God, since once we were reprobate sinners and astray from Him by the gulf created by our sins. Now that we have put on Christ in baptism, we are made right with our Creator. Yet by the same token, our forgiveness should not be one-sided. In the

Lord's prayer, Jesus taught that our debts would be forgiven as we forgive our debtors (Matt 6:12).

In reply to Peter's question concerning how many times he should forgive his brother, Jesus said, "I say not unto thee until seven times, but until seventy times seven" (Matt 18:21). In other words, there is no limit to the number of times we should forgive those who wrong us. Not only that, but we should attempt to demonstrate the same compassion and mercy to one another as our Lord and Master has showed to us, and never to bear grudges or have evil thoughts towards any.

The forgiveness we have in Christ, that great gift from the Father, did not come lightly nor did it come freely. Paul writes that we have been bought with a price; is it not the price of Christ's shed blood? "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's" (1 Cor 6:20). We are redeemed by his blood (Rev 5:9); by this means, while we live today, we have redemption of our sins by the grace of God. "In whom (through Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace" (Eph 1:7). Thus our hope is that in the future we will ultimately be released from sin and death (Heb 9:15; Rom 8:23).

Bro Friday Enyiohu (Ikwueke Oboro, Nigeria)

The Lord is Holy

"Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path, because of my enemies." Psa.28:7:
"The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusted in Him and I am helped, therefore my heart greatly rejoices."

Psa.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."

Psa.97:5: "The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord." V.9: "For you, Lord, are high above all the earth, you are exalted far above all gods."

Acts 1:11: "You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven."

1Thess.4:17: "Then we shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Bro. Jacob Okoth (Eldoret, Kenya)

Two Flocks of Sheep

Some things do not change. We can still learn the lessons that Jesus taught by looking at the way things are done in some parts of the world today. It is hard to see the lessons of the potter who can make of the same clay some vessels for honour and some for dishonour, if our bowls and dishes are produced mechanically in a factory. But if our pottery is still produced by a potter on a wheel and we can see him press down the clay and start again when the pot has gone

lopsided, then we are still seeing what Jeremiah and Isaiah saw and can learn the same lessons that are taught in the Old and New Testaments.

So much of everyday life in Bible times depended on the work of the farmer. The principles of ploughing, sowing and reaping have not changed even if the plough is pulled by a tractor instead of with a pair of animals. The story is still told today of the way in which shepherds care for their sheep. Two flocks of sheep shared the same pen at night. Early in the morning one of the shepherds opened the pen, and cried out, "Follow me", and all his sheep left the pen and followed him.

A Kaonde tribesman was watching the scene and was fascinated. He borrowed the shepherd's cloak and staff the next morning, went to the pen, opened the gate and called, "Follow me". None of the sheep paid the slightest attention. He asked the shepherd if any of the sheep would ever follow someone else rather than him. The shepherd replied, "Yes, sometimes a sheep can be so sick that it will follow anyone".

The Teaching of Jesus

We know how Jesus used the scene which his hearers must have seen many times to teach important lessons for us. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. I am the good shepherd and know my sheep and am known of mine". (John 10:11,14).

The 'knowing' that Jesus speaks about is two-sided. The shepherd knows his sheep but the sheep also know the shepherd. Jesus explained that it was because they did not believe in him that some of his hearers were not his sheep. They had asked if he were the true Christ – if he really was the true, good shepherd. They said "Tell us plainly". He said, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe ... My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life" (John 10:25-28, NIV).

Whether we are of the flock depends on whether we listen to the voice of the shepherd and whether we listen to the voice of the shepherd and believe. This is where so many stumble. They think that belief simply means accepting that Jesus Christ is their Saviour. Jesus makes it clear that belief means much more than that. He speaks of the true sheep hearing his voice, listening to what he says, understanding his teaching, believing in the miracles he did - and obeying his commands. "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Then no-one will be able to snatch the true sheep out of the Father's hand (John 10:29). Then there is the enduring comfort in the words of Jesus to Martha: "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

Continuing to Listen

The listening, believing and obeying are not just something the true sheep have to do at the beginning of their life in Christ. Jesus said that the true sheep hear his voice and know him; in other words the true sheep go on listening even after they have become his sheep. They hear his voice, they continue to listen and continue to obey.

They hear his voice every morning when he calls, "Follow me", and are confident in his guidance all day long. It is because of the way that other people see that we follow him each day, that we can be recognised as part of the flock of God.

There is another lesson in the story of a Kaonde tribesman. Was it his voice, or his shepherd's cloak or the way he stood? There was something that was not quite right and the sheep took no notice. Sadly, sick sheep will follow the wrong shepherd. Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ".

There is a sense in which not only must we be true sheep and followers of our Lord, but we must also be shepherds ourselves. Just as the disciples were part of the true sheep, so it could also be said: "These men have been with Jesus". There was something about their behaviour, their conversation, their way of life, their honesty, their reliability, that marked them out. It could be seen that they had been influenced by their Master.

It should be the same with us. On the outside, one sheep looks very much like another sheep. They have the same shape, they eat in the same way and their bleat sounds similar. But there is an important difference: "My sheep hear my voice". Just as those who had been with Jesus in the first century were influenced by him and his teaching and could be recognised by the way they lived so it should be with us. Here is an important question for each one of us: Can we be recognised as his true followers?

"The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal: the Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Tim 2:19).

Bro Mumbelunga Green (Ndola, Zambia)

Something Better Than Money

While stating that money serves as a protection, king Solomon, son of David, added that wisdom is a better protection because it preserves its owners alive (Ecc 7:12). Solomon was here pointing to the wisdom that is based on an accurate knowledge of Bible teaching and a wholesome fear of God. Superior to money, such godly wisdom can save a person from countless pitfalls in life and even from a premature death. Also, like a crown, true wisdom exalts those possessing it and wins them respect (Pro 2:10,22; 4:5,9) and because it contributes to the gaining of God's favour. It has been called the tree of life (Pro 3:18)

Those who sincerely want such wisdom and are willing to search for it, they find that it is readily available. "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God, For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Pro 2:1-6).

Bro Kuvarega Mavuvo (Rustenburg, South Africa)

To Be In God's Kingdom

Concerning God, there are two alternatives a person can take: to be good, or to disobey Him. Alas, we mostly choose wrong, (James 4:1-5). God wants us to submit ourselves to Him without fights and quarrels which come from our desires battling in us bringing killing and adulteries. If this happens we are enemies of God. 1 Peter 2:1-3 and 1 Peter 4:3-6 advise us that we should

stay away from malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander of every kind, lust, orgies, carousing, abusing and detestable idolatry.

Colossians witnesses our sins as anger, rage, filthy language from our lips, and we must put on the new self (3:2-10). Paul advises the Corinthians not to be found gossiping but to copy Paul as he humbled himself before God and man, so that they also should humble themselves. Mark 7:20-23 tells us what sin is. Let us learn the lessons of Israel and come out of Egypt, travel in the wilderness, cross the river Jordan and dwell in the promised land faithfully. We can aim for perfection, we can all try to be of one mind – if we do then the Lord of love and peace will be with us.

Bro Svuure Faustino (Zaka, Zimbabwe)

What Should I Do – All This Suffering?

Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good (1 Peter 4:19). This is exactly what Jesus did and we know that he suffered for what was good – our salvation! He was despised, but still loved everybody. He was looked down upon by many, but Jesus kept his head up high. When the going got tough he did not lose heart but continued to do good and commit himself to the faithful Creator. Think of Joseph, Hannah and Daniel.

We should always let the Bible influence our thinking by focussing on Jesus and where we want to be (ie the Kingdom) – not on our problems. It may not be easy but it's worth it.

We should always ask our faithful Creator to sharpen our eyes of faith for a better understanding and attitude to our suffering. When we don't understand, we fail to see any good from our suffering but we do show our bad attitude. We spoil the discipline, the training, from our loving and faithful Creator. God thinks beautifully about us and we should just love Him especially with our actions, and always remember: "We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28).

Sis Lyn Tembo (Lusaka, Zambia)

Thanksgiving for the Mercies of God

Sometimes we fail to praise or appreciate every little thing we achieve in this life, owing to challenges we usually encounter on our way to the kingdom to come. Therefore let us thank the Almighty God for everything we attain. He will never let us be oppressed by some cruel people who don't want us to achieve in this life.

Maybe at some point we offended God or disobeyed Him to such an extent that we did not participate in some activities. However, He is always willing to embrace and forgive everyone's wrongs which were committed in ignorance. There is a powerful encouragement in the book of Isaiah: "And in that day thou shalt say, 'O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will

trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is my salvation. And in that day shall ye say, "Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people. Make mention that His name is exalted'. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee" (Isa 12:1-6).

Bro Stephen Siamabi (Lusaka, Zambia)

Kenya Youth Conference



Kenya Youth Conference, left Bro Oscar Simiyu, Centre Bro Godfrey Mutoro, right Bro Clement Fwamba

Daniel ch 8 Bro Godfrey Mutoro, (Luuya, Kenya)

INTRODUCTION

This is the 3rd of the four prophecies. The vision of Empires, this time focuses on Israel and foretells:-

Destruction of Israel in AD 70 and the subsequent desolation of the land for 2,000 years.

Introduces the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ that is finally explained in Ch 9.

Daniel learns that many years will have to pass before the Kingdom of God is established.

* The angel of God explains all of this and ends in Ch 9.

The vision (v3-14).

1st part of explanation (v 15-26).

2nd part of explanation (v20-27).

* This vision takes place at the river Ulai a canal flowing into the Tigris.

- Ram.

- He-goat with a large horn.

- He-goat with four horns.

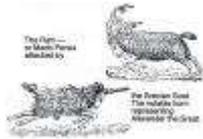
- Goat with a little horn.

This prophecy represents the succeeding Empires from Medo-Persia to the time of the end (Rome and corrupt Christianity).

* THE RAM stood for Medo-Persia (vs 3,4,20) and shows two horns initially representing the separate kingdoms of the Medes and Persians. In the year of the vision Cyrus took control of the

Medes making Persia the dominant partner of this united Empire. The horn that came up last represents Persia which grew higher than the first horn representing the Medes.

*THE HE-GOAT WITH A LARGE HORN, stands for Greece under Alexander the Great (vs5-7,21). He united the Greek states behind him and destroyed the Medo-Persian Empire. He is credited as one of the few commanders that never lost a battle. He defeated King Darius 3rd and unexpectedly died at the height of his power when 32 years of age (v8).



Ram and He Goat

*THE HE-GOAT WITH FOUR HORNS, represents the Greek empire after the death of Alexander (vs 8,22), there being no obvious successor as his son was young. The issue was solved after the battle of Ipsus when the Empire divided into four parts, each under a general, symbolised by the four horns.

- Seleucus (Ruled Mesopotamia and Persia)
- Ptolemy (Levant and Egypt)
- Cassander (Macedon).
- Lysimachus (Thrace).

*THE HE-GOAT WITH A LITTLE HORN growing out of one of the four horns represents Rome (Vs 9-12, 23-25). During the time of the four Greek states symbolized by the four horns they gradually became weaker and Rome gradually developed its territory and power and took full control under general Pompey in 64 BC.

*THE ROLE OF THE LITTLE HORN. Rome triumphed over Israel. vs 23-26 focus on Rome from its first involvement with Israel to the desolation of the land after AD 70. The explanation also goes through to the time of the end and has a dual fulfilment both to the Roman Empire and corrupt Christianity in the centuries following.

* THE PUPOSE OF THE VISION, to show the ending of the temple daily sacrifices and introduce two new things to Daniel: The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus making the sacrifices under the Law unnecessary and the Roman destruction of the temple and desolation of Israel.

*CONCLUSION: The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus brought about both the scattering of the Jews and the reconciliation to God of those who seek it. The long period of Israel's desolation although it appeared hard to Daniel, was actually God's grace in action. It allowed the gospel to be spread around the world for the Gentiles to find salvation. This desolation of Israel grieves God and will not continue any longer than it needs to (Rom11:25). Daniel was confused about the explanation of the vision and had to wait ten years for an explanation in what we call the seventy weeks prophecy explained in Chapter 9, which is the next subject to be considered.

Chippinge Bible Education Centre

It is an institute which is helping the advancement of truth in the area as well as in the district at large. Our area of operation is within the village in the understanding that our fellow villagers

might “know and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31).

Like the prophet Isaiah and all those who seek to serve God, the Lord has formed us primarily to be His servants. If doing His will is my daily goal and purpose, I need not be dissatisfied with the apparent smallness of my sphere or the limited nature of the services I can render. The very purpose for which we have been created is to be a servant, eager and ready to work with a willing mind, an individual in whom the Father is glorified by a constant striving to do His will. What I most certainly will say is that as a servant of God, our lives must be about service, and we cannot allow fear of failure or nervousness or thoughts of inadequacy or anything at all to keep us from serving. The work God can accomplish through us is in direct proportion to our willingness to serve and be willing to let Him work through us. How true it is that God can do much even when we do very little. I pray for the Almighty’s even greater blessing upon this new venture and the support which I trust you will give the project in endeavouring to further the knowledge of the Gospel.

Dear brethren, I want you to remember that the objective of this effort is to spread the glorious hope of salvation which you and me are privileged to enjoy. Please remember our work in your prayers. Our aim is to fully preach the true Gospel and to encourage those who hear our preaching to maintain a high standard of doctrine and practice.

Photo captions We were sent some excellent photos about the Centre. Alas they got lost in the UK postal system, fortunately the article above was sent via email and so has survived, all I can say it’s a jolly nice little Centre and has been responsible for at least two baptisms MH

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

The Peak of the Gospel

The Almighty God is a merciful and loving Father. In the beginning when God created the first couple on earth, Adam and Eve, He did not want them to work in order to live as the case is today; He wanted them to eat fruits in the garden of Eden, except fruit from one of the trees in the centre of the garden (Gen 3).

The first couple were given a law and they broke it. Since mankind originated from Adam and Eve, all inherited the death sentence that God passed on them. When they sinned, we all became mortal, dying creatures.

Since God is very merciful, He decided to send His Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life, when Christ returns to earth to rule for ever (John 3:16). God’s gospel directs us to eternal life. Yes, you can ask God to give you a job, cash, fame, etc. You may be granted all these but in the long run they may vanish but eternal life is a gift that will last for ever (John 15:14).

The path to eternal life is narrow and rough, so we should resist all the temptations that may hinder us to enter into the Kingdom of God which is about to be established here on earth. And through the generations the peak of the gospel has been the Kingdom of God.

Bro Samuel Watako (Nakuru, Kenya)

Godly Contentment vs Worldly Desires

As I was growing up I had aspirations of being looked up to. I have always wanted to be independent dependent on no-one. Contentment has always been my strength. I refused to be affected by my friends' achievements. Then I started being serious about going to church and was baptised as a Christadelphian after having previously attended other churches in search of the truth.

We prayed as a family and read our Bibles as a family, but there was one question that began to gnaw in my head: Why does God seem to bless those that do not worship him? We looked at the rich and famous and thought they had everything going for them, yet we pray and sometimes fail to get what we ask for. This almost pulled us down although we never backtracked. The Bible then provided an answer to our anxiety as we read through the book of Job, the words of Job in chapter 34 and some verses in chapter 36. "Is He not the one who says to kings, 'You are worthless' and to nobles, 'You are wicked', who shows no partiality to princes and does not favour the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands?" (34:18). "They die in an instant, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and they pass away; the mighty are removed without human hand".

They die, leaving their billions to be taken and used by those that they have shunned and looked down upon. The Bible says, "Naked a man came from his mother's womb, and naked man shall return to the dust from whence he came."

Poor I thought we were, but this was completely changed by the words from the book of life: "Blessed are ye poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Luke 6:20). Those that hunger now will be satiated: those that weep will laugh. BUT – "Woe to you who are rich for you have already received your comfort."

These verses were answers to the question previously stated, a source of renewed strength and assurance. Now to the righteous he says: "If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment" (Job 36:11 NIV). We are further warned in verses 18 and 19, "Be careful that no-one entices you by riches; do not let a large bribe turn you aside. Would your wealth or even all your mighty efforts sustain you so you would not be in distress? If you think like me along Bible lines, then we would agree that blissful lives are but like the fog of the morning which disappears suddenly. So we should not conform to worldly desires but toil in the Lord's vineyard so as to inherit eternal life and the never ending bliss that will result from living a life worthy of the calling of Christ.

Bro Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)

Darkness and Light

Man is reluctant to believe that God will judge him of wrong doing. From the days of Eden, when the serpent contradicted the word of God that man should die for disobedience, there has been much more comfortable thinking concerning what God would do in the future. With mistaken

generosity, souls are promised bliss with complete disregard of whether there has been thought for God's commandments during life. And many people delude themselves that if they do what they think is right, if there should be a future, they will partake in it. The apostle John found it necessary to write "concerning them that would seduce you" and to affirm that the children of God did not follow the ways of sin. "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him" (1 John 2:26,29).

"And every one that hath this hope set on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil, for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifested, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God: neither he that loveth not his brother" (1 John 3:3-10).

Bro Friday Enyiogu (Ikwueke Oboro, Nigeria)

Time of Beginnings

In Genesis 1:1 the Bible tells us what actually happened in the beginning. In this chapter we note that only God the Almighty has no beginning; and in verse 2 it is noted that the spirit of God 'moved upon the face of the waters;' and in verse 3, God started speaking to cause things to be formed in order, and this could only happen when there was light. Apart from man, all things were made on the command of God, when He said, 'Let it be' and they appeared, both living and static things. The Bible tells us that man was made by God from the dust of the earth, as it is given in Genesis 2:7 and 1:26, and that he was made in the image of God. Man was made to be in charge of all things on earth, so he was to be upright, because he was to be responsible to see that everything was well cared for: man was to be obedient always to God and to seek His guidance in everything he did on earth.

As we are aware, when man failed (Gen.3), the promise of a seed through the woman was made by God and it was to be in the future, through the woman. In Hebrews 11 we read how God's promise was passed through men and women of faith from the time of Abel, who was killed by his brother Cain. The killing of righteous Abel did not stop the promise of God of a seed through the woman (Gen.3:15).

The prophets continued to remind the Children of Israel about God's promises to mankind, e.g. Isaiah 7:14, which is about the birth of Jesus Christ, and Isaiah 9:6, which speaks about his future kingship; and in our days now we expect Jesus to return to establish God's kingdom on earth. In order for each of us to be in this Kingdom, we should prepare ourselves for salvation, given by God's grace. Jesus Christ set us an example by being baptised by John the Baptist (Matt 3:13-17). Although baptism had taken place in many ways since the time Adam sinned in the garden of Eden (Gen.3:21-23); and when the children of Israel left Egypt (1Cor 10:1-5), it is only Jesus Christ who made the baptism uniform to all his true followers/disciples (John 3:1-7). Baptism is a new birth in the Truth of Christ (Gospel) and this is a new beginning in our life in Christ, if we expect the love and compassion of God through His Son, our Lord Jesus as our Saviour.

However, before I continue on the subject of baptism, I would like to go back to Genesis 1:14, where we note that God said, 'Let there be lights...and let them be for signs, and for seasons, days and years.' The signs, seasons, days and years have always been happening, as God said, and these mark many things in our lives. We grow old, marking our years in life. It is we who change as time passes in our life. In other words, these signs, seasons, days and years have had their place, and then repeat again after a period of time, as God purposed them in the beginning of creation.

Following these changes, a true Christadelphian has also to follow his 'Bible Companion' each day until the end of the year, and then should begin again to read his/her Bible from where he/she began the previous year. These are repeated 'beginnings' in one's life – time to become wiser in the ways of God, while preparing ourselves for the new life in the Kingdom of God which will be set up on earth by His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

But the question is, who will be saved to inherit this Kingdom? The answer is found in 2 Cor 5:10 which states that 'Everyone' will face the judgement of Christ before qualifying to enter the Kingdom. So we who were baptised into Christ by being dipped in water, unless we maintain that faith until the end, might find ourselves being rejected, although in our lifetime we might have been considered 'important' people in our Ecclesias. (Jude:5). So each individual should work for his/her own salvation.

Bro. John W. Muyala, (Bungoma, Kenya.)

Personal Lives

(Cyril's account of his conversion is reproduced as he wrote it)

I was born into a Roman Catholic family and have grown as a Catholic since childhood until the age of sixteen. I was baptized into Catholicism in April 2000 and developed an interest in scripture while very young, though my parents were not regular church-goers.

As a teenager I used to receive Jehovah's Witnesses whenever they passed around our house in their evangelism tours. We would arrange for regular meetings at our residence and debate doctrinal issues like The Kingdom on Earth, Hellfire, Trinity, Baptism etc.

I would always disagree with their points though not Biblically, but with the baseless view that since the Catholic church was older than almost all churches in Christendom she must be right.

Also, I believed in the false teaching that Peter was the first Pope and so no matter what these Jehovah's said I told them that never would I accept their teaching. Besides, I consoled myself with the thought that the Pope has read the Bible and if our Catholic doctrine was what it is then it must be the right one.

The Divorce With Catholicism

My interest and curiosity did not die since I continued with the readings and started to have serious problems reconciling Catholic doctrine with scriptures.

I pounced on this "Christian" literature entitled "The Challenge of Christian Theology" by Ewald Frank.

The author vehemently criticized the doctrine of the Trinity calling it paganism and unscriptural. However, he believed Jesus was Almighty God Himself, believed in a literal Devil, in Hellfire, in Heaven going and possession of the Holy Spirit Gifts and speaking in tongues.

I believed these things too, but what frightened me so much was the fact that I would burn in hell yet never die forever and ever if my sins were not cleansed. It was after reading this book that I entered into open confrontation with my parents about Catholicism. I stopped going to church no matter their pressure, for what interested me at this time was how to escape from hell by being baptised properly, that is by immersion.

I contacted Mr. Ewald Frank via the Internet and asked him how I could contact any of his representatives here in Cameroon and was told to see the brothers around my area, but I did not know which brothers he was talking about. Maybe it was one of the Pentecostal wings, but I had never seen any Pentecostal movement that did not believe in the Trinity, except his own. I tried to continue the correspondence but all the email I sent was returned with a failure notice.

Due to this I ended the correspondence with him and a friend told me about certain doctrine classes which a group of Christians of different denominations were teaching. They claimed their doctrine was the true doctrine of the Bible and offered lectures on demonology and other subjects. They also believed in Heaven going and their teaching was really that of the Pentecostals.

Whenever we were about to begin a lecture we would start by a prayer and I was surprised with the way they were conducted since everyone was praying at the same time and some were babbling in their so called speaking in tongues.

So one day I stumbled on this tract from the Church Of Christ on the theme Baptism. The Greek meaning of the word was explained which was “to dip or immerse in water.” When I was convinced by what I read I set out a few days later in search of the Church of Christ. I was so afraid to die and go to Hell that the first Sunday I attended their meeting I requested baptism. After about 10-15 minutes of talks I finally got the “good bath” I so eagerly wanted to receive, in their baptismal pool.

I was so happy and when I reached home my mother noticed my clothes were wet and asked me if I had been baptised. I remained silent. Immediately she started to shout and scold me, saying I had been initiated into a cult and that the wine we drank was the blood of our victims. However I did not care and continued my regular fellowship with the brethren of the church.

I was very committed and read scriptures regularly. I asked the elders about the Trinity and they managed to convince me about the issue. Since I was so naïve and wanted to console myself about the fact I was baptised and one leg out of hellfire I dared not ask too many questions for I did not want to spark suspicion amongst the brethren.

At school I engaged my Roman Catholic friend into debating with me about the personality of Jesus. He vehemently refuted the idea that Jesus was Almighty God himself. I tried to persuade him that Jesus was equal to God but he would not buy the idea.

He would accept that Jesus was God the Son, but not equal to God the Father. So I asked him” what kind of Catholic are you? Your church statement of faith has it that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all equal in everything; where then do you come up with this idea of God being greater than Jesus?”

He said that never would he accept that Jesus and God were equal. He made this point to me “ You say that Jesus is God and we know that Mary is the mother of Jesus, therefore Mary is the mother of God”. I told him that Mary is not the mother of God, yet I was trying to point out that Jesus was God – quite difficult.

The Influence of Bible Basics

Still a full, active member in the Church of Christ I went into a salon to have my hair shaved.

In the salon was this Christian literature “ Bible Basics” on the table. I opened to its contents. I was looking to see if there was anything on Baptism and the Trinity.

When I found the page where baptism was evoked I immediately began reading. I did not need to read much for the explanations given were only a confirmation of what I now knew. I did not waste time there for I’d seen other subjects in the contents which interested me a lot – particularly the Trinity.

What made me develop a liking for this book was the fact it condemned the claims of so called holy- spirit possession, speaking in tongues, etc. Also, I hurriedly read about new things I had never known or that had not entered my mind - like angels cannot sin, a completely different view of Satan, a kingdom on earth, No hell fire etc.

At first I thought the writer must be a Jehovah’s Witness, but careful consideration proved me wrong. I looked at the name of the group on the front page and for the first time in my life, at age 19, I came to know the name Christadelphians.

Since I did not have time to peruse the book at the salon I decided to beg the owner to lend it to me, which he did. Within three days I was already beginning to disturb my father with my new findings.

The book was really what I needed and after finishing it I was knocked out. I could not believe the wondrous, strange but true things which I came to see.

The problem of the trinity solved, the personality of Jesus explained in detail, the famous John 1 explained, and I quickly picked up the message.

I tried to persuade my father to read for himself, but he did not focus on what was written but on the fact I was jumping from one place to another, even making fun of me, that I would end up creating my own church. My mother referred to me as a church prostitute.

I gave the book to my Catholic godfather as he was not aware I had left the Catholic Church. I thought the book would bring him to reason. I expected him to tell me his impressions which I knew would be critical so we could engage in debate for I was very sure of the doctrine.

To my surprise when I collected the book and asked his impression he said the book was good. He did not make any critical remark so I knew he had not read it. I could hardly see a devout Catholic agreeing with what Bro. Duncan writes in his book.

However, I said nothing and returned it to the owner, after noting the email address.

Brother Peter Forbes Answers

Sure of my new-found truth I ceased fellowship with the Church of Christ. They tried to win me back, even sending a team to talk to me but I would not give in to them. I sent an email to the address in Bible Basics and Brother Peter Forbes replied.

I asked many questions and all were answered. He was the one who linked me with Brother Fidalis Kwa and that is how I started with the Christadelphians. I called Brother Fidalis and received the 40-lesson course from him.

After taking the lessons I went away for about two years without further contact with Brother Fidalis. I went through the courses over and over and noted that Bible Basics was even more detailed than the 40-lesson course, so I had no problem but continued reading and studying scripture.

I pleaded with my parents and sister to read these papers and verify them in the Bible but my mother would not and my sister is rather lazy and went about her things. It was my father who used to read these papers at times.

When I understood the vital truth of the Bible by reading Bible Basics I became rather weak and said "if there is no burning in hellfire there is nothing to be afraid of. Even if I do not get into the Kingdom I will not burn in hell forever either", and so I continued to resist Christ.

Even before receiving the courses I was already very versed with Bible truth and if I had not been baptized since it was only as a result of my stubbornness in surrendering to Christ.

So I lived outside Christ for about two years after I received the lessons from Brother Fidalis.

To be sincere I was always at war within myself for my conscience would not let me continue in my sins and deny Christ despite knowing the truth.

I would ask myself "Cyril, think how far you have come, the truth you have searched for. God has seen your efforts and has provided a way of escape by causing you to know the gospel through the Christadelphians. Will you then live as before?"

I am not a fool and so for many months these battles kept on within me. I was really ashamed of myself as I thought how Christ would be looking at me from heaven.

I spent a lot of time thinking it over. I even asked myself whether I truly loved Christ. I was surprised at how I let my foolish reasoning control me. I would say to myself that if the knowledge of the gospel that I have was given to another he would make good use of it, but here I was making a fool of Christ.

Repentance At Last

After months of consideration I was deeply ashamed of myself. One Saturday at about 1 or 2 in the morning I was lying in bed, sleep was not coming and my mind was reflecting on these things. I wept bitterly that early morning and prayed and confessed my sins and told Yahweh I was sorry. I wept so bitterly that I started fretting.

I decided that I would ask for baptism and so in the first hours of the morning I called Brother Fidalis and told him I wanted to talk with him. When I reached his house I told him I wanted to be baptized. He asked me a few questions to test my readiness and invited me to attend their meeting. He had invited me when I came for the 40 lessons, but I never turned up. When I sat in the meeting next day I wept again and was really sorry for my sins.

After about a month I was baptised. It was Brother Moses from the Buea ecclesia who conducted the interview. I succeeded and was baptized and given the right hand of fellowship.



Bro Cyril Noze Zang (You will notice the crutches, he has only one leg)



Bro Ian Fifield (UK) giving a Bible Study.



Cameroon Sisters singing their hearts out



Map of Cameroon

Bro Cyril Noze Zang, Bonaberi, Cameroon

“Lord Jesus, Receive My Spirit” Acts 7:57

This was the cry of Stephen as he was being pounded by stones from his fellow countrymen who were putting him to death by stoning. In a long speech, Stephen had outlined the history of their nation highlighting many lapses in their worship of the One true God. It is probable that these Jewish leaders objected most of all to Stephen’s declaration, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” The Son of man, Jesus, was the man the rulers had had crucified quite recently. Here, then, was Stephen’s testimony to the resurrection of Jesus and his ascension into heaven.

Spirit

The word ‘spirit’ used by Stephen in his dying prayer is in the Greek ‘pneuma’ from which we get our word pneumatic. It has to do with air or wind. Just as wind is a power that cannot be seen so spirit, also, cannot be seen but is nevertheless real. It is the word used for the power of God. As Jesus said, “Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

In order to understand what Stephen meant by his use of the word ‘spirit’ we need to remember the teaching of Jesus when he instructed Nicodemus as recorded in John ch 3. Jesus said,

“...except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God...except a man be born of water, and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit” (Jn.3:5-6).

The whole of the human race is born ‘flesh’ but to be born of ‘water and of the spirit’ it is necessary to be baptised in water, after understanding the spiritual meaning of the baptism. Immersion in water, in the act of baptism, is a symbolic death to the old life of the flesh. The rising out of the water is a symbolic birth to a new life vitalised by the spirit, the teaching of God and of Jesus. Jesus said, “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life” (Jn.6:63).

The birth of the spirit involves a new life to be lived by the person who has been baptised. At the beginning they are called ‘babes of Christ’, as Peter describes it “As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby” (1Peter 2:2). Consequently, by feeding on the Word of God the one newly born of the spirit can develop the maturity of a spiritual stature.

This growth in spiritual maturity was later stimulated in the ecclesias by the gifts of the spirit, as described by the apostle Paul, he wrote, “And he gave some apostles...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 of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph.4:12-13)

Bro. Ralph Green (Torquay, UK.)

Easter Kilcoy Bible School 2011

Unforgettable and the highlight of my 10-week visit to Guyana.

We left about 6.30 a.m. from Georgetown and drove all the way to Kilcoy via the eastern coastland of Georgetown in the county of Demerara, continuing through the western coastland of the county of Berbice, crossing an expanding bridge over the three-quarter mile wide Berbice river (previously crossed by a large ferry boat), then on to the east coast of Berbice to Kilcoy. The drive was still enjoyable despite the continuous heavy rain, as it was a bus-load of us driven by our capable sis. Dawne Semple, and it was quite lively with chatter, and the roads were good. I was busily viewing all the new developments along the way.

Bro. Abedi Ndjelekulu and his family have done wonders to the compound, which is fully planted from the front with fruit trees, of which the children take full advantage, throughout to the fair-size kitchen garden at the back of the house, which helps to feed the family. One morning I saw him picking beans to be used for meals for those attending the school.

The entire week-end activity was very well organized and attended by many from all the other ecclesias, necessitating accommodation for those from the three ecclesias in Demerara – Georgetown, Eccles, and Mocha along with their children. This obviously complicated task was capably managed by Bro. Abedi. Along with meeting with these brethren, it was equally exciting to meet with those visiting from overseas - our beloved Brother Jerome Linton from Georgia, USA, who, (on the lighter side) I was told was the first to occupy a new shelter built for battered women, and which he seemed to have quite enjoyed. I must mention that he did not in any way look battered, neither could he ever be mistaken for a woman. We also were happy to see Bro.

Eon Campbel from Tobago, Sis. Dawn Hutchinson, formerly of Plegt Anker, now resident in St. Lucia, and Bro. Lennox (Lekram) Prashad, formerly of Kilcoy, now resident in Ontario, Canada.

The catering for the entire period was done by the Sisters, organized and led by our Sis. Eleze Bailey who has since migrated to the US. As one of the Georgetown Sisters stated, Guyana serves a good purpose in training brethren for the benefit of the overseas ecclesias, though not entirely lost, as some of them do return periodically to continue their support which is very much appreciated. So please keep visiting as often as you can brethren, your continuing interest and presence are certainly encouraging. The food was very tasty, professionally prepared and served at the appropriate times, and we were all well fed throughout the entire period. Most of the cooking was done by the Sisters on the premises connecting to Bro. Abedi's kitchen. Sis. Bawili and daughter Rose, were among them, while also taking care of the number of people accommodated in their home, myself included. Another Sister, Shameen Autar hosted about four from Demerara at her home, yet she was there early, assisting with the cooking for the school, cleaning and preparing the hall for the meetings. Her creative ability was displayed in the tasteful floral decoration around the platform, pretty white laced embroidered cloths on the tables, equally nice-looking doileys covering the emblems and adorning the Bible Stand – all together presenting quite a pleasing picture, and which to my mind greatly honours God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ in our commemoration of the tremendous sacrifice they made for us.

Those Sisters, in their joint and co-ordinated operation, helped me to comprehend the tremendous support and comfort provided by the Sisters who ministered of their substance to our Lord during his ministry, also those who laboured with the Apostle Paul - Romans 16 1 *“I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2...for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also. 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. 6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us”*. This certainly proves how valuable Sisters are in God's service in supporting the work of our ecclesia, and should stimulate us in giving our best to Him. I cannot forget those young Brethren who were assisting at the back in the kitchen and also serving.

Our speakers were Bro. Nathan Badger, son of our late bro. Colin Badger who had formed a close bond with the Guyanese in his ministration to them. Nathan had missed his flight, but then finally made it. He later told me that he would not have missed that experience for anything. The other speaker was our warm and lively Bro. Dev. Ramcharran, from West Toronto meeting, a great favourite and well known to the Guyanese Brethren. They were dynamic, coordinating their theme of the Gentiles being a part of God's plans and purposes from the very beginning. What emerged in the presentation of their subject, was the obvious amount of effort and research that went into its preparation, as they brought out information and thoughts that we found remarkable. I saw here the value and reward of paying attention to details, making Bible reading more interesting and productive. It has certainly awakened awareness for me, of associating some of those names in the genealogies, and not just quickly bypassing them. At the end of each day, there was a public lecture, and the one which drew a lot of discussion was the subject of demons presented by Bro. Nathan

I was also very encouraged and touched by the development of some of our local Brothers who presided at the different sessions. A few years ago one of them confided in me his feelings of inadequacy of performing any duties at his ecclesia. With some encouragement however from

others, he tried, and I was blown away this time by the way he presided – the confidence and zeal he displayed. There was another young Brother who showed a tremendous amount of promise in this area too, despite obvious disadvantages. I recall that it was my ecclesial activities when I was young which prepared me, unknowing to myself then, for the important aspects of my job career later on. Young people must carefully consider that serving the God who has created and is continuing to effectively maintain this powerful universe, closely following His guidelines, adhering to His principles, will develop in them His wisdom and ability, which will be totally effective, far surpassing man's way, seen in the resulting chaos and hopelessness all around us.

The fellowship was, as with the case on these occasions, very warm and enjoyable, giving a taste of what awaits us, by God's grace, in His Kingdom.

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Antigua Special Efforts

Three months ago the brethren and sisters of Gray's Hill Ecclesia committed themselves to a weekly effort witnessing in the immediate area where the hall is located. Christadelphians are no strangers to campaigning, but doing so on a weekly schedule was out of the ordinary. We can safely say that we are known in the neighbourhood and that our efforts can be seen at our Bible class. We have also extended our efforts to the local craft centre where we have a literature stand that is open to the public.

Thanks to the Christadelphian Advancement Trust we have a ready supply of over 4000 pieces of literature, as well as Introducing 'Bible Basics' and the Manual itself is on hand. It is our belief that this is the way of future preaching - going out into the world and meeting people. We will evaluate our work, even as the Lord remains away, and inform the brotherhood as regards our progress.



Literature Stand Antigua

Abiding Love, Preaching Committee Antigua

Caring For Christ's Body

In our society today, we find many professing Christians visiting orphanages, hospitals, care homes, prisons, refugee Camps, and correction centres to pray and support the inmates.

Now, when you ask why? They will easily quote to you Matt. 25: 35 – 36. This, they will say is done because Christ said if you perform this philanthropic act on others, you are doing so to Him, v.40.

So they go about providing food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, home to the stranger, clothes to the naked, visit and care for the sick in the hospitals and prisons, while hoping and waiting to 'inherit the Kingdom prepared for you'. Of course they are doing a wonderful thing in providing for the needy and it is pleasing for Christ to see people caring for one another. But taking a closer look at v. 40 of Matt. 25, we read that Christ said, 'inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these *my Brethren*, ye have done it unto me'. Yes the act of care should be done, but especially to Christ's Brethren, whom in v 33 he refers to as his sheep who will inherit the Kingdom

Let us look closer at some of the things we should be providing especially for Christ's flock, as well as others, when we have the opportunity.

Hunger. Our physical body requires food, so too s our spiritual body requires spiritual nourishment to stay strong and healthy. Spiritual food comes from the Word of God (Jn4:34), hence we need to constantly study it to provide spiritual food for ourselves and others, if you do not have this food yourself you are not able to feed others.

Thirsty: We need water for the health of the body, to assist in the distribution of nutrients to every part of the body, without which food will not be properly distributed.

Water here stands for the understanding of God's Word. Isaiah 55:1 describe the priceless quality of the water as 'wine and milk' – how nutritive. Christ is calling us to come to him when thirsty, Jn. 7:37 and freely drink from the everlasting spring, Jn.4:14.

And so then, when we help others in the understanding of the Bible, we are giving them spiritual drink.

Stranger, is someone who does not naturally belong in a community. After baptism we are given the right hand of fellowship into the commonwealth of Israel. Eph.2:12. This is done after receiving and understanding the Word of God. When the Word of God is preached and it appeals to its hearers, they are then baptized and become fellowcitizens with the saints though they were once strangers. Eph. 2:19.

Attending to strangers, Christ is saying, gives them the opportunity to become fellowcitizens with His saints and partakers of the Covenants of promise in Christ Jesus. As we fellowship together, we are no longer strangers but Brethren.

Naked: Though believers, if we do not give heed to the doctrine of Christ, we may cause an offence to his body and expose it to shame. When king Ahaz caused Judah to transgress against the Lord we are told he "made them naked" (2 Chron 28:19). We become naked if we sin. Our mortal flesh itself is sinful, that is why God has provided a covering (2 Cor. 5:1 – 4) for our sins in Jesus Christ who is our garment (Rev. 3: 18). By exhorting and reproving one another, we are constantly clothing and cleansing the white raiment that is a covering for us.

Sick: The mortal body is subject to sickness. If we don't nourish with food and protect it, we grow weak and attract harmful parasites that are dangerous to our health. Spiritual sickness is

when we start doing things that are not healthy for the spirit, Gal. 5:19 – 21, thus growing weak in faith.

Simple clinical signs for a spiritual disease are when one is staying away from fellowship and refraining from ecclesial activities. Immediate action is needed from the ecclesia (Rom. 15:1) because we may lose that one if careful measures are not taken at this stage. Caution should be taken when supporting the weak (Heb. 12:12) in that some diseases are infectious or transmissible (Gal. 6:1) so preventive measures should be taken to ensure people don't get sick regularly (I Thes. 5:14).

Prison is meant for law breakers – those who once came under Ecclesial laws, but for some reason are no longer with us.

Christ is telling us by visiting them it is often possible to win them back.

No wonder the righteous asked, "Lord, when saw we thee..." (Matt. 25:37), so that we could do these things to thee? Today we have ample opportunity of developing ourselves and helping others to be ready for Jesus' coming. (This is an abridged article)

Bro Amban Rassendyll (Limbe, Cameroon)

The Promises of God

In His wisdom God has chosen a nation, Israel, to be the means or channel by which His great purpose will be achieved. It was to the fathers of Israel that God gave covenants of promise (Gal 3:16; Eph 2:12). God appeared to Abraham at least seven times and gave him promises concerning the land of Canaan, eternal life, nations that would descend from him, and a seed who would bring blessings to all nations (Gen 12:1-3).

Similar promises were made to Isaac, his son, and Jacob, his grandson (Gen 28:13-15) - from Jacob the twelve tribes of Israel descended and became a large nation in Egypt, from whence they were led out by Moses to the land of promise, Canaan. God told them that they were a special nation for Him, and that they should behave as holy people. Through Moses, God gave His laws and the ten commandments, which Israel agreed to keep (Exodus 19:4,6,20).

But Israel failed to keep God's laws, and added to their sins by rejecting God who was their unseen King, and asking for a king they could see. Eventually God gave them David, the 'sweet psalmist of Israel', 'a man after God's own heart', and he was anointed with oil as their king (1 Samuel 8:7,8; 2 Samuel 23:1).

David, the king of Israel, was given further covenants of promise. His kingdom (Israel, the Kingdom of God) and throne (Jerusalem) would be established for ever. As in the promises to Abraham, there would be a seed, a descendant, who would fulfil these things. David himself would see it all (2 Saml 7:12 -17; Matt 1:1, Luke 1:32-33).

Bro Emmanuel Maugeye (Maguye, Zimbabwe)

The Character of Brothers and Sister

After being born again (being baptised into Christ), we become part of the family of God. Being in the family, we must be holy since God and His Son are holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). Are any of our brothers and sisters in the world taking the word of God as a sport? We are fooling ourselves if we think that God can be cheated. Look at what happened to the Israelites and their death in the wilderness. If we do not follow God's ways, likewise we shall not reach the promised Kingdom, since God tells us that idolaters and liars will be totally destroyed (Rev 21:8). We must be wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. We know and understand that wisdom is the key to understanding God's word. Wisdom leads us to a good life (Prov 2:9-13). Here are some of the characteristics of the wise:-

- They control their anger (Prov 19:11)
- They keep quiet about their knowledge (Prov 12:23)
- They avoid trouble and keep out of arguments (Prov 14:16; 20:3)
- They do not spend energy in trying to get rich (Prov 23:4)
- Above all, they try to do what is right (Prov 15:21,24)

We must not be fools (Eph 5:15-17) – compare what Matt 25 says about fools, whose reward will be horrid followed by death for ever. A fool has a lot of loud, noisy, chatter (Prov 9:13; 10:1). They want to air their own opinions rather than gain understanding, and always think they are right (Prov 18:2; 12:5). We must be watchful and vigilant always so that we will be accounted worthy to be in the Kingdom of God, above all, act as to God not to man.

Bro Dzingai Sumbuvera (Chivi, Zimbabwe)

Love One Another

God brings certain people into our lives just to show us how incapable we are of loving others in our own strength. He does not do it to make us feel bad. He does it to give us an opportunity to experience His transforming love in our lives and in the lives of the people He has called us to love. Do you thank Him for the people in your life who are difficult to love? Do you have a cranky neighbour? A difficult boss? Praise God for them because He loves you and wants to make your joy full by making it possible for you to love them. He loves them too, and wants to use you as a channel for His love to them.

I think perhaps the most wonderful and most challenging opportunity to love comes in our own homes, right where we live. Faith and patience are essential characteristics of a Christian life and witness, yet there is another quality we must have or else we have missed the point of the good news, "Let love be your greatest aim" Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Cor 13:13, 14:1).

Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples, said Jesus (John 13:25), "This is my commandment that you love one another just as I have loved you that your joy may be full". Love, love, love. As Christians we talk a great deal about it. God is love, Jesus loves you, I love you. But we fall woefully short of really loving one another. Jesus said, "I demand that you love one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

Love means more to us than anything else in the world. We were created to love God and to love one another. When we don't love, fearful things happen in us. We become hurt, resentful, afraid of each other, hateful and guilt-ridden. The wounds of our emotions, our fears and frustrations, our defence mechanisms, our destructive ways – all have come about for lack of love.

A love that accepts, approves of, believes in others, is patient, kind, never selfish or envious, doesn't hold grudges, and doesn't seek revenge when it has to suffer wrong – this is what we should become. God alone can remake us, remould us from within, Our part is to follow Paul's advice to the Romans: to submit ourselves fully, to believe that He has taken over, and then accept eagerly and joyfully with thanksgiving and praise, all the circumstances God uses to bring about His transformation of our lives.



Bro David with his son Charles on the left

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Obedience

The word 'obey' means to do what you are told or expected to do, it can be a law/command/rule/order. While I was a child I had to obey my parents: "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" (Eph 6:1). In our everyday life we are expected to be obedient.

The God of the bible used Moses to lead the children of Israel into the promised land. They were given two choices: either to obey and get the blessings of obedience, or to disobey and receive the punishments or curses (Deut 28; Lev 26). We are to do the will of God and get the promised eternal life/salvation/immortality, or disobey and get death as a punishment and never live again.

The God of the Bible has offered to us Jesus Christ as an example of blessings for obedience through his death on the cross. He obeyed, humbled himself, did the will of the Father. He was rewarded with immortality. He is the author of our salvation. We read Christ's example of humility: "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross" (Phil 2:4-10). "To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).

If, as a brother or sister, we do the will of God, we shall be rewarded with salvation: "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of God, but the one who does the will of the Father who is in heaven" (Matt 7:21). "Who is my mother? Who are my brethren? ... Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matt 12:48).

The word 'obey' therefore is very important in our lives, for if we refuse to obey the truth, then we shall be punished with death and inevitably miss the opportunity to live again after death. "Who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the

punishment of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 Thess 1:9).

I have made the year 2011 a year of obedience, therefore let all my brothers and sisters worldwide join together in our journey to the Kingdom.

Bro Owalo Onani (Sindo, Kenya)