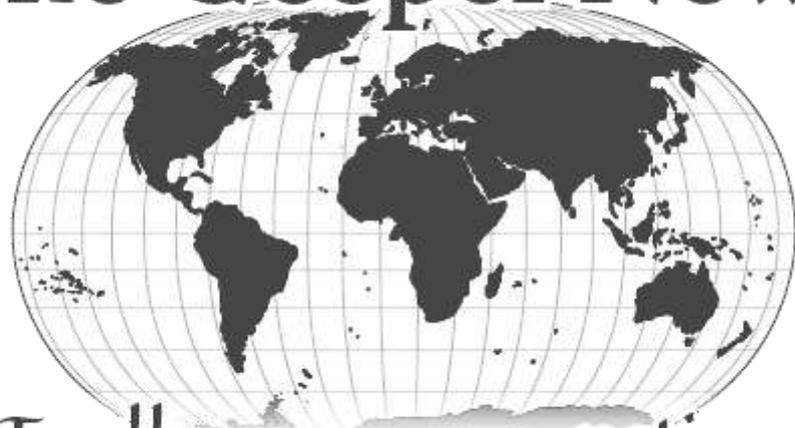


# The Gospel News



“To all nations”



## **EDITORIAL: Habits Old and New**

For all our impressions that we are independent, creative, original and not under the power of anything, we are all in fact creatures of habit. Life really is the same old scene in so many ways eating, sleeping, working, childcare, procedures, interactions with people - routine is so much part of our existence. Because of this, we each have our comfort zones, out of which we don't like moving. Indeed, people will suffer great things, fight, manipulate, pay any price - to just preserve their present position, to stay living where and how they are, rather than move on to something which may be far better for them. Whilst we may consider ourselves liberal and broad minded, eclectic thinkers and always open - we are in fact conservatives to the core. The Lord recognized this when He commented that nobody who has tasted old wine ever wants new wine, because they naturally think "the old is better" (Lk. 5:39). Yet the call of the Gospel is to be part of a new creation, both now and eternally; to refocus our horizons beyond the immediate, and instead look to the eternity which awaits us in God's Kingdom. We are asked to become new people, and that new being has very different structures to the old, natural being. In one sense we are called to be led of the Spirit if we are born of the Spirit, meaning that we never quite know to where we are being led but are continually on the journey throughout this life (Jn. 3:8); rather like Abraham journeyed by faith towards the promised land, not knowing [in terms of physical detail] where He was going (Heb. 11:8).

And yet on the other hand, we are still human, and we function still as creatures of habit. God recognizes this; and so 2 Kings 17 points a contrast between people deciding to follow the *customs* and *manners* of the pagan nations rather than accept the *commandments* of God; His commandments were and are designed to elicit a way of life, to be the alternative to the customs or tradition which we previously lived by. Judah walked in the habits ["customs"] of the heathen and of the kings of Israel; "they followed vanity and became vain and went after the heathen" (17:8). The habits of our world likewise are vain; wasting time online, following gossip and speculations, and in the end we become as vain as the vain habits we have slipped into. Once habit solidifies, it becomes effectively part of our nature and almost impossible to change, at least in human strength- so Jer. 13:23 teaches us: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may you also do good, that are accustomed to do evil". The Hebrew translated "accustomed" carries the idea of repeated habit. The Hebrew idea of 'teaching' is connected to the words for 'habit' or 'custom'; because teaching was by repetition. The Lord Jesus "morning by morning" heard God's word "as the learned" (Is. 50:4); but the Hebrew words for "accustomed" in Jer. 13:23 and "learned" in Is. 50:4 are the same. God teaches by repetition- which may be out of vogue in the experience / problem based learning philosophy of current education, but it's God's way.

### **The Impact of Jesus on Habit**

Whilst we are to develop good spiritual habits- regular daily prayer, Bible reading, fellowship with others etc.- it is the cross of Christ which can deliver us from the vain traditions we inherited (1 Pet. 1:18). It's very hard, almost impossible, to break out of habit and regularly acting and thinking according to a familiar sequence; but in the blood of Christ, or rather through our response to it, we find unleashed the power of new thinking, new horizons, a new way of being. This matter of habit touches upon the question: How exactly was it that the Lord Jesus was of our nature and yet somehow never sinned? There are many windows onto that question, but one of them is in the reflection that He didn't face every temptation with a steel will which was strong enough to just about save Him from sin and keep Him grimly hanging on to the way of righteousness. Instead I would suggest that His habitual way of thinking and living

was such that many of the issues which are temptations to us, and which were to Him too in a technical sense, He simply didn't heavily engage with because His whole way of thinking was beyond that. It's rather like the temptation to take drugs or abuse alcohol; they are technically temptations for me, but in reality they are not because I have never been an alcoholic or drug abuser. But for the recovering alcoholic or drug addict brother or sister, they are huge temptations. And so it was, on a far wider and higher level, with the Lord Jesus. His habits and way of thinking, what the Bible would call His "spirit" (note the parallel between heart and spirit in many places, e.g. Ez. 13:2,3), were so spiritually advanced that many of our temptations weren't a serious possibility of failure for Him.

If the person and work of the Lord Jesus inspires new habits, we can better appreciate how one of the reasons why He and His followers were persecuted was because His death meant a changing of the "customs" (Gk. 'habits') of the Jewish system of worship (Acts 6:14). Even within the first century ecclesia, the Judaizer element demanded that converts still kept the "manner" or habit (Gk.) of Moses (Acts 15:1; 21:21). We have noted that people will fight viciously to preserve their habitual way of life; and this is especially true when it comes to religion. It's why people who think outside the *box* and suggest change within our own community have suffered far more anger than, let's say, atheists or Moslems. The Gentile world likewise of course resents that the Gospel is a call to a new set of "customs" (Gk. 'habits')- Acts 16:21.

### **The New Being**

Part of being transformed by the renewing of our minds in Christ (Rom. 12:1) means changing our habits from those of the world or of graceless religion, to the new habits which are inspired by the ultimately free example and spirit of the Lord Jesus. The habits of the new life are a discipline; self control in regularly met situations, training like a soldier or athlete does, learning obedience as a child does, these are all Biblical reasons to think that the believer in Christ isn't free to do as he or she wishes, but to accept that our nature being what it is, regime and discipline are required. The disciplines of regular prayer morning and evening, daily quiet time with the Lord, daily Bible reading, preferably in a systematic manner, prayer before meals, not forsaking meeting together as the manner (Gk. 'habit') of some is (Heb. 10:25), these are all only a few of the habits of the new life. But the habits we are asked to adopt are largely mental, internal, psychological. That when we are asked to be generous or respond to a need, or to forgive, we habitually remind ourselves that we are to do so as God does- with the utmost generosity, good measure pressed down, reflecting the grace lavished upon us (Eph. 1:8). That when we are in a situation requiring us to exercise choice or to resist temptation, we as a habit immediately think what Biblical precedents there are to guide us, and what situations in the life of the Lord speak to us in helping our choices.

The Lord during His wilderness temptations set us the way; He perceived that as Israel had been led by the Spirit / Angel into the wilderness to be tested for 40 years, so He had been led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tested for 40 days. And so He answers the three temptations by quoting each time from the same section of Deuteronomy, twice from Deuteronomy 6 and once from Deuteronomy 8. He saw the essence of Himself and His situation in Israel at that time; and we too should become accustomed to realizing that Biblical history holds the key to our inspiration, for what is recorded there, the characters and histories that have been chosen for recording and preservation, are there exactly because they are intended to speak to us, as a living word. But it all depends whether we are in the habit of seeing ourselves in Biblical situations; and the ability to do this meshes seamlessly with the habit of daily Bible reading and meditation.

Prayer especially is to be habitual, and not only when urgent situations provoke it. David seems to have had a habit of praising God seven times during the day (Ps. 119:164). I learnt this lesson powerfully when paying an unexpected visit to a sister in rural Eastern Europe with eight children aged from 1 to 18, difficult husband, no money much, rejected by her own family for the sake of Christ. I entered the porch, and asked one of the younger children where mum was. She looked at the clock. "It's two o'clock and after lunch mum always prays, so, she's still praying". I went deeper into that humble home and through the open bedroom door I saw mum kneeling down at her bedside. And she more than any busy businessman had things in her life which appeared to demand her attention 24/7. If she can do it, lady Madonna, children at her feet, so can you and I.

### **The Life of the Spirit**

But it's not just a question of replacing one set of habits with another. "The law of Christ" hasn't replaced the 613 commands of the law of Moses with another set. The "law of Christ" is the principle of being committed to be as Christ, to live by the law or principle which *is* Christ. And He is "the Lord the Spirit", and as such He changes, radically and dynamically, all who look into Him, for He is as a mirror, and the more we look into Him, we no longer see ourselves there but Him (2 Cor. 3:17,18). This is the power of a Christ-centred life. Life in Him isn't like life according to the vain customs or habits of this world, drifting on autopilot through life until we die the same death billions of others have done as they pass mindlessly through life's wonderful time of opportunity, as in a dream. We are asked, constantly and daily, to make some election, some conscious choice, to respond to God's spirit as it is in His word and radically change; we learnt about baptism, and we did something concrete and actual about it- we physically got wet, burying ourselves in water. And we are asked to continue that kind of life. We must ask when was the last time that we perceived something from God and actually did something actual and real about it, changing a pattern of living or reaction. For we are invited to live and in that sense experience "the eternal life" right now; not that we will not die, but insofar as we can live now the kind of life which we will eternally live. And the life eternal won't be any passive sitting under vines and fig trees as if on some eternal tropical beach holiday. It will be the life of the Spirit, of progress, of change, of eternal movement ever deeper into the things of the Father and Son whom we do dearly love.

*Duncan Heaster*

### **News from Africa**

#### **news from cameroon**

#### **BONABERI**

You know Brother Marcus, whenever I think of all that God has done for me in Christ and how He has blessed me, too, in every other way, I really do lack words to tell Him how I am for all His undeserved kindness and love towards me.

Permit me tell you a brief story about my life. You saw in my photograph that was in the last Gospel News that I am handicapped with only one leg. I would tell you how all this happened . In

the summer holidays of July 1999 when I was 9, I had a road accident that later culminated in the amputation of my right limb.

You read in my article of my early life in Catholicism. That summer just as I was barely feeling better from a chickenpox attack, I was convinced by my mother to attend Doctrine classes that Saturday (Catholic doctrine). I did not want to go but finally listened to my mother for if I had absented from classes that day my name would have been cancelled from the list of candidates for Easter baptism in April, according to what my friends (Catholics) told me. It was that day that I had this road accident that finally resulted in the amputation of my leg. I lost my leg for my love for God though at that time I was still astray from the WAY. But God knows why and I do not even bother about that, for it will be taken care of when our Saviour returns. In the Hospital when my parents were weeping it was me who was comforting them and telling them that it was better for me to lose my leg than to die, for the leg had rotted and Gangrene had affected it so much so that if I had stayed two more days without it being amputated I would have died. I had not been baptised (Catholic baptism) then, and was so afraid to die and go to hell. In the operation room I prayed and asked God to save me and He did.

I come from a poor family and am the last child and only son of my mother and father. Many years after those days my parents had to struggle terribly for my secondary education. Just about three years ago I was not able to further studies at the university because my parents could not afford the cost. So to give them time to do some small savings I took The GCE advanced level a second time, though my grades were better my parents could still not see me through to taking studies at the university level but God did an amazing thing and turned my disappointment into a blessing. Today, all thanks to the amazing work and hand of God, I work in a company and with the pay I earn I'm even able to assist my parents with either the house rents or other things. Who could have believed all this? God is just so wonderful. I used to hear about Him but I am increasingly seeing Him display wonders in my everyday life. I don't think there is any reason whatsoever to turn away from such a wonderful merciful Saviour who is faithful all the time. To Him be Glory, Power and Majesty for ever and ever Amen...

Just to inform you that I have found a Christadelphian site with over 95% of all our Christian literature and you do not know just how overjoyed I am. I have been reading WAYS OF PROVIDENCE online since I found this site and I'm on chapter 17 and amazed with the things I have been reading, for it is helping me to see a whole lot of things differently and has answered some of my very deep thoughts about how God works. The strange thing about the whole issue is that the more I'm getting closer to Him the more awesome He tends to be and the more I think I know about Him the very little I later realise I do know about Him. Without ever reading 'Ways of Providence' my thoughts were not far from the things Brother Roberts writes about in his book. I will be downloading the books bit by bit as I go through them and store them up in my computer at home.

God is really wonderful and I thank Him for making it possible for me to have this facility in my office so as to make the most of it in improving my knowledge and thoughts about Him daily as I draw closer and closer to Him. Please Brother Marcus, I beseech you to always mention my name in your prayers that our God should guide me and open my eyes so that I can behold the wondrous things from His LAW. God's grace be with you.

*Bro Cyril Zang*

**BAMENDA**

I was baptised in 1995 after I gave a good statement of faith, as Bro. Andrew Walker from the U.K. pronounced. Since then my life has never been the same again.

Faith is simply obedience to the Word of God. This means self denial and parting company with all our old manners, friends and family. It means a complete new person and new ways of life.

In Mark ch.9:33-37, the Master called the twelve apostles together after perceiving that they were questioning who should be the first after the Lord was away. Jesus told them that humility and servitude are among the qualities of an elder.

We have seen in all of the remote localities we have been to that health is among the pressing needs of these communities. In order to answer the Lord's call of giving to the needy, I have trained as a nurse, receiving a diploma in nursing assistance. I volunteered to offer my services in a Presbyterian health centre for nine months but I left because of the ungodly attitude of the staff in this establishment. Money was the idol of the management. I identified "Kwashako" or malnutrition and poor sanitation as a problem in the communities.

We have started a C.B.M. Community Healthcare Centre here with books like 'Where There is No Doctor', thanks to CAT., and we are able to assist with basic health and nutritional advice and treatment.

We are even more grateful to CAT. for inspiring us with the help they are offering. We appeal to anyone who can afford, to send basic medications, mosquito nets or any other item not in use. Anything will help.

Our hope is to set up a clinic and to have the service of a periodic doctor's visit to our poor community. Your prayers and appeals to the Master are needed for this aim while the Lord remains away. May his glorious appearance be soon as we wait patiently for all sorrow and tears to be wiped away.

*Sis. Evelina Nanji*



*Sis Evelina Nanji*

It is always my pleasure to read about you. The most important is to keep connection in the Spirit. Greetings to all the beloved.

*Bro. Guy Solange*

### **news from congo**

On the occasion of the New Year 2012 we take this opportunity to convey to all associated with Gospel News, and its readers our best wishes for this New Year. Our prayer is it may be for you and your family, the year of joy, prosperity and blessings in Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

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

*Bro. Kim's Mukambilwa*

## **BULIMBO**

First, I want to thank you for your encouraging letter in these last days, as we patiently wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Secondly, I also thank you for some interesting books, 'Questions on Daily Readings,' which arrived safely and are very helpful to me and of members of the church. Probably the last time we were communicating we had 32 family groups, but now we thank God because our God is a working God and we have increased to 70 groups. We have gone to the extent of contributing some funds from the neighbouring communities for the purpose of constructing a church.

*Bro. Sadique Joumer*

## **BUNGOMA**

### ***Scriptural help when Angry:-***

'Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.' (James 1:19)

### ***Help when Anxious:-***

'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.' (Phil.4:6-7)

### ***Help when Sorrowful:-***

'As a Father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.' (Psalm 103:13)

### ***Help when Tempted:-***

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord, that He may have mercy on him, and to our God for He will abundantly pardon.' (Isaiah 55:7)

### ***Help when Criticized:-***

'Bless them which persecute you, bless and curse not.' (Rom.12:14) 'Repay no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.' (Rom.12:17)

### ***Help when Disappointed:-***

'Cast not away therefore your confidence which hath great recompense of reward.' (Heb.10:35)  
'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.' (Psa.103:2)

### ***Help when Discouraged:-***

'Wait for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take courage, yea, wait for the Lord.' (Psa. 27:14)

### ***Help when Frustrated:-***

'Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.' (Psa. 34:19)

### ***Help when Resentful:-***

'If thine enemy hunger, feed him, if he thirsts, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.' (Rom. 12:20)

*Bro. Francis Mayende*



*Bro. Francis Mayende on a hired motor cycle and travelling to spread the Gospel.*

### **CHWELE**

As we read from our Bibles we realise that the time of Jesus' return is near because of fulfillment of the promises.

In Kenya the food prices have shot up drastically and many are suffering from hunger due to lack of enough food. We wish to thank you very, very much because of the knowledge you supplied to us by sending us books to help us grow different crops in our small gardens: this has really helped us and for that we are grateful.

*Bro. David and Sis. Jacklyne Wanjala*

I am well and enjoying reading the continuous preaching of the Gospel News magazines you are sending me. I have gladly received the New Testament Bibles which you sent. The interpreted verses below the pages are helping me to understand the gospel preaching, so that whenever I am about to slide from the Truth I quickly remember what I have read and I pick up to stand firm in hope.

Even if I am far away from my fellow brothers and sisters, I feel we are gathered together and covered in the love of our God. So many times I have been thinking of a situation whereby there is a place where people haven't got a chance of hearing or reading the Bible. This time the Gospel has been spread widely through CAT's work of printing New Testament Bibles and Gospel News supplements. We pray that nothing will hinder the printing of the whole Bible.

Let's pray and keep watching, looking forward to seeing our Lord Jesus and his coming kingdom soon to be on earth.

*Bro. Jacob Waliula*

### **ELDOROT**

I hereby inform you that I am the Elder of Eldoret Ecclesia and although I have been receiving Gospel News from you, this has now stopped – I don't know why. I would request that you please send them again, as we find them helpful.

May you please remember us and send us a new Bible, as it is good for our Sunday School.

*Bro. Alex Waliula*

### **KAKAMEGA**

Thank you so much for sending me a Bible. Please continue to send me articles about the Signs of the Times and ongoing events in the Middle East, which are really encouraging. I would be pleased to have more spiritual materials that will help us grow in faith. Also do remember to send us a 'Bible Planner' and 'Wrested Scriptures.' So many people here are hungry for the Word.

Kambi Muranza Ecclesia is still young and we need your support materially. I am the Ecclesial Secretary.

*Bro. Gibson Amesa Azere*

### **KATITO**

Many thanks for your letter, the book 'The Real Jesus,' a very interesting expositor of the Truth; and the assortment of news from diverse places around the world. We see trouble all round the Middle East and wonder how long before Jesus returns, for these days are prophesied and it is interesting and exciting to know that it cannot be long before we see Jesus.

But we see in Japan what terrible destruction earthquakes and tsunamis can create, and the fear that nuclear fallout produces, and we begin to see how Luke 21:25-27 is coming to pass, especially if we take the "powers of the heavens" as meaning those in political high places. In Kenya we are experiencing the worst ever drought and famine in history, the fluctuating food prices and the hike in fuel prices causing the living standards to be unbearable to the common man, a good testimony to Luke 21:10,11.

We planted, and it rained on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and since then the sky is cloudy and the rains are just hovering above and there is no single drop. The crops are shrivelling while we watch helpless.

*Bro. Lawrence K'Owiti*

### **KITALE**

Praise the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ; blessed be his mighty Name for the love he has given to us. I am fine and doing well in Christ.

I thank God also for His grace that I found Bro. Martin Chemiati, who gave me a New Testament European Version, which has enabled me to reach a new level in my study of God's word. I am blessed with a wife and three children: Lucy, Elvis and Enock. The eldest is 15 years, Elvis is 12 and Enock is 6 years – a born again family.

I therefore thank God that I have a chance to write to you, brother: I beseech you, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to assist me with Bible books. It is my wish to study God's word and teach people to know the Truth of the word. Due to the distance between me and Bro. Chemiati I am unable to reach him for assistance.

*Bro. Mark Wanjala*



*Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanjala*

### **KOBUJOI**

I very much appreciate the box of New Testaments and the work CAT are doing, and many a time I cannot stop imagining how wonderful and joyful this is in the eyes of our Heavenly Father. This, to me, is true sacrifice (living sacrifice – Romans 12:1).

*Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir*

### **MAKHONGE**

I am so grateful to have received a parcel of interesting letters and some spiritual literature from you. It was nice to hear about the changes in the Gospel News magazine: indeed it is a noble and commendable undertaking. We pray that God will be in the midst to bless everything and so we hope to receive more copies soon.

Inflation is shocking in our country at the moment: prices of commodities have shot up terribly, making life for the poor brethren harder and harder. Many are going hungry, children are not going to school, and they are not able to access good health services. This is probably one of the signs of the times.

*Bro. Manasseh & Sis. Doricus Wamamili*



*Bro. David Wanyala, Sunday School teacher with the Sunday School.*



*Makhonge members fellowshiping with visitors from Mt. Eglon region in a newly bought plot, which has a cool and quiet environment.*

### **MOMBASA**

I was baptised on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1991, full immersion or ‘buried’ in water, believing in the Name of Jesus Christ, and in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, by Bro. David Cooke of Coventry Ecclesia, now fallen asleep in Christ.

*Bro. Walter Wasike*

### **MOUNT DARWIN**

We were delighted to welcome Walter Chakaipa into fellowship, as he was baptised by Bro. Steve from the U.K. at Harare Russell Hotel.

*Bro. Sylvester Chakaipa*



*Baptism of Walter Chakaipa*

Children are very much in God's heart in these days, and we need to reach out to them as much as possible. Reach out to all the unsaved, for them to love the truth of the written word of God and walk in it. We need to pray for them, and particularly for those who have been sold short on a false gospel.

*Bro. Sylvester Chakaipa*



*Sunday School children at Mt. Darwin with Bro. Sylvester Chakaipa*

## **NAIROBI**

Photo: The Youth Camp held in Nairobi last year, with youths attending from all over Kenya and Uganda for the Fraternal. Bro. Nelson Sikolia attended as the representative of Tongaren Ecclesia, Kenya.

## **NAITIRI**

I am very grateful for CAT's work and how I wish that you could extend your area of work to areas like the Middle East for people to know who Jesus Christ is. Although it takes time, we as Christians hope and believe that our those who do not know Christ today will come to know our God of the Bible and our Lord Jesus Christ

We are doing well at the Ecclesia, and succeeding in our mission to spread the gospel. Brothers, what we are lacking is literature concerning Sunday Schools, and if any is available I would be very grateful to receive some for our Sunday School to grow in the Lord and in the true teaching.

Brothers, it is through the Gospel News that we have received two new members to our church, which has raised our hopes to spread the gospel further. The new members say that the Gospel News of Oct.-Dec. 2010, where it talks about 'Break it open and pour it on Jesus,' on page 20 of the article by Bro. Reuben Kaambeu, from Kabombo, Zambia, has made them think twice about their previous faith and way of life, and so decided to join us – to have belief and to know who the real Christ is.

*Bro. Nasongo Haron*



*Bro. Nasongo Haron reading a magazine*

## **NAKURU**

I am writing to thank you on behalf of myself and our Ecclesial members for the 12 copies of the New Testament. We shall put them to proper use for spreading the Gospel of God.

In Kenya we are experiencing a high cost of living – the prices of food, fuel, rent and the rest have gone up. But God is always on our side to help with these problems.

*Bro. Samuel Wanga*

## **NALONDO**

First and foremost, I must thank you very much for the following books which I have received: 12 New Testaments, New European Version; 1 Bible Basics; 1 book, 'The Real Devil'; 1 book, 'The Real Christ'; 4 books, 'Women in the Church'; 3 Gospel News.

The members of our Ecclesia also thank you for various books you supplied, although the print is too small as some of us have problems with eyesight without reading spectacles. In my case, my recommended lenses are 2.50 to enable me to read well. The reading glasses we get here do not last long. So, Brother Marcus, if there are any used or old ones available we shall very much appreciate them.

*Bro. John Muyala*

The New Testament Bibles which you sent us have now enabled us to open 3 new Sunday Schools, namely Sitila, Nalondo and Khasule respectively.

The Nalondo Ecclesia, brothers and sisters join with me in sending greetings to you, with our thanks for your help.

*Bro. John Muyala*



*Brothers and Sisters of Nalondo Ecclesia outside their meeting hall.*

## **NDALU**

Ndalu Ecclesia has 76 Sunday School children, 10 Sisters and 12 Brothers, we recently baptised Brothers Eric Sifuna and Edwin Wefule, and Sister Conjeffe. We are longing to baptise ten more friends. Following that report, I am sorry to say we missed ordering pocket New Testaments, so if you have any remaining, please post us 25 copies.

Often I realise that there are Brothers and Sisters across this world who share an understanding of the love of God shown through His Son Jesus Christ. What is even better, they want this understanding to make a difference to themselves and to those around them. Mark 12:30,31. Each of these areas (of keeping God's commandments) is like a battle ground. Every day we have to fight with our hearts, with our lives, with our minds and with our physical strength to conquer our human ways, so that we can follow this command. It does not always come easily, and has to be a conscious effort.

However, God knows us and understands us. We know, Bro. Marcus, God has seen your work and your concerns for Ndalu Ecclesia.

*Bro. Johnstone Kaliwanga*

## **N.KINANGOP**

I received the New Testament Bibles, thank you. What made me happier than ever before, was that I have been in need of a good, big Bible for my Bible studies, but up to now I have not been able to get one. The Bibles in fact have simplified my work, for I have offered one to the Sunday School, 2 of them to the Bible students, and they are very happy doing their Bible study.

Now we have started receiving rain and it is the planting season, so we are rather busy. We grow English potatoes, cabbages, carrots and peas. It has been so very dry, and even we were struggling to fetch water. We don't have piped water, we were getting it from dams which were almost empty, but God is good, now that the rains have started.

Again I am pleased with the Newsletters concerning how life is in Israel and Palestine, which makes us as disciples aware that the time for the return of Jesus to this earth is very near. I happened to see my friend who had a paper showing clearly sequences of events prior to the return of the Master. Please, if I could have one I would be happy.

Again I have Carelinks to thank for connecting me to Brother Anderson for email Bible lessons, which I have received up to now. We hope that, God willing, you will visit Kenya and find a good Church eagerly waiting for the return of the Master.

*Bro. Peter Njuguna*

### **NYANGE**

In Nyange Ecclesia we are all OK, and both brothers and sisters are very thankful for the supportive means you are sending to us in the form of Gospel News letters, New Testament Bibles, Bible Basics, the books 'The Real Christ,' and 'The Real Devil,' together with the literature about world events in conjunction with prophecy in the Bible. This has enabled our Ecclesia to be well equipped with resources that help us to find the true gospel.

We are a growing Ecclesia, increasing in numbers from adults to juniors. This has increased the workload of teaching, especially the Sunday School team, which has promise in their learning of the true gospel to be ambassadors for Christ. So far I don't have any literature to help with the Sunday School. Most of my Sunday School scholars are aged between 4 and 13, and there are 9 in number.

*Bro. Nasong'o Haron*

We wish to send our sincere thanks for what you did for us. Many members of the ecclesia were really suffering from a lack of Bibles, but now are very happy enjoying the use of the New European Version Bibles. Many people are now also getting to know the Truth by use of Bible Basics which is found at the back of the Bible: also the Bible reading plan has made people who lacked their personal copies now to be comfortable.

Many friends have asked to be baptised after realising the plain truth about the gospel. Many, too, are supporting your project and are asking that through the Almighty God you should be able to give a full Bible, including both Old and New Testaments: this will equip every member fully with the Word of God. A copy of Bible Basics has made my work easier, trying to sow the Gospel seed to people.

*Bro. Adrian Wanjala*

### **RAPOGI**

I would like to inform you that I saw the hand of the Lord from you, when I received the New Testament Bibles, which I have distributed to our members.

I remain strong in the arms of the Lord. Recently, those who claim to be staunch Christians were shaken, but I stood firm by faith, knowing that only the Almighty knows the time when this order of things shall come to an end.

*Bro. Mike Juma*

## **SINDO**

The God of Israel works 24 hours a day. Paul says in Acts 17:28: “For in Him we live and move and have our being”. The power of God worked when Moses and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and the Egyptian army perished. (Exodus 14:29-31) The power of God was at work for the birth of Jesus Christ – Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). The God of Israel used His power to raise Jesus from the grave (Acts 10:39-40). In Exodus 19:16-20

Peter, during the transfiguration of Jesus, witnessed God’s power in the mountain and confirmed the Bible was written through God’s power, the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:16-21) Paul confirms in 2 Tim.3:16: “All Scripture has come through God’s power”. We also believe if we die in the Truth, Jesus Christ has been given the keys of death and will raise us back to life (Rev.1:18).

I have read through the Gospel News magazines and find they represent the testimony and witness of many brothers and sisters throughout the world. We must give our support to the magazine. I do appreciate C.A.T’s aim to preach the true Gospel, to encourage brothers and sisters to grow spiritually and maintain a high standard of doctrine and practice, to the end that they may attain the Kingdom. I was able to get more spiritual help from them.

We have experienced drought and have to get food-shortage stock. We need help from brothers and sisters to save us from hunger. We planted but lacked rain; as a result some plants died and we had to feed our cattle and start again.

‘If the Lord is for us, who can be against us?’ (Rom.8:31) All this comes to fulfil the Bible message, but one thing I pray for after 35 years since 1976-2011, I want the God of Israel to provide someone to carry on God’s service at Sindo, Kenya, as I am getting old – like Moses asked for the God of Israel to provide, and he gave Joshua, son of Nun to carry on God’s work. So I need someone to carry on the work at Sindo, Kenya. I pray that one of my sons, Colins will accept the call of the Gospel. He is interested in the Truth, and has attended three times the Kenya Youth Conference in Nairobi city. He is in form two and his education has been stopped due to lack of payment of school fees for him

My heart is in the service of the Lord God of Israel. He will listen, and knows my problem better than anyone else, all that I need is strong faith and hope – with God all is possible. I have made known to you my problems; please put them in your prayers. (1Kings 9:3-9).

*Bro. John Owalo Onani*

## **TONGAREN**

It’s such good news that you are in the process of printing a full Bible, as you did the New Testament. This is what we have been praying for, and God can always answer the prayers of those who seek Him.

When the Bible is complete, Tongaren Ecclesia would be pleased to have 60 copies for Sunday worship for members of the Ecclesia and friends, with contacts and Sunday School children. These will transform the Ecclesia from Bukusu and Swahili preaching to English preaching.

Psalms 131 is one of my favourite psalms. In the past I viewed it as an encouragement to understand that mystery is one of the hallmarks of God’s character. It challenged me to put my mind at rest. Since then I have been unable to understand all that God is doing in His universe.

But then I saw another part of David's calm spirit: I am unable to understand all that God is doing in me, and it is impossible to try.

David draws a comparison between a weaned child that no longer frets for what it once demanded, and a soul that has learned the same lesson. It is a call to learn humility, patient endurance and contentment in all my circumstances – whenever they occur, though I do not understand God's reasons. Divine logic is beyond the grasp of my mind; I ask, 'Why this affliction? Why this anguish?' The Father answers, 'Hush child, you wouldn't understand if I explained it to you – just trust me.'

So I am contemplating David's example to ask myself, 'Can I in my circumstances, "hope in the Lord"?' (verse 3). Can I wait in faith and patience without fretting and without questioning God's wisdom? Can I trust Him while He works in me His good, acceptable and perfect will? In a world of mystery, it is a comfort to know the God who knows all things.

*Bro. Isaac Kapa*



*Left is our friend Mitungi Saba; centre is Bro. Moses Sikolia, and Right is Bro. Lucas Sikolia. They earn their living through water supply to local people's homes. All are sons of Brother Isaac Kapa. Bro. Saul stays in Mbakalo and is now a member of Makunga Ecclesia. Bro. Lucas Sikolia is a member of Tongaren Ecclesia.*

**TURBO**

I received with thanks the parcel of 24 New Testaments which you sent me. Thank you so much for your work in the vineyard.

Also, thank you for the book you sent to me, 'The Real Devil,' and the literature on the nearness of Jesus' coming. I send my greetings to all my brothers and sisters who are working to expand the Word of the Lord.

*Bro. Emmanuel Milimo*

**YATTA**

On behalf of Yatta Ecclesia and other Ecclesias in Central, I wish to say we do appreciate the New Testament small Bibles you have sent to us.

The Bibles are very nice, a good shape and in easy English, with the right illustrations at the bottom, which are Biblically based. This great work should be supported by all. It will help to spread the gospel, for the new Bibles are good for young people and interested friends. We do request more copies for the field work of preaching.

*Bro. Lazarus Kingoo*



*Yatta Ecclesia with New Testaments*

## news from malawi

### **BALAKA**

Thank you for the books and preaching material. Brother, we have brothers and sisters who do not have Bibles New Testaments. Please could you send some for us to give to our Brothers and Sisters.

*Bro. Lyton John*



*Bro. Lyton John and Sunday School children of Nkanda Ecclesia*

### **BOLERO**

Pleased to read the current Gospel News – to be precise, the improvements made have already made it super and interesting, but indeed more is to be done and I am ready and willing to give a hand. Making Gospel News more colourful and informative should be a priority in my life, seeing it is probably the most widely circulating and interactive Christadelphian magazine. The items get a wide readership and are informative, stimulating and encouraging, especially to those in isolation.

It is so encouraging to learn about the recently published pocket New Testament, and that it will later be the whole Bible – don't forget me! Despite making Gospel News quarterly to save expense.

There is to be a 'Time of trouble such as never was', from which, in the Lord's mercy, we will be delivered; indeed, God willing, our very bodies will be transformed into the Divine nature and never again will we experience the frailties and limitations of this present mortal state.

*Bro. Mwaomba Gondwe*

Prior to taking the emblems, 'let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup,' (1Cor.11:28). To 'examine' is to test, inspect, to carefully look at, and was a word used to 'prove' metals by refining.

This minute scrutinizing is not for the motes in others, but for those beams in ourselves: 'let every man prove (Gk. 'examine') his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.' (Gal.6:4)

The seriousness of our personal examination is that it reveals our spiritual condition: 'Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?' (2Cor. 13:5) – a reprobate being one who has failed to produce the desired result after refining. (Jer.6:29-30). It makes us of a humble and contrite heart as we realize the magnitude of God's love and mercy extended to us.

*Bro. Lukanga Nyomiro*



*Memorial Meeting at Bolero*

### **DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP**

We are facing a very dangerous life here in the camp. That's why we always call upon God and our Brothers to assist us. Bro. Muleso visited us last month from CBM and every time he comes here we explain our problems but till now no assistance from them. Please pray for us.

*Bro. Bernard Wabene*

### **GONDA**

I appreciate the book of essential Bible references, entitled "Bible Guide," which was included in the parcel of Sunday School material. I find it very helpful, increasing my knowledge of Scripture, and all brothers and sisters and Sunday School children are studying it very carefully.

I would like to know about 'Elpis Israel' and the 'Eureka' books – I just read these titles through Logos and other Christadelphian magazines. I don't have any of these books, so I would like to know about them and if they are available.

I am happy to tell you that my wife Dorothy, who was admitted to Ngabu Rural Hospital, is now feeling better and she was told not to work too hard, so I praise God for what He has done for me.

Here at Gonda area we received our first rainfall in November and the season seems to be better, but we do not know about the future – only God knows everything and He is most high above all the creatures. So we seek His Kingdom and righteousness (Matt.6:33).

Here at Gonda we pray for Israel to win the war against their enemies surrounding them through God's power and his kingship, when the earth will be ruled by the King prophesied by the prophets. Jesus is the only Son of God and he is our king and priest, anointed by God Himself. 'He will judge between the nations and shall reprove many peoples and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruninghooks. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more' (Isaiah 2:4).

*Bro. Robert Folley*



*Bro. Folley*

### **KASUNGU**

After you published my letter in the 'Gospel News' about my difficult situation, so many sisters are writing to me, encouraging me to take everything to God in prayer: He sees everything and gives an answer and a way when there seems to be no way.

My second daughter, Charity, caught malaria from school, so we were admitted to hospital for a week, but we are now well again. Thank you for the books you sent me, including Bible Basics,

'The Real Christ' and the two New Testaments which I've given to two people in our group who meet with us every Sunday. These are people from different denominations and we share Bibles. As there are so many who desire to have the New Testaments, I was unable to help them all because there were too few books. We would ask, if there may be some more, please do send them to us. I've started reading 'The Real Christ,' and I am very interested in it.

I am enclosing the picture we took during our Bible Study. We always meet on Sunday afternoons, though we are from different denominations. I am the one with 'The Real Christ' on the right of the front row in the 'photo.

*Sis. Bertha Khonje*



*Kasungu Bible Study Group, with Sis. Bertha on the right of the front row.*

We had a very good fraternal in June. Brethren and Sisters from the Northern Region came to Kasungu and met with our ecclesia. New Testament Bibles were distributed.

Five students were interviewed by the Northern Region Counsellor: they were all successful and were baptised on the following day.

The Zomba CBM has entrusted me with another ecclesia which has just been established in Dowa District at Mponela.

*Bro. Harmony Ntchalachala*

## **MTENTHELA**

The wisdom of God is far superior to man's, and a little boy or girl, however young, can be kept from all the evil that is in the world on the simple principle of subjection and obedience to the Word of God. You don't need to know all the evil that is in the world. You don't need to plan against a clever enemy. You just walk in obedience to the Word of God.

I am sure we are going to be kept, no matter how dark the day, no matter how difficult the path. There is just one simple principle that will keep us faithful to the end – that is, the spirit of obedience to God.

Thank you very much for the two parcels (one for Kadase Ecclesia and one for Mtenthela Ecclesia) containing New Testaments for brothers and sisters who have no Bibles. These are very helpful to us. Please also send us 10 if possible for new contacts, students from Secondary School etc. CAT's efforts in sending us many books and preaching material have been bearing fruit. At the moment I am enjoyed reading the books you sent.

*Bro. Henderson Sosola*

## **MZUZU**

This is just to let you know the sad news we heard in June, that Bro. McDonard Jobe passed away. The sad part of the story is that none of the brethren knew of his demise until late in the afternoon after the family members had left for his home for the burial.

Hearing the news of his death, we were so shocked because soon after receiving him into our fellowship, he was elected as one of our church elders. So you can see our plans were contrary to those of the Almighty Father in heaven. However, our sorrowing is not like those without hope. We know our brother is asleep in Christ. When Christ appears, his first task will be to awake those who have fallen asleep in his name.

*Bro. Sylvester Tembo*

### **NENO**

If *Bible Basics* are available they can be sent, since I will retire on November 30 then I will be distributing them in various places, that will be my duty then to distribute *Bible Basics*, will keep me busy in my retirement.

*Bro. Amison Liwawa*

### **NGABU**

Here the work of God is moving on, waiting for Jesus to come again. Ngabu Ecclesia is growing bigger and bigger every year – now our number grows and we are almost 75 people. We do preach every Sunday; home calls and open air meetings. We built our own church, but we lack Sunday School books and Bibles.

The only message I have is to ask our friends all over the world to pray for Africa, because Africa is in trouble, mainly through civil war, uprising, famine and corruption. In Malawi things are not OK, so we need the prayers of our friends over there.

Now my new address is via Ngabu (Box 12), as I was transferred from Balaka to Ngabu.

*Bro. Micky Mbawe*

### **NKANDA**



*Sis. Dolophy Magoli From Nkanda Ecclesia, who is learning nursing.*

### **NKHOTAKOTA**

Duncan finally came to Malawi and Nkhotakota in particular. Indeed his coming was a blessing to me as a person and to our Ecclesia as a whole.

You might have heard that the last time I met Duncan was in Norway and then it was here. Among other things Duncan managed to do baptism and managed to link us to the main stream Ecclesia in the country. For the first time I come face to face with our councillor and some prominent brothers from Salima and Lilongwe. Praise God.

Brother Marcus I count it all joy to be a partaker in the new found doand some are kept in our library in Brother Leonards house. We appreciate your care and support. May the good Lord bless you all and interceed for us.

Its my prayer that the good Lord will continue giving you the power and zeal in looking for more materials which may still reach us in the end. The Lord is really at work. It must be noted that the teaching of our Lord in this manner is new in this area and even further north of the country. As such people are scrambling for these materials.

Its also our hope that in the end we may have our own hall for meetings as we are still meeting at a brothers house. We are indeed making contributions towards that and finally through Gods grace we believe we will make it. First we need to buy a piece of land which has been identified already as we are in town then start the construction. We are just asking God to bless and approve our plans.

*Bro Esau C Chirwa*

Let me thank every one of you for keep on supporting us. Let us work hard to reach more people for the true Gospel and salvation. As you know I am a doctor and very soon I am going to communicate to you about some of the programmes we want to start for helping orphans, elderly and other needy groups. I am still gathering with brothers and sisters at Linga Christadelphians.

*Bro. Andrew*

I am happy to let you know that GOD is making our ecclesia grow and of as now we left gathering in my house due to understanding of our doctrine to many people. so we are renting a school block 2km from my house.

*Bro Leonard*

## **SALIMA**

Begging is bad if it is based on ill will and manners. It is true that there are people who need help, but to others it has just become routine. For instance, you will find in every magazine produced, there are articles appearing begging and complaining at all times. We must remember that Jesus Christ urged his disciples to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and that thereafter the rest would follow. (Matt.6:33) Surely I am one of the poorest Malawians, but I strive to do hard work in order to earn a living (2 Thess.3:10). The Bible encourages us to work extra hard with our hands every day, unless we feel sick. (Eph.4:28) Anyone who was a thief must stop stealing; he should try to find some useful work instead, and be able to do some good by helping others who are in need.

There are people who really need help:

- Refugees, for they do not have choices in their lives due to political, economic and ethnic crises in their home countries.
- Elderly people, for their strength is gradually weakening and they need someone to help them.
- People hit by natural disasters, i.e. earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions and sudden changes of climate due to environmental degradation.
- People with handicaps, HIV/AIDS victims and children who are left behind due to the repercussions of a pandemic.

James 1:27 “Pure, unspoiled religion in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.’

Therefore I appeal to my fellow brothers and sisters to reflect that begging is not bad, except when it stems from wrong motives and manners.

*Bro. Austin Frank Nyirenda*

#### **news from mauritius**

It is a great pleasure to receive the Gospel News, thank you in the works you have done. Grace of God be with you.

*Sis. Rosemary Plassan*

#### **news from nigeria**

Violence breaks out between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria: At least 50 people have been killed this week in violent clashes between Christians and Muslims in central Nigeria’s volatile Plateau State. According to local authorities, 14 of them were killed when Christian youths attacked Muslims as they gathered to celebrate the end of Ramadan. The Plateau State straddles the boundary between Nigeria’s mostly Muslim north and largely Christian south. From Nigeria west to Somalia, religious tensions between Christians and Muslims are escalating.

*September 10<sup>th</sup> Economist*

#### **ENUGU**

Tomorrow, God willing, I will be at Asaba for my lecture. I travel monthly outside my state for public preaching. I am always remembering you all in my daily prayers. Please remember me also in your prayers for the rheumatism in my legs is getting worse. I manage to move about with faith but am tired of drinking medicine. I am not afraid of death but who will lead my Ecclesia for going out and coming in is what I fear. Will God bring somebody who understands our Faith better than myself, is my prayer, so that Enugu Ecclesia will not close.

*Bro. Goddy Nwasu*

#### **IKWUEKE**

Greetings in the Name of Jesus. I thank God for the strength he gave you in producing this New Testament version of the Bible. Many Brethren and Sisters admire this model and I request more copies to enable the remaining Brethren and Sisters to have theirs. I enclose a picture of the Brothers and Sisters of Ikwueke Ecclesia. More copies are still coming from Okwe Ecclesia.

*Bro. F.E. Enyiogu*



*Brothers and Sisters of Ikwueke Ecclesia.*

## news from south africa

### **Soweto ecclesia**

Fraternal Gathering. Bro. Anthony Oosthuizen gave a seminar in Soweto. His topic was 'Baptism: our choice or God's command?' He included several case studies covering issues people raise to avoid baptism and rebaptism. This was very informative, interesting and challenging to our friends. More than 40 people attended, over half of whom were visitors. Brethren and Sisters from Yeoville ecclesia also gave their support. Bro. Anthony also gave an exhortation and Bible Study.

Our Bro. Zaccy managed to arrange a 1-hour slot on Radio Jozi for 4-consecutive Thursday evenings from 9 – 10pm to explain in Zulu who the Christadelphians are and the Bible literacy programmes they are committed to in Soweto. Bro. Daniel has agreed to go on as our representative. Let us all pray for him that this may bring glory to our Father and the Lord Jesus. And tune in to 105.8 fm on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Joburg ecclesia**

We really appreciated Bro. David White coming to exhort us and we again enjoyed him leading the Bible Class last Wednesday.

Sis. Deirdre was not well enough to join us some Sundays but is now much better.. She celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on July 19<sup>th</sup> and we all send our hearty congratulations to a faithful, dedicated Sister who still keeps on speaking of the things of God to all who come to her.

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Bro. David and Sis. Pam Pankhurst from the Riverton, Invercargill, NZ ecclesia joined us for the Memorial meeting. It was great to have the added volume to our singing, and David doing a reading and prayer, while Emmanuel was in Bloemfontein and Sandy in Pinetown.

### **Soweto ecclesia**

We are very pleased to welcome Sis. Paddy Campbell as a member. She has transferred from K/P ecclesia with her daughter Dida who has already been assisting us with our singing on her guitar. Sis Paddy, as an experienced Sunday School teacher, is keen to start a Sunday School. This will be a blessing.

Our 'Exploring Basic Bible Teachings' seminars are into their third Saturday and it has been encouraging to see that, of the 30 attending, some were the result of our Brethren Daniel and Obed's broadcasts on Radio Jozi. The broadcasts seem to have given 'credibility' to Christadelphians in the area and we pray we may be afforded more time. Last Thursday the topics of the 'Devil and Satan', with specific requests from listeners for explanations of Revelation 12. Job 1, and the temptations of Jesus, were addressed by Bro. Obed. Also 4 students have been attending the Tuesday Bible Class which is encouraging.

It was a pleasure to have Bro. Tebogo Chauke from isolation with us for a weekend .

### **Yeoville ecclesia**

Big disappointment!! Our Bro. Solomon Onwordi from Lagos, Nigeria, had booked to go to the UK to the Inter-Ecclesial Youth Gathering at the end of this month. He (and all of us in Yeoville) was very disappointed to be refused a visa to enter the UK. As a consequence he has had to withdraw from the Youth Gathering.

The food we collect from Woolworths at the present sometimes provides us with packs of 'Vegetables for Soup'. Sisters and Brethren make them into a big pots of soup, supplemented with rolls, to give children, friends, brethren and sisters, something warming and nourishing during the morning break. This is very welcome in the cold winter mornings.

All I can say today is thanks for sending me the New Testament (New European Version), which is very nice to me as a Christadelphian. I wish you all the best while we are waiting for the whole Bible with the explanations like this. May Yaweh Elohim keep on protecting all of you.

*Bro. Lasmme Asende*

### **“Women at the Well” (W@W) 2011.**

W@W was lovely. Sis. Sonya Szabo from the US dealt with speaking wisdom with compassion. It was attended by 49 Sisters and friends of which my daughter Dida and I made up the Gauteng contingent. We were given seven packed sessions interspersed with workshops - one on one and in groups. The weather was lovely and mild. Hebron Haven was as usual wonderful in hospitality. The Australian and English P2P Sisters made up the musical department, and we took our guitars and helped a bit

*Sis. Paddy Campbell.*

### **news from uganda**

We thank God for the spiritual food: 22 copies of New Testament Bibles which you sent to us. We also thank God for our Linkman, Bro John Mathias, and the CBM brothers and sisters worldwide for the on going construction of our ecclesias hall (Awiri ecclesia hall, Dokolo Town which was founded by Bro. John Palmer in 2000, we still remember him in our prayers.

*Bro. Bosco Opio.*

### **news from zambia**

#### **DOPHAN**

Three students from our Sunday School were baptised last year, and five are now at the preparation stage. We lack Sunday School teaching material.

*Bro. Costa Kanembe*



*Bro. Costa Kanembe*



*Bro. Oseah Chikobela, who hopes to be married very soon.*

## **FRINGILLA**

I am writing to greet Brothers and Sisters in the Name of our mighty Lord. Please let us read our daily readings and teach people the Truth from the Bible. Therefore, let us observe God's rules as we walk to His Kingdom. Let's not be blown away by the wind of worldly pleasures, but stand firm and strong enough, living righteously in these last days.

I would like to announce my new post box, which is 93, Fringilla, Zambia.

*Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa*



*Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa, his wife Babrah and Amose his son. The gates are the entrance to the farm where he works.*

## **KALOMO**

We joyfully thank you for the Bibles. Once new ones are printed, we would be glad if you could send us about 15 or 20 more copies. May God bless this work so that the target of spreading the Gospel reaches more people worldwide.

*Bro. Harry Hambula*



*Bro. Ockrey Kamembe stressing a point during his talk on 'The Nail of Sin.'*



*Bro. Harry Hambula leading the Sunday School singing*

## **KABWE**

The pictures in Gospel News make a great improvement, and this magazine needs support at all costs to make it even more interesting. I consider Christadelphians have very good material to read, more informative and educational.

The recently published pocket New Testament has been well received, and it will be very good if you print the whole Bible; I consider it will not be too big, and it is good to have the Old and New Testaments in a smaller edition.

What is happening now in the world are signs of the coming of our Master; people are too confused, but it's right, we will be delivered indeed, God willing. No-one else can deliver us.

*Bro. Greenwell Kunda*

### **KASAMA**

I liked the coloured photos which in the Gospel News make the pictures clearer. I would love many more ecclesial activities, baptisms and special events to make the magazine even more informative.

Is it possible to get me some video tapes of events in the U.K. and Bible subjects to help me understand the Bible more? These would help me in daily practice and help prepare me for Christ's return.

*Bro. Joshua Mushili*

In your letter you stated that you are in a position to send Bible Basics. I think that will be of great help, seeing the Committee is proposing to appoint local tutors in our area, and I may happen to be one of those, God willing.

In most African countries we are disadvantaged in the sense that we are restricted to reading the translated Bible, and in most cases with no supportive materials at all. Books of our founders of our Faith such as 'Eureka' are essential pre-requisites to understanding difficult Scriptural books such as the Apocalypse. Our ecclesia does not have a copy of that, and we would highly appreciate one!

*Bro. Boniface Simpanzye*



*Bro. Boniface Simpanzye, Sis. Christine, Sis. Eunice, Bro. Joshua and Bro. Zaccheow.*

### **KASUMPA**



*Some members of Kasumpa Ecclesia with New Testaments*

### **KITWE**

The new ecclesial Secretary for Kitwe is Kenny Simbao. I talked to him and explained how these Bibles should be distributed in an advisory manner. Kenny has since received the Bibles and distributed them, with a few remaining for the ecclesia's meetings.

I have given Bro. Elvin Jnr. one Bible, and two others to Mr. Bernard Longura and Emmanuel Kangaye. Emmanuel has since enrolled as a Bible student and has found the Bible very helpful. The English language is simple and very clear. I would need a further twelve Bibles if you can manage to send them. Thank you.

*Bro. Elvin Muntemba*



*Left, Bro. Robert Miwele, Bro. Elvin Muntemba*

I received the New Testaments you sent me and it was such a blessing. I managed to give four of them to some friends within the neighbourhood whom with I study the Bible – one is very keen to start Bible correspondence with us. I am also grateful to say that I received the Gospel News with coloured pictures.

My family and I join together in passing our heartfelt greetings to you and to all Brethren and Sisters around the globe.

*Bro. Willies Simbowe*

## **LUSAKA**

Thank you for your endless support for my spiritual wellbeing. I would like to inform you that God has enabled me to be granted 'off' days on Saturdays and Sundays, which has given me hope that I will learn much more from His Word, the Bible.

I am requesting the book 'Wrested Scriptures' by R. Abel: this will enable me to be knowledgeable about the Bible and help others as I share with them my belief. Lastly, I would like to know whether you have sent me those New Testament Bibles because I had promised some to a few of my friends and they are asking me about them? Thank you very much for all your help.

*Bro. Stephen Siamabi*

## **MAZABUKA**

I pray that your current project of the printing of the complete Bible will be a success.

Here in Mazabuka, mostly the three of us meet, though there are many students but few baptised brethren and sisters.

*Bro. Chrivious Chimuka*

As I read of the current world affairs I am horrified to see that there are problems in different parts of the world. Man cannot solve his own problems, but God alone has the solution to all our difficulties.

The Bible tells us that when the Kingdom of God is established, things will be very good again. Peter spoke about this in Acts 3:19-21: "Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He will send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things; of which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets since the foundation of the earth."

A few weeks ago I was attacked by unknown people who took away my 'phone and money: thank God, the person to whom they tried to sell the 'phone was my friend, and he helped to trace them, and I have my 'phone back. Just two days ago a man was killed in Mazabuka and had his heart and other parts of his body removed. The world has become an unsafe place for us to live, and this is why we should pray for the soon return of our Lord Jesus to establish the Kingdom, so that all the present difficulties will be over. Come, Lord Jesus!

It came to me as wonderful news when I read that you are planning to print the whole Bible, with Duncan's commentary. I guess this is a useful preaching tool, as many in Africa do not have a Bible of their own. It is always a good idea to listen to the preacher alongside our Bibles, so that we taste and prove all things in righteousness and truth.

*Bro. Gideon Hankomone*

### **MUFULIRA**

Greetings in the hope of Israel we share. I am happy at Mufulira Ecclesia with the Brethren and Sisters there.

Thank you very much for sending us 12 Bibles, which we will put to good use. Being in the will of God you are secure, but if you are not doing God's will and that of His Son Jesus Christ, you are in danger.

*Bro. Fred Mumba*

Sister Thresses's illness is going on and on. Bro. David saw her when they came to Zambia from U.K. Bro. Kombe, also knows about it. Thank you for the Gospel News 2011 and a New Testament Bible. None of us are completely in charge of our own lives; we succumb to illness, our relationships sometimes go wrong, we lose our partners and our parents by death and in the end we die too, unless Jesus comes back soon and gives us peace in the Kingdom. To us who are in Christ death is not the end. Unemployment is everywhere on earth.

Bro Charles Daka

### **MUZOKA**

While time goes on it's indeed time to trust in the Lord for everything, for every bondage that we may be enduring will surely soon be over. Our prayers will not be left unheard as Jesus will surely be with us soon, to rescue us all! So we need not get tired, or lose heart; let's keep on learning, for without knowledge we might be moved away from wisdom and understanding which keep us from fearing the things of the world.

I was pleased and grateful to receive the Gospel News, which helps us all to share the experiences of others around us. It's important to reach out to others in any way possible, sharing both our sad and good news worldwide, perhaps more than this, sharing 'the word' to others in isolation, due to unpleasant circumstances beyond our comprehension, is very

important. Such people may depend on reading to keep in touch with the rest of the world, and to learn about things happening in mission areas. Learning of other people's situations thus helps to find solutions for both growth in His work and ministry.

It is true that all things work together for good for those who love God. So we need to be careful – it's quite possible to turn away from the love of God and sincere paths; the busyness of life can get in the way. 'We shall be conquerors' (Rom.8:35, 37-39.) He is unfailing – He can command wind to 'blow,' or to 'stop,' and who are we to ignore His love and His power to help us lose seemingly unconquerable habits, unsolvable problems that continuously hinder us from His ways? We ought to stand firm. Let's look up to Daniel (1:8, 4:27): do not compromise, and you shall surely stand firm.

*Bro. Wilfred Chibomba*

## **NDOLA**

I send my warm greetings to CAT for the good job they are doing in spreading the good news of the Gospel to everyone giving them the opportunity to be part of the Kingdom of God. Let us be transformed and turn away from evil to be good people.

The Mosaic Law was hard to follow, but in this time we have our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who speaks to our Heavenly Father, God, on our behalf. We should develop a habit of praying every day. Daniel prayed three times a day, morning, afternoon and evening: today is the day God gives. Sometimes we tend to forget praying. Read Psalm 55:17.

*Bro. James Mwanza*

## **news from zimbabwe**

### **BULAWAYO**

The coloured Gospel News is a great improvement. Before reading its pages you get attracted by it, and it makes you eager to read and digest its contents for spiritual maturity and uplifting.

Here in Zimbabwe we are fine, but seeing the chaos taking place in this wicked world. The world has become a playground for wars starting from the so-called developed countries and the Middle East, then here in Africa. These are the signs of the times mentioned in Matthew 24.

It's a good idea to have a Bible of our true teaching rather than some paraphrased ones with theological teachings that contradict with the accuracy of the original Scriptures. These new versions are not properly translated, and make people think they are reliable and trustworthy. (Read Isaiah 55:11) We ought to learn the truth of the Bible from the true inspired and written work of the prophets (Jeremiah 36:2) and apostles (2 Peter 1:21). Many Bible translations are now being printed, but some of them have lost their values, as they seem not to teach the actual words in regard to God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the so-called paradise (the after-life), heaven-going and more.

*Bro. Ambrose Tanyepana*

### **CHEGUTU**

God says we need to go, preach the Word and let all in the world know the message. As a matter of fact, it is our duty as dearly loved children to obey the Father.

Jonah was told by God to go to the people of Nineveh and proclaim His message to them:

Jonah 1:2: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me". It is the command of God. The word 'Go' has power for all those whom God wants to use. Abraham was told to leave his country (Gen.12:1) "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you". 'Going' is all that matters in obeying God and thereafter the blessings come.

Are we obeying the Word, or do we seem to not want to preach the Word? We look at ourselves, and at the people around and think to leave them, though God is saying 'Preach to them'. Jonah ran away, but great problems struck him. Let us all look at our own ways and make good for others.

God told Moses to go (Ex.3:10): "So now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt". Yes, God wants us to preach the gospel so that those in darkness may come out and receive God's glory. The mission is for us to 'Go' and thereafter we receive our rewards. We shy away from what God wants us to do. It's our own fault, as already the Word had been told to us and what is only left is for the command 'Go' to be fulfilled. All we need to do is to understand that God wants us to be His obedient children. May the God of grace help us in our journey.

*Bro. Farai Phiri*

## **CHIPINGE**

It's now winter here and winter is very, very cold. All of our fruit trees are dead because of frost.

On 10th July 2011 we had a baptism of Bro. Shukuru Isa of Tongogara refugee camp. He is originally from the Congo and he studies the Truth using Bible Basics. The literature that you sent I gave them, and it is our hope that it will be put to good use for the advancement of the Truth.

We are very pleased also to report the baptism on May 29<sup>th</sup> of Bre. Shadreck Mapondo, and Shadmore Mapondo: they are twin brothers; and Sisters Saliwe Takawandirwa and Chiedra Bingepege. These sisters were both studying the Truth through the Bible Education Centre programme. We pray for God's richest blessing on our newly baptised members for the Kingdom. We now number 8 Christadelphians who will meet for a breaking of bread every Sunday at our farm.

I also would take this opportunity to thank Bro. Admore at Masvingo rural who helped us with interviews as well as the word of exhortation.

*Bro. Moses Dhlakama*

## **CHISHUMBA**

Warmest greetings to you and all brothers and sisters who seek to spread the light of God's word by producing preaching material. Brother Marcus, thank you so much for the number of books you sent me, which I am happy to receive.

Chishumba ecclesia is a big one, and we don't have enough material to help us preach, even using private libraries; but our brothers and sisters are working very hard to preach the true gospel. Chishumba Ecclesia was formed from large churches surrounding us, and it was difficult to form one part of another church. But we worked hard to spread the true gospel and now we have a big ecclesia in Zimbabwe, but still putting more effort into spreading the Word of God the Almighty.

In my Bible research and study I faced questions which were difficult for me to understand, but now I have books to help answer these questions. I was always writing to the U.K. for answers, but now the book "Wrested Scriptures," the daily readings, books like "The Real Christ" and "The Real Devil" help with answers. So now I have been able to offer 8 Bible Basics to another ecclesial student study group.

Please continue to help us – we are Africans who want to learn more about God's Kingdom.

*Bro. Misheck Hondoma*

### **CHIVI**

This is the second letter to you, brother, with news to be included in Gospel News. Yes, life sometimes can be harsh or hard to bear. But consider your life to be like a grain of sand on the beach: a grain of sand can move unnoticed to the eye. I use this concept when you want to do something, but are afraid. God gives us this life, but we are evil and sinners. However, it is an ultimate challenge, not a race to the finish – rather a process of continual growth. I have to try, by all means, to pull through this challenge, but I fail. What I love most is to be honest in this dishonest world and serve God sincerely (Phil.4:8, Prov.16:16).

Brother, my life is full of downward trends. I try to improve but things always fall down upon me. I took my 'O' levels in 1999 and managed to pass five subjects. When I was in Byo in 2006 I lost my birth certificate and 'O' level certificate due to theft. Now I am trying to look for a better job, but without the certificate that is in vain.

*Bro. Dzingai Sumburera*

### **GURUVE**

Here in our area at the growth point, waiting to board a bus to Guruve to collect mail at the Post Office, we see evidences of the ways of the world, as we board buses at night to any destination. It is a remote area and also a rural area which is not yet developed. There are bottle stores nearby and you find young ladies enjoying themselves with men. I wonder why these people don't think of AIDS? Some of these young ladies are of school age.

They do not want to hear anything about the Word of God. Indeed, where are we heading? Do they think that Jesus will one day arrive? You could end up saying 'why did God create night?' He could have created day only, because during the night evils take place. Truly we are sick and tired of this way of life. People do not realise that there is a God, and do not think that there is life after death.

So let us preach day and night so that we, and others, may have a chance to survive. Truly when Jesus comes many will feel sorry, as will the Jews when our Lord comes.

*Bro. Nice Yotamu*

Many evil events each and every day are reported all around the world. These things remind us that the return of the Lord Jesus is around the corner. Matthew 24:12 says, 'And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.' This is a special warning to all of us, brothers and sisters: we must be ready to welcome our Master, without any blame. We must continue to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, as there are many who may yet be called to his Name – so let us not grow cold.

As our journey has not yet come to an end, we must stand firm, as when we first received the gospel. If we feel we are growing cold, Revelation 2:4 tells us, "I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, repent, and do the works you did at first. If not I will remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent". So there we are, brethren and sisters, we all know when we fall. Let's get back to our first works and push away this coldness from us.

*Bro. Fanuel Mawodzeka*

## **HARARE**

I have enclosed a photograph of some of the members of Harare ecclesia taken some years back. Some of the members are still with us today, but sadly some are not.

Present world events are pointing to the nearness of the coming of Christ. There are wars and rumours of wars. Full wars and civil wars are being fought in many parts of the world. The situation is so volatile, and is only short of a wide-scale conflict.

In other parts of the world there are earthquakes and great loss of life and huge destruction to property. Signs of Christ's coming are so clear, especially to the Bible student who is keen to read his Bible, and also watchful so that these things won't overtake him without his/her knowledge.

It may take time before Christ appears. By then a lot more things will have passed. Today's world is so uncertain. We ought always to be prepared for the unknown and eventualities. Sudden occurrences or emergencies are of great concern to us all.

Little did I know that I would be separated by death from my wife and baby. God works for us in mysterious ways. And it is also our great duty to serve Him always. He knows what is best for each of us – after all His will is to be followed accordingly, and also to be done.

*Bro. Alexio Kajowe*



*Harare Ecclesia a few years ago*

Thank you for the pocket Bibles. Our Brothers and Sisters were so pleased to have them. I went to my rural house to help with harvesting what God has provided for us in our fields. God provided my family with enough crops to feed them. I thank my wife for the work she did alone. Not alone as such, but with God's grace she managed more jobs while I was employed about 400Kms from home: Harare-Nyanga.

While on my leave I managed to meet Brother and Sister Moore who visited our Ecclesia. We had a good day sharing the living Word. We must not forget that we are living in a world of troubles. Without the protection of the Lord we will not succeed in these troubles caused by earthly man.

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. Eccl.3:1. The world now is not in good order. But Bible readers know that God sets every matter with its time. We should learn the words of Solomon: Eccl.3:1-8. What is happening nowadays in Africa, Asia etc. should not worry us, for it is the chosen time by God. V.11 He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us a full understanding of what he does. v.12 "All we can do is to be happy and do the best we can while we live". V.13: "We should eat and drink and enjoy what we have worked for – it is God's gift.' If all the nations of this world knew the words of the teacher Solomon, peace would be all over the world; to know that what they are fighting for is only chasing the wind. Eccl.2:16-18 – "No-one remembers the wise, and no-one remembers the fool. In days to come, we will all be forgotten. We must all die, wise and foolish alike. So life comes to mean nothing to me, because everything in it had brought me nothing but trouble. It had all been useless; I had been chasing the wind".

What is causing problems on earth nowadays? People are lovers of money rather than of God. Solomon wrote, Eccl.5:10-13 "If you love money, you will never be satisfied; if you long to be rich, you will never get all you want. It is useless. The richer you are, the more mouths you must feed. All you gain is knowledge that you are rich".

When God created the world, He wanted man to be happy and enjoy his gifts from God. But man by self-loving has destroyed the gift of peace with God and followed the deceitfulness of greed. So, like today, the love of money is more than the love of Christ, who suffered for us on the cross; man is still behaving like Judas, who betrayed Jesus for the sake of money. My last words to my Brothers and Sisters come from the letter to the Galatians (5:24-26): "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life, it must also control our lives. We must not be proud nor irritate one another, or be jealous of one another".

*Bro. Israel Mutunduwe*

God created man in His own image so that man can carry His likeness. Man was a creature of dominion to dominate and take rule over everything else that had been created. The man was Adam. The first man, Adam, later lost the dominion by sinning. But thank God for His master-plan, that mankind did not remain lost.

God's plan was for restoration. He sent His Son to die on the cross and restore that which was lost (Luke 19:10). He fully accomplished this mission when he declared on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30), and on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. A new beginning was ushered in. 2 Cor.5:17 tells us, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away."

*Bro. Calvin Chitano*

Thank you very much for the NEV New Testaments sent to us. I have enclosed a 'photo of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have received these, although unfortunately some who received them were not with us when the 'photo was taken. At our ecclesia everyone is now happy and enjoying the New Testament Bibles and our Bible study is in motion with their help.

Let's look at 2 Tim.3:v.16-17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

May God bless you in spreading the Gospel. We are requesting some of the Bibles, if possible, for visitors who usually come who are not yet baptised.

*Bro. Johannes John*



*Some of the Harare members with their New Testaments.*

Thank you very much for your kindness, responding to my request for the address of Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Moore, as this really worked. I wrote to them telling them of my problems and in turn they replied, telling me they were coming to visit Zimbabwe. I went to Harare ecclesia in April and met them. We broke bread together with all Brothers and Sisters around Harare, and I went home full of gladness and much happier. They brought with them my reading glasses, which I really appreciate, as now I am able to read at night by a paraffin lamp. But I did not have time to discuss things with them because so many brothers and sisters wished to talk with them: they had a hard time trying to meet some of the students and interview them, so that's how my problems could not be heard. Truly they had busy days here. But I'm helped by our Lord, who is caring for me always.

Someone was interested to read one of my books, and chose one which I had not finished reading, 'The Real Devil.' He asked me if he could borrow it for a few days, and took it to his home, but since then he has never returned it. While I am in need of it, I tried to trace him but don't know his whereabouts, so I feel that it will never be returned. So, if it is possible, would you kindly send me another copy? That book helped me a lot in preaching, questioning and answering people of other sects, who are on their way to learning the Truth.

*Bro. Maxwell Mlakah*

## **MAGUNGE**

We have been made in the image of God and so should reflect as far as possible, God's character. However, we are naturally sinful creatures and fail to reflect in our lives, as we should, the Godly characteristics. Fortunately there is forgiveness with God, but we must strive continually to serve Him.

Having obtained God's mercy, we should show this to others. Galatians 6:1-2: "If one of your Brothers or Sisters is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". Then those who look after widows and their children are told to share with them what they have. In Gal.5:19-21 we are told that those who do wrong and do not repent will never inherit the Kingdom of God, and so cannot be in the image of God.

God allowed His Son to be crucified for our sins and told us that he did this to teach us about sin and self-control. We must avoid sin and learn God's ways of love and doing good. We are prone to sin in our present nature, and we can choose whether we sin or are righteous, but God knows

all our natural tendencies and how we live our lives. He has sent us His Word in Scripture to teach and help us to see and learn the way we should follow Jesus, as we are the sons of God.

Let us thank God for His love and plans for us to live, following Jesus' example, and so receive everlasting life in the coming Kingdom. His purpose was for His Son, Jesus, to die for us to have our sins forgiven. We must resist wrong-doing and pray that God will hear and forgive us if we fail. Let us enjoy God's love and seek everlasting life today and tomorrow.

*Bro. Misheck Hondoma*

### **MT. DARWIN**

The Government has not started building on our old hall site. Thank you for the New Testament Bible. I am very glad because my husband is about to finish the course and my two elder children are doing the course too.

My right eye is going inside, so I was referred to Parerenyatwa Hospital eye unit, but it's not so painful. I have now had the same problem for 13 years, but nothing is impossible with God. Faith will heal me (Matt.6:25-34). I ask only for your prayers.

*Sis. Esther Chigiji*

### **RATELSHOEK**

Brothers and Sisters, I am grieving very much after the falling asleep of my Father, Mr. Joel Tafirenyika Mhindu Madhimba, who passed away after a long illness at Mpengo village in Mozambique. We are going to miss him for his wise words in Gospel preaching. May the Lord Jesus Christ remember him at his second coming, to establish an everlasting Kingdom here on earth. It will be a great pleasure for all of us to be in that Kingdom, to rule with him in righteousness.

In my last letter (April-July) I was expecting a transfer, but it was God's will that it should fail, except Bro. Farai Makandeni is now at Jersey Tea Estate and I remained here at Ratelshoek. But we always meet each other for our fellowship and Breaking of Bread meetings at Rimbi Ecclesia, Tanganda Halt and Christine Farm, and at Bro. Moses Dhlakama's Farm.

Brothers and Sisters, let's keep on praying, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is near. The destiny of humanity is bound up in the future of Jerusalem. If that is not recognized, the Bible is not understood. Jerusalem is described by Christ as "the city of the great King", (Matt.5:35) and is destined at his coming to become the metropolis of the world (Zech.14:16). It will then be known as "the city of Truth" (Zech.8:3); the "joy of the whole earth", (Psalm 48:2); the metropolis of Christ's reign (Isaiah 24:23); where he will sit in glory with his resurrected and glorified apostles, (Luke 1:31-33; Matt.19:28).

But before that time when world peace and equity will come, the world will be purged of its wickedness by the fires of Armageddon. It is not God's desire that man should suffer; but man turns his back upon God and 'sowing to the winds, will reap the whirlwind.' The nations are busily preparing self emulation; they are expending their wealth in the manufacture or purchase of weapons of destruction, capable of wiping out life itself from the earth. Even nations of the 'Third World', whose populations face starvation, are busily spending money they cannot afford on weapons of destruction.

However, the signs of the times all point to the fact that Armageddon is looming. The modern revival of Israel, political antagonism in the Middle East, the divided state of the nations, are all the subject of Bible prophecy; they are signs indicating the imminence of Christ's return. He will return to establish on earth an epoch of divine glory and peace, when the message of the angels at Christ's birth will be fulfilled. "Glory to God in the highest; peace on earth and goodwill towards men," and the Lord's prayer will be wonderfully answered "Thy Kingdom come, that thy will may be done on earth as it is in heaven."

*Bro. Simon Madhimba*



*Bro. Simon Madhimba (right) holding a radio, and Bro. Farai Makhandeni at work (Ratelshoek Tanganda Tea Company).*

### **TONGOGARA REFUGEE CAMP**

We are Swahili-speaking refugees in Zimbabwe (Tongogara refugee camp). We are now seven of us Christadelphian baptised Brothers and Sisters, and some others still on baptism lessons. The total number of us all is 27 now, but still struggling for meeting place and chairs. Not only that, but also Bibles and Hymn Books. As to the Bible Basics we received, we really appreciate them. We are very much willing to teach others around us the truth, but our resources are very limited as refugees.

*Bro. Nondo Mutambala.*

### **TRIANGLE**

I thank CAT for the New Testament Bibles. They are of great help to me since I am working with some new students who have just joined the Triangle meeting. Please do send me more, or anything else that may help. It's high time the world was shown the Truth in the Bible.

Many thanks to Bro. and Sis. Moore for coming to Zimbabwe on 10.5.11. We really had a good time together at Dunuza P. School, Triangle.

We started by reading Ex.25 and learnt a lot about the Tabernacle. We also learnt about the New Covenant and all its meaning. The Mosaic rituals pointed forward to Christ and were fulfilled in His death and resurrection. Heb.9:11-12: 'Christ having become the High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands; that is to say not of this creation, nor yet through the blood of goats and calves, but through His blood; He entered in once for all into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption.'

*Bro. Servious Makendo*

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

### news from belarus

The situation in our country is really terrible, prices have gone up many times because of our devaluation of the currency, but wages are about the same. Anything imported is so expensive for us unless we can find Euros or Dollars. I live mostly on what I grow, so this Summer I have been harvesting and preserving everything because really I cannot buy much at all with my pension. I thank God for my land and for the health still to farm it. I send greetings to you all from us here in Belarus.

*Sis. Nina*

### news from belgium

We're delighted to report the baptisms of HOSSEIN and BAHRAM; may God keep them in the way to the Kingdom.



*Brother Andy Taylor at Hossein's baptism*

### news from croatia

We received the New Testament, thank you very much! We can learn English and study the New Testament at the same time. We read the Bible every day and pray together. My wife likes learning the Christadelphian interpreting the Bible. I'm lucky that both love the same things, love each other and understand each other. We had several exhibitions. We have lots of ideas for working with glass. The only my problem is painting of the glass. We started with one project, but in the wrong place. Now we sell the house and the old house and moving. We found a wonderful place for live and work. We will live near the town name Koprivnica, at the delta of the river Mura in the river Drava. When we settled in, we want to learn English well and explore the Bible. I see that there is a lot of good Christadelphian literature that we want to read. We wish you God's abundant blessings in life and work.

*Bro. Darko*



*Bro Darko breaking bread a year after his baptism with Bro John Brooks from the Worthing, UK ecclesia*

### news from finland

Hello! I am doing fine. I still work with prisoners here in Oulu, and next month I will start here a Bible School or something like that with them. Don't know better word in English. Last May, we had a new family member- our son was born. We called him Aaron. It is very nice to read Carelinks news, and to always remember your work. God bless you and may Jesus be with you also.

*Bro. Markku*

#### **news from germany**

Thank you for the Bible articles which are regularly e-mailed to me. They are so interesting and stimulating. I read my Bible readings every night before sleeping. It has become some kind of ritual for me. I spent my last holidays in Kurgan, Russia, visiting with my younger sister and trying to share the Gospel with her.

*Sis. Vera*

#### **news from israel**

I enjoy the exhortations e-mailed to me in Russian by Brother John Thatcher. I would so love to come to one of your Bible Schools in Ukraine, to revisit the country I once lived in, perhaps to visit the graves of my parents. I continue reading the Bible daily and pray for blessing on all your work.

*Bro. Vladimir*

#### **news from italy**

For too long I've not been in contact. Your courage and your encouragement keep me going in my own ministry here. To God be the glory and may He bless His work of spreading the Gospel of the kingdom. My humble regard to all the brethren.

*Bro. Festus*

#### **news from kazakhstan**

We're delighted to report the baptisms of YANA, KSENYA, VIKTOR and TAMARA at the Moscow Bible School, may God keep them in the way to the Kingdom.

Thank you so very much that it was possible for some of our Brothers and Sisters to go to the Moscow Bible School! They were all so excited when they returned here. Our ecclesia here greets all true believers everywhere.

*Sis. Elvira*

I am still holding on here, the cancer is still in remission, so I give thanks to God for every day I can live and serve Him.

Sis. Nina

### news from kyrgyzstan

We here all received the Russian New Testaments with great thanks. They are a huge help to us. Now we can read and get the interpretation immediately. We continue to repair the home for us all to live in. We have managed to get a new floor down and it is ready to Winter in, but so much has still to be done. We here are so excited that brother Duncan has had a son, Daniel.

Bro. Anvar

### news from latvia

We're delighted to report the baptisms of OMID, ROBERT, ROMAN, SVETLANA, VITALY, LIJA, INESSA, ALLA, ABDULLAH, JANIS, SANDIS, AIGARS, GENNADY, ANASTASIYA, ROBERTS, VIKTOR & LUCIJA, TATYANA, SKAIDRITE, SVETLANA, ERIK, ARTUR and GUNAR. May God keep them in the way to the Kingdom.



Brother Andy Taylor baptizing brethren in the Bay of Riga

Thank you for baptizing me! Now my dream came true- to be baptized in my very own Gulf of Riga. And now you are for me truly like a brother. God bless.

Bro. Sergej

My regards to those from Australia who came to visit and teach us here. Thank you for baptizing me, I was so happy about it. After baptism I became a much happier man. May God bless and protect you and your work and may He move more people to get baptized and may God increase our church more and more. God bless you,

Bro. Robert

My children and grandchildren are all studying or working and busy, I am at home all day, and recently I have begun to talk to God a lot more. I really appreciate the news and literature you send me so that I feel connected with you all.

Sis. Irena



Bro Steve & Sis Robin Jones with newly baptized Brother Sandis [right] in the centre of Riga.

### news from moldova

I am sorry to say that aunty Valya died, the mother of brother Maxim. May God bless us all at this time.

*Bro. Zhenya*



*Brother Zhenya translating Sister Janine Hennig at the Moscow Bible School this Summer*

### news from morocco

Please pray for the health of our daughter, she needs many operations; it is a great trial to us.

*Bro. Anwar*

### news from russia

#### **EFREMOV**

I remain with the memories and impressions of the Summer Bible School, truly this is my real family, I have no other. To be together with true brothers and sisters is indeed the greatest blessing we can have as we walk in the wilderness of life toward the Kingdom. It was really wonderful to be with others of the same mind, the same beliefs, the same hope. I know that others with whom I spoke have the same feeling. Thank you to all who make these gatherings possible. I am encouraged by occasional phone calls from Brother Shurik in Ukraine, he is hoping in due course to relocate here, this will be such a great thing for our small ecclesia.

*Bro. Oleg*



*Brother Oleg, centre, with brother Andrew Fotheringham (Adelaide, Australia) on the left, and Brother Viktor Paderin, from the Urals of Russia.*

#### **GAJVORON**

Thankyou for the Bibles sent to us. Sister Ludmila passes on her great greetings, although she is very sick. She has one woman with her there who is very interested in the Truth. They are also in need of Bibles there, especially as they are active in preparing people for baptism.

*Bro. Mikhail*

#### **IZHEVSK**

Thank you so much for the Bible School in Moscow, it was such a blessing, so many brothers and sisters to talk to, even by the end of the week I hadn't talked to all I wanted to.

*Bro. Andrej*

### **KAZAN**

I am in prayer for you all, knowing that the only thing worth anything is to live in peace with God in this life and then to enter His Kingdom when Christ returns. This is my prayer and wish for you all.

*Sis. Lidija*

### **MOSCOW**

I have been reading the book sent to me about Romans 1-8, it follows on I think from some talks about this subject we had in Poltava. I really am starting to understand about God's grace.

*Bro. Igor P.*

### **MURMANSK**

We are now back in Murmansk and back at work. I feel every day how the Lord is supporting me, in things great and small, even in the things which don't work out well. We wait eagerly for all your letters, as here we are very isolated.

*Bro. Kostya & Sis. Nastya*

### **ST. PETERSBURG**

Please pray for my father, he is very sick with cancer, we are trying to raise funds for his chemotherapy and I am sending funds back home whenever I get paid. Please pray for him and our family and please support as you can.

*Sis. Angelika*

All Summer and much of the autumn I have been away from home, helping to build a house in the countryside. Of course I take my Bible and *Bible Companion* with me, and there in the open air I have been reading, struggling to understand many things, especially 2 Corinthians was hard for me, maybe the translation is difficult in that book. I was so wishing to have a Bible commentary with me. I returned home to find the New Testament with commentary awaiting me and I was so grateful to God and to you for going to all the trouble to supply this.

*Bro. Valerij*

### **SHANINO**

I had a visit from brother Timothy Whittaker recently. I can no longer travel anywhere really at my age, so it was special to have a visit from someone who came all the way out to our village here. I think often of you all, and of the one Bible School I did attend years ago now.

*Sis. Tamara*

### **SARATOV**

I was so sorry to have missed the Summer Bible School. With my grandson so weak and having operations, and my daughter, son-in-law and other grandson and his wife all working, I have many things to do, so I decided not to go. Everyone has to work so hard for such small money. The temperature this Summer has been at 40 degrees, and my heart isn't good. And I fear having

to change trains in Moscow, to go on the metro there, everyone is so fast and rushing and I don't feel able to do it alone any more. But if ever I was with you all in spirit it was at the time of the Bible School, wondering how it was going, who got baptized etc.

*Sis. Raisa*

#### **news from turkey**

We are delighted to report the baptism of UYGU, may God keep her strong in the way to His Kingdom.

#### **news from ukraine**

We are delighted to report the baptisms of ALINA, ANYA and KOSTYA, may God keep them strong in the way to His Kingdom.

#### **KAKHOVKA**

From all our hearts, thank you so much for the Bible School in Moscow. It was just so wonderful, we are all still under the impressions of that wonderful time. Sister Tonya especially is so talking about it all the time. We all wait the next School in the Winter, we live spiritually from Bible School to Bible School. The New Testament with Commentary has been so very helpful. We are a group of sisters who meet to break bread and we rely upon the exhortations posted to us, but often they are late, and it falls to us to make up our own exhortation by commenting on the chapters. But we sometimes don't know what to say or how to understand verses. So the commentary is so very helpful. We read the Bible together and then the commentary. We hear there will be a full Bible coming soon and we really, really need this. Please send us more copies of the New Testament as not all of us have them, and may God bless your work and give more power to you in every way.

*Sis. Nana*

#### **POLTAVA**

We are well here, and I am so glad that Lena's wedding went so well, the only sad thing was that the grandfather of the groom, Brother Kostya, suddenly died at the wedding. We called the ambulance but he was dead already. Apart from that we are all very happy and blessed here.

*Sis. Ludmila*



*Wedding of Sister Lena and Brother Kostya*

Again I had the blessing to spend my Summer in France, caring for my aged relative, cooking and caring for the house. It is such a grace from God, that I still have such a break every year, I am very thankful to God for it. It's a long way there and the journey is a bit hard but apart from that it

is a wonderful break and blessing for me and I give Him thanks.

*Sis. Veronika*

## **News from the Americas**

### **news from brazil**

We're delighted to report the baptisms of HENRIQUE, DJALMO and ELIANA, ONALDO and his son REUBEN. May God bless them as they journey towards His Kingdom.

GOIAS

May God bless you richly for being willing to come to us for the sake of the Good News of the Kingdom and the baptism into Jesus! Your generosity is an example for us to follow in spreading the gospel of Jesus. I will do my best to keep up the good work. In Jesus,

*Bro. Onaldo*



*Brother Onaldo soon after his baptism*

### **news from guyana**

This year the ecclesias in Guyana are focussing on encouraging the Brethren who have not been attending the meetings.

The Sisters at Eccles have as their theme for their Sisters' Class, 'Thoughts for 2011 leading us to the Kingdom' and at Georgetown Sisters Class they are doing "People Jesus Knew". On May 26th we had as our Sisters' Seminar, Be Bold, Be Strong, for the Lord our God is with us, and the Brethren had a retreat on the same day, Strengthening the Faith in these last days.

*Sis. Janet Williams*

### **news from jamaica**

Hey good day Brother and hope all is well with you. I have visit Carelink and see the work you and others are doing for the LORD. I am so happy, I also use Bible Basics in our sunday school class.

I once downloaded the EV Bible, less than two month later you send a package for the ecclesia in Round Hill. I was like wow, just want to say thanks and keep up the good work. I also operate a website call thetruthinamaica.org can I put Carelink as a link to your site? mine is not very up to date

*Bro Oniel Levy*

## News from Asia

### news from china

We're delighted to report the baptisms of YAO, XAO, LING, CHEN, CHENG, LYANG and ZHANG, may God keep them in the way to the Kingdom.

There seem to be problems with the literature you post here; it seems it's often not delivered when someone realizes it is Bibles or Biblical literature.

*Bro. Feng*

*Comment: Anyone going to China who's willing to take literature there and post or deliver it within China is welcome to contact us.*

### news from myanmar

Thank you for your prayer support for our work in Myanmar. Our ministry in Myanmar is going well and we still stand firm on the Truth. Please do continually pray for us and for our country. Thanks.

*Bro. Suumpi*

## The Second Touch

We are extremely grateful for the humility of God (Psa 113:6) which provided for us a natural and a spiritual creation and, revealed as a theme, we can perceive and identify this as 'the second touch', the fulfilling and outworking of the purpose of God in His patience and by His grace as revealed in His incredible power of forgiveness, which is unfathomable.

This theme, 'the second touch', begins when God created Adam, "God saw that it was not good for man to be alone" and with a second touch of love, He created Eve as a help meet, and so begins the developing theme of God's unfolding love: the first Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. - mortality to immortality; death to resurrection, Adam to Christ.

Again, we have the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane to the paradise of God's Kingdom; the Old Testament and then the New Testament; the law of Moses, the law of Christ; Moses and the 10 Commandments to Jesus' words, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another."

So the theme continues. These are just some of the many scriptural illustrations where God's plan of spiritual development gives man a 'second chance' of life, perfect life. The scripture speaks of two tabernacles, the tabernacle in the wilderness and the tabernacle of the flesh (our bodies) 2 Cor 5 : 1- 4, where in life God calls us to repentance of a former ignorance which He winked at but now commands all people to repent, Acts 17: 30, a second touch of love.

Furthermore, a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well to the theme, the natural water and the Spiritual water, with the promise that we will never thirst again, water springing up into eternal life -in this the Lord has touched our hearts.

The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 picks up the same beautiful theme, 'the second touch', contrasting that which is natural with that which is spiritual in verses 42-55:

- Verse 42, speaking of the resurrection of the body, it is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.
- Verse 43, sown in dishonour, raised in glory, sown in weakness, raised in power.
- Verse 44, sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body.
- Verse 45, the first Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit.
- Verse 46, first that which is natural afterward that which is spiritual. How can we fail to see the significance in our lives of the Divine influence that we understand, by God's grace, to be 'the second touch'!
- Verse 47, the first man is of the earth, earthy, the second is the Lord from heaven.
- Verses, 53-55, So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality (a second touch of love) then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

God's love, mercy and grace are enshrined in change from weakness to perfection, - 'the second touch'.

When we pause to reflect upon Jesus' life and experiences we are brought face to face with Mark 8 : 22-25 to ponder again the incident of Jesus healing the blind man of Bethsaida. There are five other occasions in Jesus' ministry where he touched people and with his hands performed a miracle of healing, but in Mark 8 Jesus did some unusual and remarkable things associated with the healing of this man.

What is impressive about this significant and deliberate action of Jesus is that it is the only occasion recorded of a healing process where Jesus touched a man the second time.

1. Jesus takes the man by the hand and leads him out of town - a journey of faith, an act of humility and love.
2. Jesus did spit on his eyes and then placed his hands upon his eyes asking him if he saw anything. Yes, he said, I see men as trees walking. The process of the miraculous healing had begun, but Jesus did not leave his work unfinished. He places his hands upon the man's eyes the second time and made him look up - an upward look of faith - and his faith and his sight were restored. The healing process, step by step is a testimony of the fullness of God's grace, which is not a single manifestation, but a continuous ministration of love.

Slowly, step by step, the spiritual development takes place in us and we are invited to "Look up"; Jesus, if allowed, completes the work in us that he began. He is the author and finisher of our faith. The miracle at Bethsaida is the only recorded example of the 'second touch' and illustrates similar methods in our spiritual development and preparation for the Kingdom of God .

The parable of the prodigal son reveals more than a second chance for a wayward son - rather the second touch of a father's love, so beautifully expressed with hands outstretched to own and bless. In spite of our unworthiness this is made possible through the fellowship of the sufferings of one who himself was touched with the feeling of our infirmities .

The hands of Jesus have touched our lives and because of this we see more in life than men as obscure shapes of trees, the mysteries of the world. We see the purpose of God, "Trees of the Lord's planting". God's love has bestowed His grace upon us and our eyes have received the second touch - the knowledge of the truth - and we are invited to "look up" and see the Glory of God, setting our affections on things above, seeing all things clearly."Let us lift up our heads for our redemption draws nigh".

So we in turn have a responsibility to bring Jesus to many people who dwell in darkness, whose hearts remain untouched by the knowledge of the glory of God. Freely we have received, freely give of the gospel and of ourselves as Jesus did; for our hope and our joy is 'THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND'.



*Israel prepares troops for battle with Bibles*

“To prepare young Israeli soldiers for what could be the most intense fighting most of them have ever experienced, some army officials are turning to the Bible. In an interview posted to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) website, Lt.-Col. Yitzchak Ben-Yosef, rabbi of the Ground Forces Command, suggested that unlike during the height of the fighting during the recent "Oslo War," the IDF will be prepared with enough Bibles for all soldiers.

Religious commanders in the Israeli army insist that the biblical history of their nation provides the most powerful motivation for young Israeli soldiers to fight bravely. While secular voices often protest, the fact remains that the most courageous heroics are typically carried out by Bible-believing Israeli soldiers”.(Israel today Magazine 23.8.11)

*Comment. Is this the beginning of the process of softening Israel's hearts to God? Certainly to be “a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2Tim 2:3), every Christadelphian should have and seriously read the Bible for themselves, so that they are fully equipped to “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold*

*on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called” (1 Tim 6:12). Any Christadelphian that needs and does not have an English Bible of their own can get one from us. MH.*

*Bro Andrew Lucas (Australia)*

### **USA Library Witness**

I recently checked out Bible Basics from the local library and was moved by the Spirit to accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour. This has come as quite a surprise to my family who have always heard me claim to be an atheist. While a youth I did on occasion study the Bible at Sunday School or with my grandparents but in my teen years I became convinced at school that science and God could not coexist. I therefore turned from the Lord and sought only that which could be proven by science.

For over half my life I had claimed atheism and thought that people who believed in God were simple minded folks who were living in the past. I still maintained my Christian values of right and wrong over that period and recently became so disgusted with other atheists that I decided to read Bible Basics and see if it represented what the Bible truly revealed.

My thoughts on the religious groups around me were not good as they seemed to blame satan for all their troubles and Southern Baptists preach fire and brimstone with passion. I was so glad to finally read a book on the Bible that pointed out the true message contained in God’s Word. I would like to obtain a copy of Bible Basics so that I can continue to use it as a study companion to my daily Bible reading and deepen my faith. I would be extremely grateful if you would inform me how to obtain a copy. W.C.

*Comment: Should anyone wish to have a copy of Bible Basics to put in a library, or Reading Room, we will be happy to send them a free copy to do so. Over ten thousand have been sent out to such places.*

### **2012 What Should We Expect?**

Will 2012 be a happier, healthier, more productive year than last year? Will basic necessities be more plentiful and cost less? Will disease and starvation claim fewer lives? Will we see less pollution and less destruction of the environment?

What does it take, after all, to make a better year? We all can hope for it. But hope alone cannot make the world a better place. We can think about carefully worded statements and proposals, but pondering and proposing do not bring about improvement or change. We can argue and we can debate. But what does argument or debate change? No one man or woman has what it takes to personally change the world.

There is, however, one thing each of us can change. We can change ourselves. We can each, in effect, make ourselves a committee of one to change our own personal lives. Too simplistic? It does sound rather more simple than it is. The sad fact is that most people simply lack either the commitment to adhere to a moral standard in their lives, or they have not any idea which

standard really is the right one. After all, most people reason, who is to say what is right and what is wrong?

But there is an authoritative standard by which we can measure our way of life. It is the standard established and revealed by our Designer and Maker. It is found in His instruction manual for human life, the Holy Bible. It is called the law of God. And God calls upon humanity to take it seriously and to begin to live by it. The Bible makes clear that there are only two ways of life. One way is God's way. The other way is not. God's way can be characterised as the way of giving, or the way of life. It is the way that is concerned for the well-being and good of others. It is the way that is committed to honesty, to truth, to justice, to fair play, equal opportunity and to living and thinking the way Jesus Christ lived and thought.

The other way can be characterised as the way of getting. It is the way that is concerned for self at the expense of others. It is the way that is committed to personal gain and gratification, to greed, to selfishness, to satisfying every personal desire and running over anyone who gets in the way. It is also the way that is the cause of all the injustice, dishonesty, cruelty, suffering, misery and exploitation that has been the sad history of mankind.

Will this year be a better year? Until humanity in general comes to the point where it will turn from this way of getting and begin to obey God, we can expect conditions to grow no better. How about you? Which way will you choose? The answer will determine whether this year and beyond will be better for you. God promises to stand by, to help, and to protect and deliver those who obey Him, those who take Him and His law seriously. And it will be these who, after the return to earth of Jesus Christ in glorious power to take rulership over all nations, will have part in Jesus' new government that will indeed, at last, begin to change the world!

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **Coming Troubles and the Second Advent**

"Hence, at the first indication of the approach of the end, we must look for times of great trouble and commotion. International politics will become complicated beyond the possibility of unravelment; a universal war spirit will be evoked; commerce will become embarrassed; trade fettered; employment precarious; distrust will fill society; panic will spread; trade bankruptcies will follow in quick succession; and the social fabric will be shaken to the foundation, if not involved in ruin and reduced to chaos. Events will stride with rapid march, and anon the superhuman will enter the scene."

*Bro Robert Roberts, wrote in 1865*

### **Crucified with Christ**

"He himself bore our sins in his body on a tree, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

If we are going to derive any comfort from these words, we cannot pursue the lusts of sin or desires of our old nature, because we must remember that we have become a new creature. When Jesus was crucified, he suffered the curse brought about by his nature.

Christians can never get rid of this sinful lust as long as they are in this life. But by receiving Jesus as their Saviour and being born again, by baptism embarked on the fight of faith. He is like a sick person who, realising the disease in his body, continues to seek healing. A true Christian continues to repent and confess his weakness and sin, seeking and receiving forgiveness, constantly fighting against his sinful nature. He yearns for perfection and while he continues his fight, his only refuge is with Jesus Christ through whom he is being sanctified.

The redemption in Christ, received by faith, cannot be without effect in the life of a believer. It cannot lie dormant without testifying its power through a Christian life. It arouses the heart and kindles a fire, changes the attitude and gives comfort and strength. If the redemption in Jesus has been received in faith, it works toward the suppression of the old nature within us, hindering us from indulging in evil and cunning during our lives.

*Bro Benjamin Mwatu (Suna Migori, Kenya)*

### **Catholics urged to return to meat-free Fridays**

Bishops in England and Wales ask Catholics to avoid meat on Fridays, reviving the church's tradition of fasting as an act of penance. They say that the practice of voluntary abstinence will help provide a greater sense of "Catholic identity" and will help people bring faith into their daily lives.

Father Marcus Stock, general secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said that members of the church want to "deepen and give identity to the spiritual aspects of their lives". Channel 4 News 16.9.11.

*Comment: Timothy warns, "in the latter times some will abandon the faith... They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth" (1 Tim 4:1-4 NKJ). The Roman Catholic Church have for centuries commanded to abstain from certain foods, but of recent years it has not been fully practiced. Their re-introduction of this in these later times identifies them as the apostasy. Christians are not restricted on what they can eat - "Let no man judge you in food or in drink" (Col 2:16). Those who "believe and know the truth" should always give thanks for God's provision of their food. MH*

### **Hard Times in Jamaica**

Brethren and sisters reading articles about Jamaica might gain the impression that all is well on the island. This is very far from the case. The beacon time for ecclesial activity was from the early 1960s to the mid 1980s. Since then the light has flickered and dimmed somewhat.

The economy of the island has suffered from various factors in the past twenty years. Even before the current recession, the value of exports was falling. Markets for its bauxite, sugar and coffee were undercut by cheaper sources. For decades, those with the means have been leaving the island, especially so in the last ten years. Money transfer agencies profit greatly from

their charges but the consequences of father being abroad for long periods do not need explaining.

Criminal activity, already rife through drugs, has received a boost in the recession due to increased poverty. Murders for several years have been around seventeen hundred per year. In spite of the tendency to have large families, the population is falling and is now around 2.7 million. Because of the fear of drugs and crime, tourism once a prime earner, is greatly reduced. Most of the visitors stay safely behind high-walled enclaves on the coast. We suspect that few of the poor benefit from the prosperity accrued by resort owners. The only expanding work area is security. There are guards everywhere, though their effectiveness is minimal. All windows are barred and no-one enters a shop without leaving their bags with security. Whilst very many are feeling the pinch, a few are so hard-pressed that they do not have any food for days on end.

It would be a miracle indeed if at least some of these issues did not affect the brethren and sisters. Suffice it to say, our brothers and sister are going through hard times for the reasons explained above, and for others. In January 2008, the CBM of Canada accepted responsibility for the well-being of Christadelphians in Jamaica. In 2009 it openly admitted that it could not provide sufficient funds to pursue its aims (see 'Tidings' September 2009, p.404-405). It seems necessary for an initiative on the island from the UK or elsewhere for the sake of the ecclesias and the truth in Christ. Some brave missionaries would be very welcome; perhaps you could help? Young and not so young, particularly couples, would also be very welcome for periods of, say, three months.

Although the CBM of Canada have said that they are struggling to find volunteers, this does not mean that they are not, as far as they are able, caring for the needs of brethren and sisters. It would, of course, be courteous for volunteers to liaise with their representatives. If you are interested in any way, you may find it useful to contact the writer of this article.

*Bro David Welch (Teignmouth, UK)*

## **Lord of the Sabbath**

Jesus' short summary of the Sabbath provision is important, "He said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27,28). Jesus declared what we discover from looking at the Old Testament: God provided the Sabbath to confer benefits on anyone who was oppressed – it was made for man. How could the Pharisees have witnessed the great works Jesus did - healing the sick and bringing relief to the poor and hungry - and not appreciate that the real essence of the Sabbath could be seen in his devotion to his Father's will and in the concern for his fellow men? "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:29). Truly he was "Lord of the Sabbath".

Just as God had brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt and released them from slavery, the Bible describes how Jesus, by destroying in himself the power of sinful desires, has opened up a way for men and women to have their own sins forgiven, and ultimately to be released from the grip of mortality.

Many aspects of the law given through Moses looked forward to this work of Christ: the tabernacle, the sacrifices and the priests, for example, but so did the Sabbath. It should have

taught the Jewish nation of God's concern for his people and of the blessings He wished to shower upon them. The apostle Paul described it like this, "The law was a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ ...but after that faith is come we are no longer under a schoolmaster" Gal.3:24-25.

The law taught a lesson about God's purpose through Christ. If the lesson has been understood and adopted, the work of the law is complete. The Sabbath was a weekly reminder of the release from Egypt. Followers of Christ are now commanded to remember the release he has achieved on their behalf. Shortly before his crucifixion, Jesus ate a meal with his disciples and imparted a fuller meaning to the bread and wine they shared. The bread, he said, was representative of his body, wholly given to God to bring salvation to his friends. The wine was like his blood shed for them for the forgiveness of sins, "this do," he told them, "in remembrance of me." Commenting on this, the apostle Paul explained that, "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (Luke 22:19, 1 Cor.11:26).

No wonder Paul was so upset that some of those to whom he had taught the good news about Christ were insisting that the Sabbath (and all the other parts of the Jewish religious calendar), had to be observed. "Now that you have come to know God... how can you turn back again? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I have laboured over you in vain" Gal.4:9,10. Not that following these aspects of the law was wrong, but insisting that all Christian believers should do so, ignored what Jesus himself had taught. Paul explained that what had earlier been imposed nationally on the Jews, since Christ had come was now a matter for the individual. One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike. Rom.14:5-9.

*Bro. Maxwell Choongo (Kafue, Zambia)*

### **Search it out -- An Exhortation**

The Bible is the Word of God. Inspired men wrote as God gave them the message.

The Word of God is perfect. There are no mistakes in it and it has been preserved for thousands of years and translated into our native languages so that we are able to read the Message that God has given us.

But it is more than just a message from God to man. It is an invitation to be part of the Family of God and live with Him throughout eternity. Every page and every letter of this amazing Book is there for a reason and it carries the signature of God.

All the way through the Bible are patterns, types and prophecies that God has hidden from plain view and urges us to search them out. Proverbs 25: Job 11:7, 8

The whole message of the Bible can be seen in what seem like simple stories in the text. Even lists of people's ancestors can tell their own incredible story if we just take the time to search out the "jewels" that God has hidden.

Let us show our worth, honour and glory to God by searching His word today. God has concealed things and has called upon His servants to exercise their minds in searching for the treasure of divine wisdom.

It has always been "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little". Faithful men and women try to put the "little's" together and in the process find the mental exercise which brings their minds nearer to God.

Gentleness and Force. There is an old story about the sun and the wind. They were having an argument about who was stronger and as neither could win the argument, they decided to have a competition.

An old man was walking through the park wearing a coat. So the sun and the wind agreed that whoever could get the coat off the old man would be the winner.

The wind began by first blowing a hard, cold wind at the man. The old man pulled the coat around him and walked on. So the wind whipped itself up into hurricane force, but the harder it blew the tighter the old man gripped his coat. Finally the wind gave up.

Then the sun tried. Gently it came out and shone on the old man. Slowly the sun grew warmer and warmer. The old man loosened his grip on the coat, loosened the buttons and finally took his coat right off. The strength of gentleness and kindness had won over the ferocity of the wind.

Are we the wind or the sun?

Do we blow in determination to make changes, or get our message across whether people like it or not. Or do we, as King Solomon advises, with patience and gentleness watch as people melt to our touch. Proverbs 25:15.

We can achieve much more doing it slowly and gently than we can by force.

Self Control - Is one of the backbones of our Christian life. More than that, it is the basis for any life that is lived in a respectable way.

Self control is what helps us to put our faith into action and act in the way that we know we should. It is also the strength that prevents us from doing the things that we should not do.

Self control then, is our defence against doing what we should not do, and keeps us within the boundaries of what we should do.

Maybe this is what Solomon meant when he spoke about the lack of self control being like a city whose walls were broken down. Proverbs 25:28. Without its wall the city is totally unprotected. Anyone can get in, not just friends but enemies as well. The enemies that are freely able to enter can wreck havoc on an unprotected city. The walls also provide boundaries from within, stopping people from straying away from the protection that is offered within the city.

Without city walls the residents of the city are as good as dead.

Without self control we have no hope of living a Christ-like life and no hope of the eternal life we have been offered.

Without self control our defences against sin are too weak to have any effect.

Let us strengthen our self control and build up the walls in the life we live.

*Brother Emmanuel Mphambo (Johannesburg, South Africa)*

**St Lucia Special Effort.**

The St Lucian Brethren and Sisters have been actively engaged in a major long lasting campaign in an endeavour to reach all the Islands 175,000 population, giving out thousands of leaflets, making home calls, displays and public talks.



*At one of the talks*



*Brother Andrea making his point*



*Sisters distributing leaflets*

### **Excitement in Soweto**

There has been quite a bit of excitement in Soweto with one of our brothers managing to persuade his brother in law (a Pentecostal preacher) to give us time on local radio in Soweto. A snippet from the Lightstand:

Bre Daniel Makhado & Obed Mafifi have braved the airwaves on Radio Jozy on Thurs evening for 1 hour during the month of June. It has been a wonderful God-given opportunity to witness to the true gospel.

On the last broadcast the topic was the Devil and Satan and the radio host (a Pentecostal) made a point of cutting off Bro Daniel whenever he tried to develop his theme. However, many listeners were very positive and requested that the Christadelphians, who they said are explaining things from the Bible, should be given more air time. Much to our delight Daniel has been asked to return for the month of July and this time he will be afforded the opportunity of completing his topic. We are proud of Daniel and Obed for having the courage to preach through this different and rather intimidating medium.

We start a 4 - week series of seminars on Saturday in Soweto - hopefully some people will have come from the radio.

*Bro Paul & Sis Leonie (South Africa)*

## **Spirit, Soul and Body**

The whole passage of scripture containing these words is 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and reads, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The word ‘sanctify’ used by Paul is a translation of the Greek word ‘hagiago’. This word basically means to separate (self) in the experience of everyday existence. This separation is from natural or fleshly ways to spiritual and divine ways.

This Greek word is also translated by the word holy 161 times and is also translated in the Lord’s prayer, in the phrase “Hallowed be Thy name”.

In his closing prayer, the apostle Paul reveals his concern for the sanctification of the brethren in Thessalonica, and that it should be “wholly” or comprehensive.

The apostle Peter likewise reminded his readers of the need for keeping themselves separate from worldly desires: “as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves, according to the former lusts in your ignorance, but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy, in all manner of conversation, because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:14-16).

## **Spirit, soul and body**

In trying to define what Paul had in mind when he used those terms, we should first go to the record of the creation of man, “And the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7). We can see by this that man was formed from the dust of the ground which constitutes the body, the material basis for his body. This body was wonderfully provided with innumerable organs which functioned when he had life. This life can be equated with the term ‘spirit’ which Paul used when the body is given life.

Applying these definitions to what Paul wrote, ‘one’s spirit’ means the manifestation of the life which needs to be guided consciously in ways according to God’s will. This characteristic is called ‘holiness’, without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

Where the sanctification of the body is concerned, the desires of the flesh have to be controlled. The lusts of the flesh, which are opposed to God’s laws, are said to be unholy. In sexual relationships the body is involved; this applies in the case of marriage. When God created the first human pair male and female, it was intended that their union should provide for the continuation of the human race. Sexual activity outside marriage must be avoided by faithful disciples. As Paul writes, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

## **The soul is not immortal**

Before concluding this study, we ought to challenge the popular belief that the soul is immortal. Invariably, at any orthodox church funeral service, a clergyman will say (as I have heard myself), “Don’t worry, old chap, her soul has gone to heaven”, or words to that effect. Such an idea is not found in scripture, rather the reverse. Here are a few instances: “Put not your trust in princes ... in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to the earth; and in that very day his thoughts perish” (Psalm 146:3,4); “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more reward; for the memory of them is forgotten”

(Ecclesiastes 9:5,6); “Behold, all souls are mine ... the soul that sinneth it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Therefore, the soul cannot be immortal.

When Jesus comes again, he will raise the dead and judge those who are responsible and reward the faithful; with eternal life, because they have been found blameless.

*Bro Ralph Green (Torquay, UK)*

### **Coming to KNOW our God!**

Truly, this is a lifetime task and it may be full of surprises - and at 70 I’m still learning. But, how do we begin to teach others about our God? Our world is either ignorant of, or deceived about the true nature and character of God. Believers are charged with this challenge.

How do we go about it?

Some might introduce God through Genesis chapter one, identifying God as the great Creator. Others may begin at Acts 17 and use Paul’s presentation to the Greek philosophers. Another may begin with the statement of Moses in Deuteronomy. “The LORD our God is ONE.” Still others may begin at John 3:16-17.

Each of these may prove effective, convincing, and worthwhile pursuing.

There is another line of reasoning that I have found very effective. It is thoroughly Scriptural and wonderfully presented in the Bible. God has chosen, in the Old Testament, to liken Himself to things Israel knew and saw about them. Jesus used the same technique in his parables of everyday things.

Here is a typical short list: (there are many more)

God is like a Potter	Jeremiah 18:1-12	Making vessels, that can hold His Word.
God is like Rock	Psalms 31:1-8	Constant and immovable.
God is like a Vineyard owner	Isaiah 5:1-7	Committing resources for a harvest.
God is like a caring Father	Hosea 11:1-11	Parenting to perfection.

Each of these comparisons is well defined for us, and we can use the Bible presentation with complete confidence. Of course there are even greater descriptions of God such as: King, Judge, Saviour, Defender, Fortress and Healer.

Our Lord chose to use “Our Father in Heaven” as the introduction to the believer’s prayer. Maybe this is the ultimate personal association. This world, without God, is like an orphan, stateless, unknown, unprotected and unwanted. However, OUR GOD wants to remedy each of these deficiencies. We can belong to Him, have citizenship in His realm, know and be known, love and be loved. These themes can go straight to the heart! I believe that our doctrinal concept of God is essential for securing a basis for faith - but it is only half of the story. Let us be sure to know and to tell this other half to our friends!

*Bro Neil Todd (New Zealand)*

### **Take a Stand for Christ: 2 Thess 2:16-17**

It is not always easy to practise our Christian faith in our everyday lives, especially in these modern times. Doubtful morals and double standards are accepted as 'the norm' in many spheres and very often the person who takes a stand for those things that are just and right and good is regarded as the exception rather than the rule. In consequence of this, and to avoid ridicule and the possibility of rejection, many find it easier to go along with the crowd, instead of having the courage of their convictions and taking a positive stand for Christ as they identify with the Master.

In every aspect of life the Holy Spirit word of God is ready, willing and able to sustain and encourage you in your witness. It will help you overcome those feelings of inadequacy, fear or embarrassment when you find yourself in a situation that calls for you to show your allegiance to Jesus in a positive manner. When you are at a loss for words, He will give you the ability to speak out against that which you believe is wrong and He will enable you discern right from wrong. Keep company with the living Christ and open yourself to the influence of his Spirit, and when your testing time comes you will not be found wanting.

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **A Life Transformed**

I am part of a fellowship of the unashamed. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure.

I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, colourless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I don't have to be first, right, tops, recognised, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on his presence, walk by patience, live by prayer and labour by power.

My face is set, my pace is fast, my goal is the kingdom, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up, for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go on until he comes, give till I drop, preach all I know and work till he stops me.

And when he comes for his own – he will have no problem recognising me – my banner will be clear...

*(Author unknown)*

## Bible Questions - "The Spirits in Prison" 1 PETER 3:18-20



Peter says that Jesus by the spirit went and preached unto disobedient spirits, and he links this disobedience with the days of Noah.

Who were these disobedient spirits? The Scriptures never refer to disembodied spirits; it refers to the angels as spirits, and to men as spirits. In 1 John 4:1 John tells the believers to try the spirits because false prophets were in the world. Here, clearly, is a reference to teachers of wrong doctrine or "seducing spirits" (1 Tim.4:1).

Now such were both disobedient and in prison (or in bondage to sin [Romans 6:16]) just as all in Adam are in the "bondage of corruption" (Romans 8:21) and "through fear of death are all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb.2:15).

Christ came to "preach deliverance to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). Not, of course, to enter into prisons and release malefactors and evildoers, but to bring salvation from sin and release from death. Did Christ do this in Noah's day? Christ did not exist then, except in the purpose of God, nor does Peter say that he did. Peter says, "By the spirit Christ preached". Since Christ could not personally preach to disobedient men of Noah's day, either during his ministry, nor during his three days in the heart of the earth, nor after his ascension, there must be an analogy between Christ's preaching and Noah's preaching.

Noah preached, but his generation were disobedient spirits and perished in the flood. Christ preached and his generation were mainly disobedient – they were scattered, sold as slaves, and finally died an eternal death. The same spirit was the witness to the disobedient in both ages.

### "Present With the Lord" 2 COR 5:8

Peter says that Paul wrote "things hard to be understood" which may easily be misunderstood. (2 Peter 3:16). Misunderstanding often comes when a sentence or verse is taken out of its context or when the passages of scripture are not brought to bear upon it.

"Absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" is often quoted to support the doctrine of immortal soulism. But the setting of this saying shows that Paul taught something quite different. He says (5:10) that we must be judged and as a result of this be rewarded "in body". The reward in body which Paul desired was to be "clothed upon with our house which is from heaven" (v.2) – to be clothed upon "that mortality might be swallowed up of life" (v.4).

However, he had already taught the Corinthians that this change would be when Christ comes (1 Cor.15:23), so that being "present with the Lord" must wait until the second coming. Nevertheless, he desired earnestly for the time to come when this body wherein he groaned being burdened (v.4) should be changed, for then he would be present with Christ. For this he laboured so that he might be accepted (v.9).

### **“God was in Christ” (2 Cor 5:19)**

This is often taken from its context to support the doctrine of the trinity. But if God were actually in Christ how was it possible for Christ to say, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” or for it to be said that “he offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared”? (Heb.5:7). There are two persons here, and one (the Son of God) wholly dependent upon the other.

It therefore means that God was working in and through Christ so that the world might be reconciled to Him.

### **Repentance**

This word often means ‘change of mind’ but sometimes another word is used (also translated repentance) which really means ‘without carefulness’, that is, without ‘limit or meanness’. When Paul wrote (Rom.11:29) that “the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” the second word is used, and in v.10 of ch.7 both words are used, so that the verse could read, “For godly sorrow worketh a change of mind to a salvation – without limit”.

### **Whom shall I send and who will go for us?**

What an inquiring question it is. And it was directed primarily to Isaiah the prophet of God and then to all with a willing heart to carry out a duty. As for Isaiah, the response was a quick one, “Here am I, send me”.

At another time God said, “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” Jesus likens a man with a humble heart to the spirit of a child. He said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The call to duty by God is not a compulsory one but to a willing heart. Apart from Isaiah, the following people: Moses, Jeremiah, Jonah (to name but a few), were very reluctant when asked by God to carry out a duty. However, despite their reluctance, God revealed to them that He is really all powerful and nothing is too hard for him.

Brethren and sisters, I am sure we are all aware of the fact that when we responded to God’s call it made us special people to him. Being special we need also to show God our speciality by responding to whatever He wants us to do for him.

Since we are followers of Christ, the spirit of Christ has to be reflected in the life of each one of us. You remember when Jesus had commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel, he was sending people that he knew. That commission is still relevant to us. Are we ready to rise up to the call to duty as Isaiah was? “Here am I, send me”.



*Brethren and Sisters of Mzuzu Ecclesia soon after breaking bread.*



*Mzuzu Ecclesia and Sunday School scholars displaying their New Testament Bibles.*

*Bro. Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)*

## **The Sinfulness of Man**

There is suffering in the world because there is sin in men's hearts. The record of Adam and Eve is the account of man and woman. It shows us how man was made by God to enjoy fellowship with Him. Man's sin destroys this happiness and fellowship. We are unhappy because God's purpose for us is spoiled. In the account of the Garden of Eden, the Bible teaches us these truths. Every man really acts toward God as Adam acted.

We are sinful in two ways:

- a. We have sinful nature. Each child born into a family is like its parents. In the same way, when we are born into the world we inherit sinful inclinations from our forefathers. The Bible speaks of this quite clearly: look at Psalm 51:5 and Rom 5:12.
- b. We do wrong things. We choose to do the things that are sinful. We share in the sinfulness of the world not just by accident but by choice. A man who takes strong drink and then drives a car may be the cause of death to other people. The man chose to drink in this way. Although he did not really intend to injure other people, he chose to do evil and by doing so he caused evil. We may not have caused death on the roads in this way but we understand this man's guilt quite well.
- c. We know from our own experience that it is possible and easy to choose to be selfish, greedy, lazy and careless. Sin is like a bondage; when we give way to temptation we become like a slave. Every sinful act is like a rope or chain binding us. Each sin makes it more difficult for us to be free from the power of evil. Indeed, we know that we cannot get ourselves free (John 8:34).

Sin is also like a disease: it weakens our wills and darkens our minds. It takes away our strength to choose the right. Paul wrote: "I do not understand my own actions, for I do not do what I want, but I do the very things I hate" (Rom 7:15).

Paul was speaking of the struggle of his own heart to do what was right. He was often defeated in this struggle. All of us, without Christ's help, are in the same condition that he was in. We can be glad that a great and good man like Paul wrote so truthfully about himself. We all know exactly what he meant. This fight between right and wrong is in our hearts just as it was in his. This is the problem which every man and woman has to face. As sinners, they are separated from God who is the source of life. They know this is true yet have not power to help themselves. They cry out like Paul: "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 7:24,25).

*Bro Emmanuel Mangente (Magunje, Zimbabwe)*

### **Take Time to Discover Yourself**

Did you ever stop a moment to consider the direction your life has taken? If you fail to make a periodic check on this important matter you may suddenly find yourself in a situation you never planned, but as you examine the road you have travelled you can observe that everything pointed towards the unwanted position.

Take time to consider and, if necessary, to realign your present position with your ultimate goal. It is always worthwhile, particularly when the mists of mediocrity overwhelm you, to re-examine what you hope to achieve in life. If you do this, you keep monotony at bay and receive wonderful inspiration from an unfailing source. Keep your vision strong and bright, for if you allow it to become weak and dim this unhappy state will be reflected in your daily living.

Perhaps you have considered your ways and found the experience most depressing. You have become more conscious of your failures than of your successes and now you are questioning the meaning and purpose of life. In this situation it is wise to allow your divine Father to take over your thinking and set your course. He does not waste time in useless condemnation, but awakens in you a potential you never knew you possessed. When you see what you can become in God's power and strength, you will find that you have become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **Archaeologists Discover High Priest's Bell?**



Archaeologists have discovered a rare gold bell with a small loop at its end. The finding was made during an archaeological excavation in the City of David National Park (near the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem) by the Israel Antiquities Authority in cooperation with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and the Ir David Foundation.

The excavation area, above the drain, is located in the main street of Jerusalem which rose from the Shiloah Pool in the City of David. In this street an interchange was built through which people entered the Temple Mount. The remains of this interchange are what is known today as Robinson's Arch.

The book of Exodus contains a description of the robe of the ephod that Aaron the high priest wore, which contained golden bells in the hem in a pattern – a golden bell and a pomegranate, a

golden bell and a pomegranate (Exodus 28:31-35) While it is unknown if the bell belonged to one of the high priests, archaeologists have not ruled out the possibility. The bell is half an inch (one centimetre) in diameter with a small loop that appears to have been used to sew it onto the clothing. Israel National News 21.7.11”

### **Caught up to meet the Lord: 1 Thess.4:17**

When Paul wrote the words that form the title of this article he had been explaining that the faithful who were living when Jesus returns from heaven would not receive their rewards before those who had died. The dead in Christ would rise before the living received their rewards so that both classes of believers would be rewarded together. It follows also that both classes will have appeared before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10).

Because the judgment seat is located in one place, those to be judged will have to be transported to it however far this may be. For example those from Australia and New Zealand will have a long way to go. Jesus was aware of this when describing what follows his second coming. In Matthew's gospel he said, “And he (Jesus) shall send his angels with a great sound of trumpet and they shall gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (Matt.24:31).

### **An illustration from vultures**

On an earlier occasion when Jesus was describing the conditions in the world when he would be returning, he spoke of individuals being taken for judgment and rewards. His words were, “I tell you in that night there shall be two men in one bed, and one shall be taken and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together, the one shall be taken and the other left.” And the disciples answered and said unto him, “Where Lord?” And he said unto them, “Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles (vultures) be gathered together.” (Luke 17:34-37).

It is natural for the disciples to ask “Where Lord?” The reply of Jesus was, “Where the (dead) body is.” In other words the location for the judgment does not matter because the angels will bring us to that place. The point about the characteristic of vultures is that they become aware of dead bodies from great distances and fly from all directions to feed on them. This example served to illustrate what Jesus had already said about the angels gathering the elect from the ‘four winds’.

### **Caught up**

In his letter Paul continues to write in verse 17, “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (those who had been raised from the dead) in clouds to meet the Lord in the air’.

It is inevitable that wherever we happen to be that being gathered together would involve transport through the air, the natural air, but the angelic method would be miraculous. This is what Paul means by his expression ‘caught up together’. Nothing is impossible for the angels.

### **In clouds**

In the quotation of verse 17 above, the definite article ‘the’ has been omitted. Although the A.V. Translation has ‘in the clouds’, the Greek has ‘in clouds’. It is better to follow the Greek because the phrase ‘in the clouds’ tends to give the impression Paul is referring to literal clouds whereas

in reality he is meaning large groups of the elect gathered from each city by the angels for transportation.

This use of the term 'clouds' in the figurative sense was used again by Paul when he wrote about so many faithful saints in Hebrews chapter 11. In chapter 12 v. 1 he calls them 'a cloud', "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight"...

### **In the air**

Paul's closing phrases, "To meet the Lord in the air, so shall we ever be with the Lord", uses the phrase 'in the air' in a figurative and not a literal sense. There would be no pleasure in being suspended in the literal air for ever. We must be guided here by our knowledge of the prolific teaching of scripture regarding the Gospel. It has to do with the Kingdom of God on earth.

The main feature of this is that Jesus will be king of the whole earth and the immortal saints will be co-rulers with him. Because they will be exalted in this way the use of the term 'air' can be used in a metaphorical sense to mean the sphere of ruler-ship. To emphasize this point in Revelation, Jesus is said to have on his vesture a name written 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS'. (Rev.19:16).

As for the saints, a glimpse of the 24 elders is given in Rev.5:9 that reads, 'They sung a new song, saying. "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth."

### **Conclusion**

From the fore-going testimonies it is clear that the reward of the righteous is not in the literal air nor in heaven but with the glorified Lord Jesus in Jerusalem as King of the whole world (Psalm 2:8-9).

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

### **God's Blessings**

There is always a happy time, which should be spent worshipping the Creator of heaven and earth. Israel had such happy times and these were called the Sabbaths of the Lord. Israel were instructed to observe these Sabbaths and these were their happy days because they spent them worshipping without any distractions. God was with them always. God commanded them to observe the Sabbaths and when they did so they were protected and were free people. When they followed and observed the Torah they were blessed. There is also a curse on people who did not heed God's commands.

Deut.16:1-2 "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover of the Lord your God. For in the month of Abib the Lord your God brought you out of the land of Egypt and you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the Lord your God from the flock or the herd at the place which the Lord will choose to make his name dwell there."

When Israel was liberated from Egypt by God they were given commandments to be followed, including observing special days during which they were to make special offerings. This shows

how God had blessed them in those days in that they had a flock or herd from which to offer a sacrifice. These offerings were to be eaten by the people themselves, which was a very good thing to do. You sacrifice your lamb and you eat the meat; all the meat, nothing should remain for the next day. The bread and the meat were to be eaten at a single supper. Thereafter, for the next six days, they had to eat before the Lord their God unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there was a solemn assembly and they had to do no work on such days.

Deut.16:9-11 “You shall count seven weeks; begin to count from the time you first put the sickle to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God”. We see again how God had blessed Israel as a nation. For a whole nation to rejoice in feasting for seven weeks, slaughtering flocks and herds for such a long period is such a blessing and a fulfilment of God’s words that Israel was a land flowing with milk and honey without there being a need to import food from other nations. We look forward to the coming Kingdom when everyone will eat and rejoice. But before that there is hope in our lifetime that God will bless and care for us if we keep His commandments.

Deut.16:16-17 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place which He will choose: at the feast of unleavened bread, at the feast of weeks and at the feast of booths. They shall not appear before the Lord empty handed, every man shall give as he is able according to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you”.

When we meet together, we must be able to give back to the Lord as much as we are able to give in thanks for that with which he has blessed us. Never should we go empty handed. It is up to us to do our part, to believe and be baptized, to live in faith and to preach the gospel. Let us hope in the Lord and seek His blessing, rejoicing in Him. In Matt.5::3-11 each verse starts with the word blessed. We are called for a blessing just as Israel was liberated from Egypt to a blessed land of milk and honey. We believe in Jesus the Christ and we were baptized in obedience, looking for a blessing from the Lord our God.

Deut.28:1-15 “If you obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commands which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth and all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God”.

Blessings from God are conditional on our obedience to His commands. Jesus said “go and preach the gospel and whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” We must continue in faith until the coming of the Lord, breaking bread and drinking wine and rejoicing in our hope. Jesus said we have no life if we do not break bread and drink wine in memory of him.

As God blessed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and saved Lot, so let Him bless us. Gal.3:9 “So then, those who are men of faith are blessed with Abraham who had faith.

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

**Carelink messages Promoting care and Prayer amongst us**

**MOSCOW BIBLE SCHOOL**



Bible Schools are the highlight of the year for many of the 1500 or so baptized in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan over the last 20 years. At our last breakfast together, several were visibly in tears as they ate their food. They are all in isolation or small groups, and for many the Bible Schools are their only experience of ecclesial life. The joy and enthusiasm to discuss God's word was amazing. We ended up having one hour sessions on average to discuss each of the *Bible Companion* readings for the day; brothers and sisters were so keen to discuss and share the thoughts that had been building up over the last year. Our Australian visitors, Andrew Fotheringham and Rick & Janine Hennig from Adelaide, were warmly received and their talks enthusiastically discussed. One of the great things about giving talks in Eastern Europe is the high level of response to the teaching given and the practice of careful note taking. It's amazing to reflect that some of those now so deeply discussing Scripture, and able to quote so fluently from it, were atheists before their contact with us. We had with us the recently printed *Russian New Testaments* with commentary and reduced version of '*Bible Basics*' at the back. These will be very helpful. Brother Igor reminded us that he first came from atheism to faith after having been given a New Testament by a man for whom he helped change a wheel on a country road; he's delighted at the chance to distribute New Testaments with the Gospel correctly explained within the same volume.



The distances travelled were huge- most spent at least a day travelling, whereas some travelled up to 5 days to be present. Many thousands of km. were travelled by the entire group in total- a colossal achievement, bearing in mind many are in poor health. Here are three of our older brethren so happy in each other's company; note 2 of them have walking sticks, and the other is 84 and travelled four days on the train from Siberia in the cheap wagon. You can see Cindy seeing him off on that long return journey. Brother Valerij from the far north of Russia is being rightly congratulated on his arrival at the school after several days journey; as usual he had just a small bag, water bottle and his two walking sticks. No wonder he has something to say in the discussion after every Bible talk; he has nobody at all to talk to about his faith where he lives.



One pleasing feature was to see the baptism of the grandchildren of those baptized many years ago- YANA and KSENYA, granddaughters of Sister Galina from Kazakhstan; and ALINA, granddaughter of Br & Sis Georgij Chaplinsky from Ukraine; Georgij was baptized in 1993. Sister Galina explained how her granddaughter used to sleep on the same divan as her at night, and she would always cuddle her and pray with her as a little girl. As the girls grew up, Galina read the Bible to them; and then when she lost her sight, they continued, reading the Bible to her. Their baptism was a wonderful dream come true for Sis Galina. Here they are at the Bible School together:

We also rejoiced in the baptisms of VIKTOR and TAMARA from Kazakhstan. Our community has been forbidden from meeting together in Kazakhstan, partly as a result of racism against Russians there, and also the growth of Islam in Kazakhstan. Because of this we are getting candidates for baptism to meet us in Russia for baptism wherever possible. Br Viktor travelled 3 days on the cheapest railway seats for his baptism. There were a number present who had had

operations and cataract operations as a result of your support over the years, who would otherwise still not be with us, or not able to see. It was great to have sister Antonina with us, she cares for her severely handicapped spastic grandson and has to carry him up and down 10 flights of stairs each day, as well as constantly care for him. So it was a great break for her to be away for a week and not even have to cook, and to have the opportunity to read the Bible all day together with others. She so so deeply appreciated your donations which made her presence possible.

There were many more who would have liked to have come but places at the Bible School venue and funds to sponsor them were limited. About 60 attended but there were another 200 or more eager to come. The last evening we had a good discussion about local brethren giving more talks, and we have prepared some guidelines for giving a first Bible talk; these may be useful for others in other parts of the world. See <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/ww/a8.htm>. So again we give thanks, real thanks, to God for the work of His Son and the word of His grace which has so powerfully worked in this part of the world, resulting in a community of true servants of Christ and loving students of His word.

### **2011 Winter Heating Appeal**

In previous Winters for several years now, Carelinks initiated a major project to try to meet the significant problem of suffering as a result of the low temperatures in Eastern Europe and the former USSR. We provided funds to pay for heating bills, improved houses against the cold, installed internal toilets, delivered firewood, warm clothing, medical and other assistance to around 50 of the most needy brothers and sisters. As reported in our updates, we believe this significantly alleviated the suffering of several families, single mothers and especially elderly brothers and sisters. Given rising fuel prices the average cost of heating an apartment is almost the entire old age pension for sisters. Those with no supporting relatives, living alone, are left with literally nothing to survive on over the Winter months. For those living in the large concrete blocks which house the majority of the urban population, if they don't pay their heating bills, they have to vacate the apartment- which often means going to live in the night shelters, and being out on the street from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. We'd like to continue our project this Winter too. Please consider donating whatever you can afford to enable us to do this. Following are a few typical examples of those we have helped in previous years and would like to continue assisting. We'll provide feedback on how your funds are spent through our newsletters, and we can also email you specific details and photos of those assisted by you. We're seeking to provide a total of 10,000 GBP [15,000 \$] to those in need. We have no overheads and no salaried workers, so your funds go direct to those in need.



Sister Tanya [in the photo, wrapped in blanket] is a very faithful sister who has led others to the way of life. She suffers with her health and has a very small pension; the heating bills in Winter are about the same as her pension, which leaves her in a really difficult position so far as food, clothing and medicines are concerned. She tries to make her own medicines as she can't afford to buy them in Winter, like

grinding up eggshells to make calcium. We would like to again make some contribution to her Winter heating this year so that she doesn't have to go into a night shelter.

Sister Rita & Brother Yuri were living in a room without heating, trying to keep warm by covering themselves in sleeping bags and boiling water with an element and trying to warm themselves from the steam; we provided bar heaters, covered their electric bill and got them into better accommodation. We did this for quite a few of our most urgent cases:

In rural areas, we delivered firewood and other assistance to isolated brothers and sisters too old or ill to cope with the Winter, often due to having been abandoned by neighbours and family who have gone off to the towns and forgotten about them:



With temperatures down to -45 degrees in some parts of Russia where we have brethren, Winter becomes very difficult to cope with for the sick, elderly, single mothers and isolated. We try to provide relevant material support for them, including warm clothing and welfare packages:

This is a wonderful project, involving relevant humanitarian help being given to a lot of good hearted brothers and sisters who are in urgent need through no fault of their own, living as they are in the broken down social and economic situation which there is in the ex-USSR, with no other source of support, and in an area where temperatures can go as low as -45 C . This isn't just a nice idea, this program has been run for many years already and we have all contacts in place for it to happen this year too if you can fund it. Please do be as generous as you can and pass this appeal on to others, and above all please pray for this project and for our brethren and sisters.

Here's how you can donate:

Send a cheque made out to "Carelinks" to:

AUSTRALIA: Carelinks, FAO John Thatcher. P.O. Box 152, MENAI CENTRAL, NSW 2234 Australia

CANADA: Steve and Connie Keating, 3420 Lakeshore Road, R.R.3, Alexandria, ON K0C 1A0  
Canada

EUROPE: Sonia Hemingray, 40 Rue de la Baisse, F-69100, VILLEURBANNE, FRANCE

NEW ZEALAND: Glynn & Helen Pyper, 24 B Charlotte Street, Stanmore Bay 0932, Auckland,  
NEW ZEALAND

UNITED KINGDOM: Robin & Jean Field, 4 Ellergreen, Burneside, Kendal LA9 5SD U.K.

U.S.A.: Carelinks USA, c/o Charlie Klennert, PO Box 1049, Sumner, WA 98390 U.S.A.

ELSEWHERE: Carelinks, FAO John Thatcher. P.O. Box 152, MENAI CENTRAL, NSW 2234 Australia

Donate online via PayPal - more information at <http://carelinks.net/doc/otherdonations>

For more information, details of tax efficient giving or comments please contact one of the above Carelinks members or email us

You can donate anonymously to our bank account:

Name: Carelinks BSB#: 062259 Account#: 10255595

Bank: Sutherland Commonwealth Bank

Branch Name: Sydney, Australia  
Sort Code CTBAAU2S IBAN: 06225910255595

Whether you can donate or not, please do join us in prayer for this significantly large group of brothers and sisters who will be facing considerable hardship and worry this Winter.

### **Never Give Up – Get Up, Get Going**

The road to the Kingdom is very slippery and narrow and has many difficulties, hardships and troubles. Those with faith and who wait patiently for the Lord's coming will have salvation if only they obey his laws. But "broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matt.7:13). Verse 14 says, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it".

A striker in a football match does not stop playing after his shot has gone off target. He continues feverishly till he finds the right strategies to hit the back of his opponent's net. Famous scientists and inventors have to experiment many times before finding a good new one. If a particular formula fails to yield the desired result, they discard it and replace it with another. Instead of despairing because it failed, they encourage themselves that they are one step closer to finding the right answer. As a normal child when you attempted to walk, you fell on many occasions and perhaps hurt yourself in the process, but did you quit trying? If you did, you would still be on the ground. So never give up; when you fail in life please pray to the Lord to help you up and then get going. Failure will surely come because it is part of life. It makes life interesting and fascinating. Don't let it paralyse you and prematurely abort your dreams, else you will not rise. So in time of trouble, call upon the Lord.

Psalms 50:15, the Lord says: "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me". And, remember, it is not how we start that is important, it is how we finish. We have not failed until we stop trying.

The story of King David is helpful: "So David and his men came to the city and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives and their sons and daughters were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives were taken captive: Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters. But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God". David looked up to God from whom comes hope, but looking at the problem itself will bring discouragement and sadness (1Sam.3);3-6).

In Joshua 1:5-6 the Lord told Joshua, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage". So we must always be strong in the Lord in all our ways.

We read of Abraham, "Who against hope believed in hope, and being not weak in faith he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was

strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being persuaded that what he had promised, he was able to perform”.

In the second letter to Timothy (4:6-8), Paul, with all boldness of faith in the Lord, said: “I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”. Also in his first letter to Timothy (6:12) we are all encouraged by Paul to “fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses”. We are not to give up in whatever we do and, as the saying goes, ‘If at first you don’t succeed, try, try and again’ in prayer to the Father, and He will direct us what to do.

We are also encouraged by Hebrews 12:1-2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”. And, lastly, “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”. May the good Lord keep us and bless us all. Amen.

*Bro. Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)*

### **The Message That Meets Your Need**

Our Almighty God loves us and longs to bless our lives. He satisfies every need of our hearts and bodies. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life” (John 10:10).

Here are a few ways that the message can meet our needs:

1. WORRY- “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).
2. SICKNESS - “The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well” (James 5:15).
3. LONELINESS - “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you” (Heb.13:5-6).
4. PHYSICAL NEED - “Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things (that the body needs) will be given to you” (Matt.6:28-33).
5. YOUTH – “How can a young man keep his ways pure? By living according to the word” (Psalm 119:9), and to set an example to the believers in speech (1 Tim 4:12).
6. AGEING – “Even to your old age I am he who will sustain you” (Isaiah 46:4).
7. TEMPTATION – “God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear” (1 Cor. 10:13).



*Some of the twenty children at Tongaren sponsored by Agape in Action, with Sisters Nancy and Margaret.*



*Tongaren Sunday School reading from their New Testaments prior to the Breaking of Bread service.*

*Bro. Isaac Kapa ( Tongaren, Kenya)*

### **Message to the Friends of God**

A careful study of Luke's gospel finds the beloved physician writing to, "most excellent Theophilus", to further his study in the word of God. Theophilus means 'friend of God'; how fitting in God's great wisdom that this record is left for the help of all those struggling through obedience, to be known as 'friends of God'.

Luke's instruction begins with the birth of John the Baptist and concludes with the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. He then picks up this thread in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, detailing the disciples' ministry after Jesus' ascension. Why did he write all this to Theophilus? " It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that though mightiest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been taught the gospel" (Luke 1:3,4.)

Theophilus was being taught the gospel – the good news of the kingdom of God – learning of the wondrous hope contained in the word of God which lies in store for all who seek after it. From the beginning of the fall in Eden, through the promises extended to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to the birth, ministry and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, the thread of Truth is exposed to those whom the Spirit calls to obedience. Those not called, who read the word, may be moved by the inspiring examples of faith and courage, but without a sure foundation of belief in the Lord Jesus which leads to baptism into him there can be no lasting spiritual benefit.

In the last chapter of Luke, the Lord Jesus instructed the disciples to return to Jerusalem and there await the gift of the Holy Spirit which would come upon them – a measure of God's power to be given that they might increase in understanding and to spread forth the Gospel, armed with the power to do miracles of healing in his name.

However, the last question to him as he prepared to ascend unto his Father, displayed a great lack of perception in what lay ahead of them, and why they needed to grow in understanding as they asked: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

Their understanding would be enriched by the power of the Spirit at Pentecost, teaching them of all they would be called upon to suffer in the spreading of his word, not only to Israel but to all the world as ambassadors for Christ. They longed, as we do today, for the kingdom of God to be established. However, nearly 2,000 years have elapsed from that time, and they continue to wait in the grave!

Paul encouraged his brethren, those friends of God in Thessalonica who waited in the same trust, as he wrote: “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thess. 5:4-6).

To be a friend of God is to be a child of light – not walking in darkness or fellowshiping the ways of darkness or error, but through constant study and prayer, learning how best to walk in obedience before Him. Paul left specific instructions how this could be achieved: “See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thess. 5:15-22).

We have been instructed to walk after Christ’s example during our time of probation as we wait (as did the apostles) for his return. In these latter days we have been privileged to see unfolding many signs spoken of in the scriptures which must be in place before his return – yet we still wait. We are told his return will come as a thief in the night and we must be prepared, for no man knows the hour.

If we knew a thief was coming to break into our home at midnight, how vigilant we would be. There would be no time to relax or sleep, we would be on full alert to have everything in place, so as not to be surprised. How important likewise to be spiritually ready for Jesus’ return, arming ourselves through scriptural study and prayer as well as examining ourselves critically, knowing the often wayward direction of our natural inclinations if left unchecked.

Peter’s words, as he waited in hope, inspire all those longing to be known as friends of God, when he said: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). However, he goes on to warn of that day coming as a “thief in the night” when the old systems of this world will be destroyed and replaced with a righteous government of justice.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (vs 13,14).

*Bro. Francis Odiko (Subri, Ghana)*

**Loving His Appearing**

It is a fact that the Lord Jesus will come again but not to die as a sin offering but to bring rewards for those who love his second appearing. Others may not love his appearing due to the fact that they have not been mindful of all that the Lord requires them to do.

The fact that the master of the house is away, his many servants are reckless and so will be overwhelmed by his sudden appearing. Therefore, what sort of people ought we to be? We, individually, should consider ourselves as having our Master's talents. Have we made use of our talents? We need not be as that servant who hid his master's talent in a napkin due to fear. Our Master is a very loving Master and so we need to carry out our duties confidently.

Once again, he who is coming will really come whether one likes it or not. So we need to watch and pray for the day of the Lord is unknown to all of us.

*Bro. Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)*

### **Are we heading to the Papal system?**

We read in Romans 8:7-8, "The carnal mind (thinking of the flesh) is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God". Galatians 5:17 also says, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other". We also read in 1 John 3:8, "For this purpose is the Son of God manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil".

We who are separated by the Truth are people with different aims and hopes, a different way of living, from those of the world. "We are servants of another kingdom which is not of this world." John 18:36. We are the representatives of God and His laws in the earth. We are "the tabernacle of witness". We have been appointed witnesses against human corruption, human intervention and general indifference to His will. We are the children of light and our job is to expose the works of darkness (Eph.5:11).

"Not of the world". By this we mean, we are out of sympathy with and substantially separated from the system or arrangement of things in which they dwell. We live in a world founded on the thinking of the flesh which is evil in God's eyes. The religions of this world are false and God-dishonouring when described in the book of Revelation in the awful language of a harlot holding a cup full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. There is the state church as a daughter of the harlot; that is the Papal and the Catholic Church.

In the scientific and education field many glory in human knowledge and speculation and have no place for God, their theories of evolution making him unnecessary. "As it was in the days of Noah" – very true.

Take our position by nature. Paul wrote about it in Eph.2:1-2, "You were once dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, according to the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience (v.12). You were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise." Before I put down my pen let us read 1 John 2:27 "And as for you, the anointing which you received of him abides in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you: but as his anointing teaches you all things and is true and is no lie even as it taught you, so you abide in him".

*Bro Charles Daka, (Mufulira, Zambia)*

### **Blessing of Forgiveness**

Each of us is born with sinful nature. We are basically and naturally selfish and self-centred. If we follow what that nature suggests to us we do the wrong things. We need a new nature imparted, and we will ultimately receive that through faith in Jesus when he comes. One of the hardest things for many Christians is to admit failure and sin, PRIDE often stands in the way.

Man's basic problem is sin. His greatest need is forgiveness and that comes through *the sacrifice of Jesus Christ*. We need him to take away our sin. A right relationship with God lays the foundation for good relationships with others. Our sin is taken away when we repent and put our trust in the sacrifice of Jesus for us.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice and his mercy! Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, but blessed is the person who has God's forgiveness for his sins as well. Every one of us can be in that group, who has surrendered his proud and stubborn will, ambitions and goals in life that rob us of Jesus' victory.

Forgiveness by God is something we all need, sometimes need the f, but we must also forgive others, and these things are a vital part of our own spiritual growth. Peace with God becomes impossible when we fail to forgive others.

*Bro. Henderson Sosola (Mtenhela, Malawi)*

### **"I Well Know the Pains They Suffer."(Ex3:1-7)**

God spoke to Moses as recorded above. While tending sheep one day, Moses came upon a most unusual sight of a thorn bush on fire but not burning (Ex.3:2). Intrigued, he approached to investigate. Through an angel, God spoke to him from the midst of the fire "Do not come near: remove your sandals from off your feet because the place where you are standing is holy ground." (v.5). Just think – because the Holy God was present, meaningfully the ground itself became holy! The Holy God had a reason for drawing Moses into conversation. God said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their outcry as a result of those who drive them to work, because I well know the pains they suffer (Ex.3:7).

God was not blind to the misery of His people, nor was He deaf to the voice of their pleadings. Rather, their anguish became His own. Notice that God said, "I well know the pains they suffer." Regarding the words "I well know", one reference work notes: "the expression implies personal feeling, tenderness and compassion". God's words to Moses reveal a deeply concerned and caring God. What would God do? He did not merely look with pity or hear without compassion. He was moved to act. He purposed to deliver His people out of Egypt and to bring them "to a land flowing with milk and honey" (v.8). To that end, God commissioned Moses, saying: "bring my people out of Egypt" (v.10). Faithful to that commission Moses led Israel out of Egypt in 1513 BC.

God has not changed. His worshippers today can be sure that He sees their adversities and hears their cries for help. He well knows the pains they suffer, but God does not just feel compassion for His devoted servants, the tender God is moved to act on their behalf “because He cares” for them, (1 Pet.5:7). God’s compassion gives us reason for hope, with His help. We imperfect humans can attain a measure of holiness and become acceptable to him, (1 Pet.1:15-16). One woman who has struggled with depression and discouragement found comfort in the account of Moses’ experience at the thorn bush. She says profoundly, “If God can make even the dirt holy, then maybe there is a little hope for me.”

Are you moved to learn more about the holy God? A close relationship with Him is possible, for God “well knows the formation of us, remembering that we are dust.” (Ps.103:4).

*Bro. Ernest Lavuna (Gisambi, Kenya)*

## **Genesis**

I love the first book of Genesis as it is from here that we get the Truth, God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. From Genesis ch.12 to ch.50 the God of our fathers has revealed to us that He is the Supreme Power, the Creator of heaven and earth, with a special purpose. If you take time to read the dealings step by step you will come to the conclusion that God has a purpose with us and the earth He has created. Remember the God of the Bible talked to our father of faith, Abraham and those promises were fulfilled by the seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ. But the plan of God is talking about the past, present and future so we are therefore looking forward to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to fulfil the plan of the God of Israel, the God of our fathers – for this hope of Israel we are called and baptised into Christ. This hope of Israel, the hope of the resurrection is why we labour with all our heart’s, working with eagerness to be part of the people to witness that glory of God which will fill the earth.

I love the joy of the message; it provides me with the hope of divine nature and a great zeal to work every day with one purpose. The God of our fathers is revealed and talked about so much by the patriarchs of faith that we must remind ourselves that it is the *heart* of the Gospel message. Therefore let no one make you despair, lose hope, or feel discouraged. We must all endure, remain steadfast in the truth and be immovable. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has provided us with a basic Bible teaching that, if we do not strive to obey, we will miss the blessed promises He has made. Reading those chapters in the book of Genesis has impressed me so much. The Bible is God’s revelation to us - we must either obey and be blessed or disobey and be cursed.

When Jacob was welcomed by his son Joseph in Egypt, he was filled with a great joy that the God of Abraham and Isaac was the real God, and he died in faith, hoping to be one of the people in the Kingdom of God. Jacob blessed his sons and grandsons, with the strong desire that the God of Abraham and Isaac would visit and bless his descendants.

In conclusion, I appeal to my brothers and sisters: we must know that the journey is very tough and only those who endure will be saved. I have been in the Truth 35 years, but I am still on the journey towards the promises God made to our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

*Bro. John Onani, (Sindu, Kenya)*

## **A Friend of the World becomes an Enemy of God**

The Bible clearly says “whoever chooses to be a good friend of the world becomes the enemy of God” James 4:4. This chapter implies that spending out time thinking on sinful things of the flesh is being a “friend of the world”. Most of the world’s ways, getting temporary pleasures, involve doing so at the cost of bodily health – hard drugs and excessive drinking of wine. “Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler, whoever is led astray by them is not wise” Prov.20:1. Brethren, let us avoid drinking and taking hard drugs for the benefit of our health.

Whenever I am reading the Bible, 2 Cor.6:14-17 touches my heart and I feel that ‘we’ as brethren are not doing all we should to fulfil the teaching in this chapter. “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers”. The word yoke describes the way of joining two things together, therefore brothers and sisters, we should not associate with unbelievers. This chapter is mostly used to apply to marriage only, i.e. if brethren marry outside of the ecclesia. However, it also applies to our getting entangled with the world, its pleasures, pastimes, politics and the like- which are all of the world- but we as part of God’s temple have to live holy, dedicated lives to God. Let us remember that we are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in us. “If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him...therefore glorify God in your body,” 1 Cor.3:16-17 and 1 Cor.6:19-20. Abuse of the body is therefore a serious matter.

“He who has been stealing must steal no longer but must work” Eph.4:20-28. Fellowship describes the state of having something in common. By reason of knowing and practising God’s ways, we have fellowship with Him and with all others who are doing the same through being in Christ. Dear brethren and sisters, there is no half way position in our relationship with God, we are either in Christ by baptism into him, or outside of him, and either in light or in darkness.

*Bro. Emmanuel Kondwe (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)*

## **It’s Time for Agripreneurship**

In 1979 and 1984, we witnessed two of the worst droughts in Kenya. It was the first time many people ate yellow maize imported from U.S. Many rivers dried up and many people saw hunger to its extremity.

It is unbelievable that while man is exploring the outer fringes of the Universe, we are unable to deal with the most basic problem on this planet, hunger. If the rains fail, hunger stalks us. Yet man is the endowed and intelligent being in the Universe. Hunger and drought stalks us because we are true to our traditional cultures and helpless against nature. Drought is not hard to understand; after all, we are the cause, tampering with ecological cycles, disrespecting nature. The water catchment areas are well known but not protected or valued.

In Kenya, farming is neglected, unglamorous. In other nations it is a respectable profession and not for those without a choice. Professionalisation of farming ensures a higher productivity and food security. It is only recently that subsistence farmers took to building greenhouses. Why did it take so long to transfer the greenhouse technology from flowers to food that we eat daily? If hunger is to be defeated and drought subdued, we must modernise agriculture by relying less on weather which has become unpredictable. Rain-fed agriculture is the bane of Kenya’s food situation.

Drought and hunger will always come, but to deal with them we must cultivate our ingenuity and creativity. We seem to talk of entrepreneurship everywhere but not in agriculture. It's time for agripreneurship

*Bro. Lawrence K'Owiti (Katito, Kenya)*

## **Food Prices**

The Food Price Watch of the World Bank Food price group says global food prices in July 2011 remain

significantly higher than a year ago. Prices overall remained 33 percent higher than a year ago with commodities such as maize (up 84 percent), sugar (up 62 percent), wheat (up 55 percent) and soybean oil (up 47 percent) contributing to the increase. Crude oil prices are 45 percent higher from July 2010 levels, affecting production costs and the price of fertilizers, which increased by 67 percent over the same period. ...“Persistently high food prices and low food stocks indicate that we're still in the danger zone, with the most vulnerable people the least able to cope,” Zoellick said. “Vigilance is vital given the uncertainties and volatility that exists today. There is no cushion.”

## **Digest of the Bible**

The Bible is a collection of some 66 books written by men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. It is an awesome book and overwhelms most of its readers. At times a single verse contains intense messages which can only be understood after prayerful, lengthy Bible studies. This is one reason why the Bible is neglected by most people because they tend to read it as a novel or any other book. On the other hand, once we begin to understand what God's intentions are with the peoples on earth, the apparently complicated writings begin to make sense to us and are able to be understood. Thus I was once lost and now am found.

From the time of Adam, God has always been accepted as a superior being. Later on we read that the human race decided to follow their own desires, contrary to God's ways. They always knew in mind that there was somebody above them because of the order of things on earth and in the whole universe. The choice is very much ours, God has a plan for all of us and as we go through the scriptures, we will discover it.

We are all Abraham's spiritual descendants. The Bible tells us that God promised Abraham and his descendants everything they needed for a happier life on earth provided that they continued to keep His statutes. Romans 4:13 & 16-18. There are two good reasons why God keeps both the bad and good people alive on the earth. Firstly there is no one who is really perfect in the sense that all have sinned and fallen from the grace of God. Secondly, God loves each of us, in the sense that by God loving us, we would realise our wrong deeds and turn to Him. The Bible tells us that whosoever believes in God, shall be given the right to be called the child of the living God. There is a slogan that I love saying and I keep saying it to those I meet, “No man is an island, no man stands alone, each one is a part and parcel of the other, we need

encouragement from one another as we journey towards the Kingdom of God, which we all long for. Keep watching the news as menacing times are ahead of us! Please don't despair but seek your sanctuary now with Jesus. Seek first the Kingdom of God.

*Bro. Gideon Hankomone (Mazabuka, Zambia)*

### **Abraham and Jacob**

Eventually, after his faith had been tested for many years, Abraham did have the son of promise by his aged wife, Sarah. Isaac was born miraculously in the couple's old age. Apart from divine intervention the child could not have been born, for Sarah was long past the age for bearing. In course of time, Isaac married and had twin sons. The inheritance of the divine promises was not complicated by the rivalry of the twins.

By right, Esau was the heir because his birth was just before that of his brother. But Esau scorned the value of his birthright, not being a man of faith, and sold his inheritance to his brother for only a savoury meal. Did Jacob fully understand the significance of the birthright he had so craftily obtained? As Jacob experienced increasing difficulties in his life, so his faith increased. Just as God had confirmed the promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:2; 13:16), so he did to Jacob. As also with Abraham, Jacob matured so much that God saw fit to change his name to another one that had a deeper significance. The name Jacob means 'following after', descriptive of his birth. It also means 'supplanter', descriptive of his cunning acquisition of the birthright. God's new name for him, 'Israel', means 'ruling with God' or 'prince with God'. This described his personal, faithful, life, besides being prophetic of God's purpose for him and his descendants. In spite of the difficulties that we may go through, in the end, the truth is a very personal matter between ourselves and Jesus.

*Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)*

### **The World We Live In**

We live in the days that immediately precede the return of Jesus to this earth. Many people are edgy and anxious about the future-troubles abound. Talk to the people around you, and you will find that, no matter what the media have to say, they can't believe that more banks will not fail. They aren't confident that the person elected president will keep promises. They aren't sure that they will have a job tomorrow. In many cases they may be afraid to walk down a city street for fear of being mugged. Fear is the reality in our world today; even men of great prestige and political power are fearful. They might have to shoulder tremendous responsibilities involving the affairs of nations, they might have to appear calm and decisive whatever important crisis they face, but they all share the fear that is found across the world. We can't go away and escape the trouble. We have to continue to live in a world that is not what it should be. If we are looking for personal comfort and pleasure, the outlook is indeed grim.

Although bad political, economic and moral conditions are all around us, we need not despair. We who trust in God have a peace that the world cannot understand. The Christian has a confidence that God will not fail him in troubled times. We can trust under the canopy of God's grace even though the storm rages outside. We can cling to the assurance that God is not dead. He still intervenes in the affairs of man. It is interesting to note that the world situation today

was prophesied: “Men’s hearts shall fail them for fear as they look at those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26). We need not be alarmed if we trust in God’s promise, as Jesus also says: “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (v32).

We can’t earn a place in that kingdom by our own good works, nor can we buy one. It is ours because God has promised it to those who love and serve Him. Jude tells us that we must “earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints” (v3). Now for us to ‘earnestly contend’ for something means that it must be of great value to us.

*Bro Blessing Nwigwe (Mbaise, Nigeria)*

### **The Journey to the Kingdom**

In all journeys people make, there are reasons for travelling and also the destinations to be reached. The same with Christians. We learn, study and preach the word of God because we want to be in His kingdom. The reason is that we want internal peace and everlasting life in the kingdom of God which is our destination.

The first step to take when we hear of the kingdom of God and its beauty, is a desire to be part of it by our repentance. This requires us to leave our old/former way of life behind us and accompany Jesus to the kingdom. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, told the people that they needed this repentance. So repentance is really the first step we should seriously take, followed by conversion and baptism.

Baptism is a complete immersion of a repented mature person in water, symbolising death and burial; rising up from the water signifies resurrection (Colossians 2:12). In the letter of Paul to the Romans, Paul wrote that baptism unites us with Christ Jesus: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his!” (Romans 6:3-5). We see from this that it is not just a baptism but a complete change from our old way of living, we become new – newly born.

“Repent, therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out ...” (Acts 3:19). After baptism, our way of life must be that which suits the true believer of Christ Jesus. We are not assured of salvation just because we are baptised, but the way we live this present life will be determined when Jesus returns. If we continue therefore in faith after baptism, by God’s tender mercies and grace we shall be saved (Ephesians 2:8).

God has brought us salvation through Jesus our Saviour. If we reject this offer, we shall suffer eternal death, yet if we accept it we will have peace and everlasting life. How good this is! No more death and any form of suffering. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope – the appearing of our saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works (Titus 2:11-14).



*Bro Joseph Chimuku tending the flowers*

*Bro Joseph Chimuku (Mazabuka, Zambia)*

## **The Second Coming**

I suppose the most famous place of all is in the first chapter of Acts where Jesus ascends from earth watched by his disciples. Remember, they had just completed a six-week concentrated course on 'The Kingdom of God' led by the King himself (Acts 1:3). They knew the kingdom will be on earth, that it will be the restored Kingdom of Israel (1:6) and that the man who had just disappeared into the clouds will be its king. They knew for sure, since God had given the guarantee, that Jesus will come back. Suddenly, the answer to their difficult question was given by angels in white robes: "You men in Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven" (1:11).

This time there was no argument and no disbelief, just great joy and rejoicing all the way back to Jerusalem (Luke 24:52). There was a great determination on everyone's part to fulfil the command that Jesus had given: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15,16).

The absence of grief and doubt in the apostolic band is not surprising when looking at the three fold 'guarantee' that the angels had given: "This same Jesus ... shall so come ... in like manner ..." How had he gone away? Actually, physically, vertically, upwards. How will he come back? Vertically downwards. It is as simple and definite as that.

Somehow all the wrong ideas developed, and often heard in different churches relating to the happy fate of everyone, are not from the bible. At one funeral service I attended, the wrong emphasis was put on the words of Jesus: "In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again" (John 14:2,3). What does that mean? My father's house: the word 'house' does not mean a place or a building. The word is '*oikia*' which means household, family. Had Jesus been referring to a building, or equivalent, in heaven or on earth he would have used '*oikos*' ie a place in which the household lives.

Mansions: literally, an abiding place, somewhere to live Jesus is explaining: 'There are abiding places for those who comprise my Father's family. I am going to make one ready for you, and then I am coming back here so that we can be together again, as a family'.

Jesus Christ will come soon to establish the kingdom. The responsible dead will be raised from their graves, together with ourselves to be judged according to how they have prepared for that kingdom. So, as we meet each Sunday and break bread and drink wine, the question to ask ourselves is: Are we ready for when Jesus comes?

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

### **Give Us This Our Daily Bread**

In the simple society of Bible times 'bread' meant 'life'. If you had bread to eat, you had the means of living. To ask for daily bread was, therefore, to ask for the means of sustenance. In our modern world we might also think not only of having sufficient bread but also having enough of all things which go towards our daily living. It is right that we should look to God for all our needs and be thankful for that they are usually supplied. It may also serve to remind us that our real needs are very few and simple, as distinct from our wants which may be limitless.

So in this prayer for bread, there is a request that the heavenly Father will supply all our needs by granting us the means to obtain them. He does not shower loaves of bread from heaven, nor even the money to purchase them. But under His good providence, He provides the means by which they may be obtained and we should be thankful to Him for our jobs, our pensions, or whatever benefit we have by which our 'daily bread' is made sure to us.

In the Bible, however, we are taught that 'man cannot live by bread alone'. Importantly, though food is for our natural bodies, our needs are for more than creature comforts. The very first of the temptations which came to Jesus Christ in the Judean wilderness was that he should use his God-given power to make stones into bread to satisfy his hunger. He refused, knowing that to obey God was even more important. He answered and said: "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4). In this saying of Jesus, there is a recognition that 'bread' is necessary to human life, but that it is not of first importance. You need the blessing of all that is in the prayers for daily bread: these alone are not sufficient. We have needs for the spiritual side of our nature, as well as for the natural. The word of God is food for the mind in the same way that bread is for bodily recovery. And the word of God embodied in Jesus Christ is the 'Bread of Life' without which we cannot live in the spiritual sense (John 6:33).

In this simple request of the Lord's prayer, we are asking God to supply all our needs, both physical and spiritual, and to do so on a daily basis. It was the servant Job who declared, "I have esteemed the word of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12) – and so should we.

In the wilderness the Lord sent "bread from heaven" in the form of manna, on a regular daily basis (Exodus 16:21). So it must be responsible for us to read the word of God daily, just as we receive our daily bread in the form of regular meals. To pray to God to give us each day our daily bread and yet ignore His word of life is a contradiction.

We need to stick to reading the bible regularly using our Bible reading plans. The *Bible Companion* we have will enable us to read the whole Bible at least once each year. This is indeed 'daily bread' to those who use it.

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