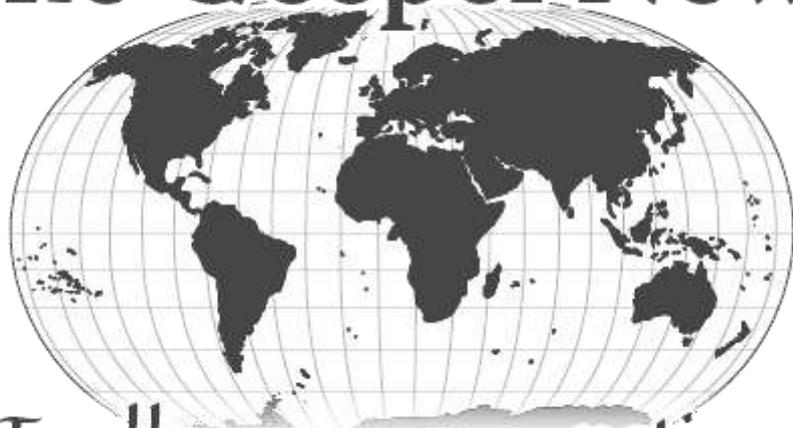
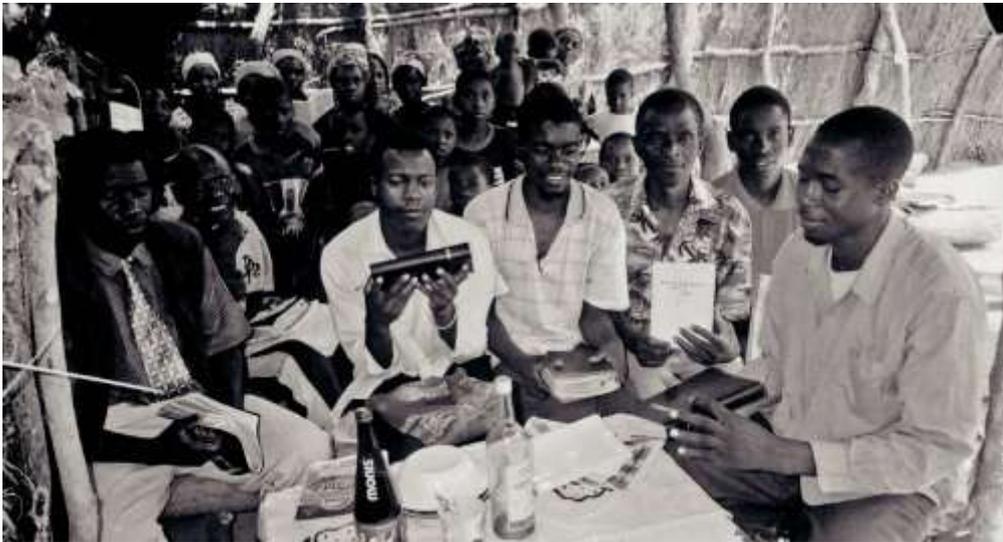


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



EDITORIAL: Sensitivity

We live in a world which is becoming desensitized and almost dehumanized. From the hard looks of chic women to the indifference of an old man dropping a candy wrapper on the street, this world is hard and getting harder. We who have the spirit of Jesus, the mind of Christ, are not to live as the world, who sin because they are “past feeling”, apathetic, without pathos, without sensitivity (Eph. 4:19), with a blind mind (another figure for insensitivity), with a vain heart, and who have *therefore* given themselves over to the life of selfish greediness and petty materialism. The lack of true emotion, pathos and passion in our postmodern world is all a reflection of this chronic insensitivity. Paul’s comment is that “you have not so learned Christ” (Eph. 4:20). To have His mind, His spirit, is to be sensitive both to God and man; and to thereby live with feeling and passion. Like Paul we will rejoice with those who rejoice, and feel so connected with our brethren that if one of them stumbles, we as it were ourselves feel the fire of their future condemnation spreading over us right now (2 Cor. 11:29).

Our inspiration to live soft in this hard world comes from the spirit, the way of being, the pattern, the essence, of the Father and His Son. The way the Lord healed people reflects His sensitivity- He commanded food to be brought for a girl who had been dead and was therefore hungry (Lk. 8:55). And on an even higher level, He is given the title “The Spirit” because His spirit / mind is at one with both God and us; hence, Romans 8 explains, He is such a matchless Mediator. He is simply so sensitive to our thinking as well as God’s.

The Sensitive Lord

The sensitivity of both God and the Bible writers is indicated by the way in which the inspired writers often sense the likely response to what they have just written, and engage with that response ahead of time. Thus after having written of the resurrection, Paul foresees the response, and goes on: “But someone will say, How are the dead raised up?” (1 Cor. 15:35). Your homework can be to look for other examples of this kind of thing, especially in Romans. What we are to learn in practice is that we should anticipate the likely response of others to our words, actions and positions- rather than bluntly present “truth” (as we perceive it) without any care for their response to it. For we aren’t simply ‘witnessing truth’ to people in an in-your-face manner; but seeking to win them for Christ, to walk at one with them in the same steps and same spirit.

The way the Lord speaks with Peter in Jn. 21:15-17 is an essay in His sensitivity and having thought about how Peter would be feeling, the assurances he would need, the questions he was likely asking himself, the challenge he would be facing, the encouragement he would need on the path to salvation. We need to engage with others in this same way. Jesus had already met Peter twice since His resurrection, but hadn’t raised the obvious issue of Peter’s denials. And now He does it only *after* He has first eaten with Peter. We must bear in mind that to eat together, especially to take bread and give it to others, implied acceptance and religious fellowship (Jn. 21:13 - reminiscent of the breaking of bread, the same words for ‘bread’, ‘take’ and ‘give’ are found in Mt. 26:26). The Lord firstly fellowshiped with Peter and only then moved on to probe the issue of his disloyalty, after having first affirmed His abiding love for Peter. He had tried to arrange circumstance to provoke Peter to himself engage with the issue- for the triple questioning, the triple invitation to work for Him, all took place by a fire of coals - just as Peter’s triple denials had. We see clearly portrayed here the gentle, seeking spirit of the Lord

“You know that I love you” was met by the Lord with the comment that Peter must feed His sheep. This wasn’t so much a commandment / commission, as the Lord explaining that Peter’s

love for Him personally would be reflected in the degree to which Peter loved the Lord's sheep. John grasped this clearly, when he underlines throughout his letters that we cannot have love for God without loving our brethren. The Father and Son are to be identified with their people. "Lovest thou me?" was a question for Peter's benefit, not in order to give the Lord information which He didn't then have. His great sensitivity to Peter led Him to foresee the obvious question in Peter's mind: 'Has He forgiven me?'. And the Lord is saying that Peter knows the answer insofar as Peter knows how much he loves Jesus, on the principle that whoever loves much has been forgiven much (Lk. 7:47). The allusion back to that incident in Luke 7 is confirmed by the way that the phrase 'to love more' occurs elsewhere only there, in Lk. 7:42: "Which of them will love him [Jesus] most [s.w. "more"]?". Jesus had already forgiven Peter; the answer to Peter's concern about whether he had been forgiven was really 'Yes you have, if you believe it; and if you believe it, you will love me, and according to how much you love me, you will know how much forgiveness you have received'. In all this, we see the careful sensitivity of the Lord Jesus to His people, foreseeing and feeling our doubts and fears, our questions; and responding to them in a profound way.

The Lord Jesus is the same today as He was yesterday. The Gospel records are the history of only what He *began* to do and teach people (Acts 1:1). He didn't interact with a few people for 33 years and then speed off to Heaven, to get on with other things until He returns to earth. No. He is as active in your life and mine as He was in that of Peter.

Our Sensitivity To God

I suspect we all tend to read the Bible subconsciously searching for more evidence for our own pre-conceived ideas, be they doctrinal issues or practical. Yet if this book and these words are truly God's words, and we feel this, then we can actually be nothing other than truly sensitive and open hearted to whatever He is going to teach us through them. We will not seek, therefore, to induce our own conclusions from Scripture, but will rather come seeking to simply be taught, whatever the cost, whatever the surprise. We need to clear our minds as far as we can before we begin our Bible reading, and pray earnestly that what we read there will be for us "the truth"; that we will not read those words to just find our own preconceived ideas there. We are up against this problem continually, when we ask, e.g., a Catholic to read the Biblical record about Mary with a clean, child-like mind, with no expectations as to what we expect to find there. And actually it's still just as hard for us to read Scripture with that same pure mind, as the years pass by after our baptism. Israel 'heard' the word, and yet they did not "hearken" to it (Rom. 10:16,18)- we can hear but not hear. Yet if we really believed that Scripture is inspired, we wouldn't be like this. It is awesome to reflect how those Hebrew letters, those Greek ciphers written on parchment 1950 years ago, were actually the very words of God Almighty. But this is the real import of our understanding of inspiration. Israel literally 'heard' the words of Ezekiel, knowing that a prophet had been among them - but they wouldn't engage with those words. We too can pay such lip service to the doctrine of inspiration - and yet not be truly sensitive to the word we know to be inspired.

In Practice

The command not to murder has its basis in the fact that human life is not for us to use as we will (Ex. 20:13; Lev. 17:11; Gen. 9:6). It is God's life within those other people around us. Others, therefore, are not for us to use as we will. Gentleness and sensitivity to the life of others, in family life, the workplace, on the road... is therefore an outcome of our belief that the 'other' person likewise has been created by God and has life from Him. To drive in an unkind way, to act in a thoughtless way to others' detriment, is therefore the same basic error as taking human life

in murder. When it comes to our brethren, we have in them a unique, God-arranged opportunity to express His sensitivity to us, and our love for Him, through our sensitivity to them. How will they feel if I write this, what are their needs, concerns, fears, questions, insecurities... how will my action, my words, help them towards God's Kingdom? It all seems too great a challenge, for life passes too quickly for us to be able to work out a sensitive response to every situation we enter, every phone call we take. But this is where the concept of the spirit / mind / disposition of Jesus comes so powerfully into play. If we make Him our daily study and meditation, then we can have the mind / spirit of Christ, and somehow we will naturally respond as He would. For "the knowledge of Him" gives us the spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to respond to every man (Eph. 1:17; Col. 4:6).

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 affraid to die and go to hell. In the operation room I prayed and aksed 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 Magesty 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

news from kenya

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

ELDORET

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 23rd 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 14th 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

Ndalú 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 Ndalú 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

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 10th 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. Enyioogu



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 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd 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 91st birthday on July 19th 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 10th, 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 Muntamba

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 29th 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, thankyou 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

Nearly Tricked Out of Money

I have some eye-opening news to share with you, brothers and sisters, of which my sister, Sherry Luskin is witness, because we joined forces to track down the tricks of an adversary (a satan).

This story is about a certain woman whom I only knew for a short while. She seemed to be a holy woman of God. She begged me to lend her money to help her fulfil a vow she had made some time back. She had used her own funds in all sincerity, which were in a named bank in West Africa where they were held to fund orphanages and widows, and to propagate the word of God. It would help to ensure that society upholds the views and beliefs of the Holy Bible once she had the funds. She sent me an application for claiming funds, and I forwarded the application and some information to a named bank in West Africa. I completed all the process required for a claim for funds, and started dealing with the named lawyer who asked me for some dollars for processing the documents required to transfer funds to Zambia. I used money reserved to pay rent for the house I am currently occupying. The woman kept encouraging me with the word of God almost every day. Fortunately, God opened my eyes to her constant and continuing requests. I invented a plan to find out if there were any tricks the woman was using.

Finally, the lawyer demanded thousands of dollars to finish the process of transfer of funds. Brothers and sisters, without the power of God I would have been in bad debt which would have landed me in prison. The woman I have talked about is so crafty and tricky with the word of God that, if not very careful, you can be deceived. Jesus warned his disciples about people of such character (Matt 24:24), for there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

This woman is a devil, and I have written this account to open the minds of those Christians who believe in the supernatural being, the devil. There is, in fact, no such being as the devil. This vicious woman is a devil to me, in the same way that Job's friends were his devils or adversaries: Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar (Job 42:7-9).

Brothers and sisters, let us be vigilant and faithful in the works of God to shame adversaries, until the end.

This experience of mine has built up my faith on a stronger foundation than before, and it shall be a testimony in my life. I would like you to pray for me that God will give me back the funds I have lost, in the same way that God returned all that Job lost.

Comment: I too have had such letters and know of another brother who was seriously tricked by such a letter. As I have said before, there is no one who is going to give you a fortune who you do not know. As the Russian saying goes 'The only free cheese is in a rat's trap – so don't get caught. MH

Bro Christopher Mwewa (Chambishi, Zambia)

The Irreplaceable Name: Jesus

In all our prayers and petitions to God, we use no other name than Jesus. Do we know why there is no other name? It is because there is no substitute for Jesus. Here is why: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isa 9:6),

The angel announced to Joseph, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt 1:21). The Bible is clear on this name, "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which you must be saved" (Acts 4:12). This name, Jesus, is the name which is above every name, and the name of the only one who can save us. No-one can take his place, nor can we approach God without him. Jesus alone is the Mediator between God and men. (1 Tim 2: 5,6).

We acknowledge all the patriarchs and godly men and women of the Bible, but one day everyone will bow before Jesus (Phil 2:9-11). Therefore our hearts should be stirred whenever we think of Jesus – that blessed name which sets captives free, the only name through which salvation will come. No name on earth has meant so much as that of Jesus.

Bro Itai P Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)

Carelinks Reports

RUSSIA

Brother Alexei was a member of the underground church in Russia during the Communist years, and was baptized by us into the true Christ in the early '90s. Since then he has tried to contact as many people as he can with whom he associated in those years, and sought to persuade them of the truths of Scripture and to be properly baptized into Jesus, sending *Bible Basics* all over Russia and making very long journeys to discuss with individuals. One such woman is NADEZHDA, who had been searching for water baptism for a long time. Alexei and his very sick wife sis Vera travelled a long way to be present at the baptism. Here they are arriving after 2 days

of travel, during which Vera suffered epileptic fits.



Alexei led the service, which was held in a quiet spot by the Kuban river. They said the service, standing up reading the Bible in a forest with women wearing head coverings, reminded them very strongly of how they used to worship in the underground church. They commented on their deep gratitude for now having the Bible's message clear in their minds; sister Nadezhda observed that they had worshipped God in sincerity, but now in sincerity and in truth. They also all commented how grateful they are for having copies of *Bible Basics* and other literature in Russian, and also copies of the regular magazine *Zvezda* which keeps the far flung community in Russia in contact with each other. Printing and posting this material is significantly expensive; only your donations enable it to happen.

Despite being in her 60's, Nadezhda works 24-hour shifts for low pay, and has a difficult domestic situation. Spare thought and prayer for our sister, and others locked into such abusive situations. She came straight from night shift, but although tired was absolutely thrilled to be baptized, and was quite overcome with emotion afterwards.



Photos: The baptism service; the baptism; our new sister with Alexei and Vera with *Bible Basics* and *Zvezda* magazine

The Parable Of The Chairs

When we opened the Riga Bible Center, we stood in the shop thinking: We have 15- 20 people coming... so let's get 20 chairs. But no, let's show some faith here... let's get 30 chairs in the hope of increased attendance. Well, a year later, we have 50 people regularly coming and peak attendances of around 70, and the numbers trend upwards all the time. According to our vision... so it can be unto us, and far above that too.

We also have a computer at the Center now. Brother Vlad has his huge files of notes on the Bible, which he's stored for over 35 years. We recently asked him to write up an article about "Logos" in John 1 for our Russian language magazine "Zvezda". We opened up for him and

returned 8 hours later, he was still at it, he had brought with him his files of various Biblical thoughts over those 35 years, and sorted out his various thoughts about John 1:1-14. And started typing them up. We put the zoom on the screen at 300 %, which is huge. He types painfully slowly because of his eyesight and his thoughts were written out in earlier years before his eyesight failed. It was great to see him working away there...We are so glad God allowed us to minister to him and provide the true spiritual family which he's longed for after his journey through so many groups. Here he is with his various notes all around him:



Here's brother Vlad reading his Bible [with great difficulty due to his failing site] outside the Riga Bible Center, waiting for it to open:



You Are the Custodian of God's Creation

Pollution has become a by-word in today's society. The news media constantly portrays examples of the manner in which man, in his carelessness or indifference, is gradually destroying the environment. We are being told of damage to sea life through the outflow of sewage; the pure air is stifling in an atmosphere of smog; green fields and the crystal clear river waters are becoming dumping grounds for refuse. Slowly, but surely, the human race is converting God's creation into a gigantic rubbish dump and the end result of this is obvious.

But pollution does not end there, for it is not confined to things of a tangible nature: standards of life have also become affected. Many people, using progress and this modern age as their excuse, are, as their behaviour deteriorates, deviating from the course of life established and set by Jesus. The language of the gutter is becoming commonplace, permissiveness and the relaxation in moral values are being considered as the norm and honesty and integrity are often considered with amusement, to be old-fashioned.

God created the earth and everything in it and it was good. He created man in His own image and entrusted His creation to mankind. Despite all the failures of the human race, God redeemed believers through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our duty, as Christians, to preserve the beauty of God's creation is clear and unequivocal.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Why Not Try Prayer and Praise? (James 5:13)

When you have a need in life you turn to someone for assistance. It may be that you seek the services of some suitably qualified professional person or you may look to a trusted friend for advice. Whoever it is, you turn to them believing that they may be able to help you. Whatever the outcome you are invariably grateful to them for the assistance they were able to offer and, naturally, you express your gratitude to them.

When you strike a problem in life, in the midst of your anxiety do not forget to take your need to the one who so graciously offers you His friendship and who has invited all who are burdened to come to Him. Seek the comfort and solace of the Lord who cares for you and who understands your needs.

But do not let the matter rest there! Give thanks to God for the assurance that He cares for you and that His hand is upon you guiding you through the maze of life's problems and leading you out of moments of darkness.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

The Temple of God

A long time had elapsed since the return from Babylon permitted by Cyrus, but work on restoring the temple had long since ceased. Haggai's task was to rouse the people so that the work would be started (Haggai ch 1).

When God saw that the people were failing to rebuild His temple, He sent Haggai the prophet to pass the message to Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, Governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadek, the high priest. The people were busy making themselves good houses, yet God's house remained in ruins. We sometimes fail to work for God in favour of our own work, buying new cars, renovating our houses, storing up our own treasures and such like.

Prophet Haggai was telling the people to obey what God was saying. At first, the Jews ignored what the prophet was saying, resulting in the withholding of dew and the infliction of a drought by God. The same can apply to us if we resist God's message; God can use nature to suit His desires (Haggai 1:10,11). God wants us to go out and preach. We must leave the comfort of our homes and do God's work. But he needs us to have a clean heart; this is our clean temple, so that our bodies must be renewed and cleansed spiritually. The apostle Paul reminds us that we are the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16). We must agree to be rebuilt so that God's spirit dwells in us. Do not resist. Let go and let God dwell in us.

Haggai 1:12 shows that the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai. Because they accepted that the Lord their God had sent him, the people feared the Lord. Praise God.

God can raise up someone within our ecclesias to help us preach the word of God and do some work or duties worldwide. The Lord stirred up Zerrubabel, Joshua, Haggai and other people and they began working on the house of God the Almighty. The Jews had taken so long to start God's work because they intermarried with other peoples, not Jews. We must not intermix with strangers especially in marriage. The people of the world can defile us, since our God dwells in us and walks in us. We are His people. God still says 'I am with you'. He wants to shine on you, He wants to glorify you, to sanctify you, because He says, "I am still with you".

Bro Benjamin Makuti (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

QUESTION BOX: Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" Rom. 9:13

Paul in Romans 9-11 doesn't just start talking about predestination and God's love to Israel. He does so within the context of the preceding eight chapters of Romans, in which he has emphasized that the Gospel, the good news, is of salvation for sinners by grace alone. He goes on to talk about Israel as a parade example of this; and whilst we may not fully understand predestination, Paul raises this concept to prove that to some extent, it does exist, and therefore provides another window into the idea of grace - undeserved favour, God just deciding to be kind, nice, forgiving and saving. That His grace doesn't depend upon human works and worthiness is exemplified in His undying love for His people Israel- sinners whom He could have "cast off", indeed He felt like casting them off many times and yet He kept coming back to them because of His grace. To heighten the extent of His radical grace, God speaks of how He loved Jacob but hated Esau. But the idea of 'hate' in this context doesn't involve malice of any kind. The Lord spoke of how we can't serve two masters- we hold to the one and 'hate' the other (Mt. 6:24); and how we can't be His disciple unless we 'hate' our families (Lk. 14:26).

It's been suggested that 'hate' means 'to love less', but this isn't what the original words translated "hate" really means - at best, the "to love less" suggestion is an interpretation, not a translation. The 42 times where the Greek word 'miseo' occurs means 'hate', simple as that. The original passage in Mal. 1:3, "I hated Esau" likewise uses a Hebrew word which unambiguously means 'hate'. Instead of explaining away Hebrew and Greek words, I suggest we need to read this as a literary device, in this case hyperbole, i.e. an exaggeration in order to make a point. Relative to God's bottomless love for Jacob, Esau was as it were 'hated'. But only within the boundaries of the device of hyperbole. The point being made by the hyperbole is simply that 'God loves Jacob / His people an unreasonable and colossal amount'. This may sound strange to the ears of those whose native language is English or some other European language, but in Semitic [and other] languages, hyperbole is so common that it occurs very frequently. Arab media can publish statements that the temperature in Damascus is 500 degrees Centigrade; they mean 'It's very hot'. The IDF kill 5 Palestinian militants in Gaza, and the Arab press speak of "thousands" slain; they mean 'A relatively large number'. To European mindsets, such statements are libellous, inaccurate, lacking in integrity and so forth. But that perception comes from the relatively literalistic, precise usage of language in the European languages [not least English]; the relationship between words and meaning simply functions differently, and in a far

more elastic sense, in a language like Hebrew or Arabic. At the risk of generalizing, we could say that the Semitic languages require more interpretation to be provided by the reader / listener. It tends, therefore, to be Europeans who have a problem with statements like, "I hated Esau" rather than native speakers of the original languages. God doesn't irrationally hate some human beings because of their ethnicity. Indeed, the parable of the prodigal son is shot through with allusion to the story of Jacob and Esau; the prodigal younger son finally returns from exile, but the Father still protests His eternal love for the elder son too. But that's homework for the enthusiast.

Duncan Heaster

Can We Believe the Bible?

After Adam and Eve, the first man and woman on earth, God spoke to them through His angels (for no man can see God and live). When God through the angel visited Adam and Eve when they had sinned: "Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden and they hid among the trees of the garden" (Gen 3:8). Sin interrupted the contact of man with God.

After sin entered into the world, God communicated with people through the prophets and the apostles. "Surely the sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants" (Amos 3:7). God has not left us in darkness concerning life and its meaning. He has revealed to us His answers to life's great questions. The prophets and apostles gave us God's messages by voice and pen while they lived, and when they died their writings lived on after them. These prophetic messages were then gathered together under God's lead in the book we call the Bible.

But how reliable are these writings?

"You must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20,21). The Holy Spirit revealed to the prophets and apostles the message of 'Glad Tidings' of the scriptures. The writers of the Bible wrote not according to their own will, but only as they were moved, or controlled by the spirit of God. The Bible is God's own book.

In the Bible God tells us about Himself and reveals His purpose to the human race. The Bible is a book of history, prophecy and of promises outlining God's plan of salvation for mankind. It not only shows God's view of the past but also opens up the future situation of man, telling us how the problem of evil will be resolved and how peace will finally be established on this earth we live in.

Is all the Bible message from God?

"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16,17). The Holy Bible affects human beings so profoundly because "all" the words written in the Bible are God breathed. The Bible is more than a nice collection of principles: it is more than a great book: it is an inspired document: God's book. The prophets wrote what they saw and heard in human language, but their message came direct from God.

If you want to know what life is all about, read the Bible honestly and prayerfully. You will find your attitude and outlook gradually changing. The more you study the Bible, the more you are exposed to the spirit of God, the real author of the Bible, and hence the more peace of mind you will experience.

If you want to become a child of God, obey the commandments written in the Bible. If you want your sins to be blotted out, you must be baptised into the saving name of Jesus. If you want to enter the coming kingdom of God, keep close to holy scriptures OF THE BIBLE.

Bro Isaac Kapa (Tangaren, Kenya)

Judgement Day

The life of a human being is recorded a bit like a book of accounts, in which every record of deeds is made. The credit column will reflect the good works and the debit column will bear witness to those occasions on which, in disregard of the Master's commandments, one has transgressed.

Christ is coming to judge the world. He deals with each in a personal manner, but there are certain basic principles that apply to everyone who accepts Jesus Christ. The forgiving love of Jesus is an accepted truth which is beyond all doubt, but the fact remains that each one will be called to give account of themselves before God. To enable us to anticipate with joy the coming of the risen Lord and the promised eternal life in the Kingdom of God, it is necessary for us to take stock of our life, paying careful attention to those areas where we fail. We must make reparation where necessary, learning from past mistakes and prayerfully repenting of our failings, which will result in the deletion of them from the debit side. Jesus has, in effect, forgiven these debts. In so doing we will be ready to face our Master when we are called to account. Let us plant the seed of victory in our minds: however small and delicate it may be, let it mature under the influence of prayer and meditation. If the weeds of doubt attempt to choke it, remember that God is the Divine gardener who longs to see the seed mature and grow. Think, pray and act victoriously. When defeat and failure threaten to swamp us, hold fast to the rock of believing victoriously, and when the tide has ebbed, we will rise above those things which have defeated us for so long.

Bro. Farai Makandeni (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

The Fifth Commandment

Let us take a glimpse at the fifth commandment: "Honour your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land your God is giving you" (Ex20:12 NIV). Thus this is a commandment with promise. The intention of the commandment is love. Brother Paul sent the exhortation to the people of Corinth, with the words: "Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs ..." (1 Cor 13:4,5). This is a chapter of love.

The Pharisees tried to disobey the fifth commandment by using commandment number one. Our Lord Jesus Christ rebuked them as told in Matt 15:3-9. It is worthwhile reading these verses.

We have an example in how the harlot Rahab and the spies in Joshua 2. She collaborated with the spies, a dangerous thing to do, because it could have been regarded as treason. She pleaded with the spies that her family, including her father and mother, be spared when the Israelite army came to destroy the city. Joshua 6:25 tells us that her family were spared. Her wishes were granted and Joshua 2:13 makes it clear that her mother and father were included. This is an example of love towards mother and father.

So here you are, brothers and sisters: do you show love to your Mum and Dad by just saying the words, 'I love you, Mum and Dad'? Or does your behaviour and disrespectful behaviour make your parents sick and tired of you? Do you cause stress to them, putting up their blood pressure and causing heart problems? Remember that the commandment carries a promise: God does not lie. Obey His commandments.

Our Lord Jesus Christ loved and respected his Father, God, so much that he did not sin. He was a good child during his youth. When Mary and Joseph were looking for him when he remained behind at the temple in Jerusalem, he did not shout at them with harsh words but he told them what he was doing in his Father's house. The last words of Luke 2:51 are remarkable. He was obedient to them, Joseph and Mary, and he grew in wisdom and stature.

Jesus knew that he was going to be absent for three days after his crucifixion. He arranged that the disciple whom he loved, to be with Mary at their home. Mary was told to take that disciple as her son (John 19:26,27). From that time, the disciple took Mary to his house as his mother. Jesus showed love to his mother even though he was hanging on the cross. What great love!

So, honour your father and mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Praise God.

Bro Benjamin Makuti (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)

Similarities Between Moses and Jesus

| | MOSES | JESUS |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Order by King of Egypt to kill baby sons of Israelites Exodus 1:15,16,22 | Order by King Herod to kill young children Matthew 2:16 |
| 2. | Birth of Moses Exodus 2:1,2 | Birth of Jesus Christ Matthew 2:1-3 |
| 3. | Hiding of baby son Moses Exodus 2:2-5 | Hiding of baby son Jesus Matthew 2:13-15 |

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 4. | Moses was an Israelite Exodus 2:6 | Jesus was an Israelite (Jew) John 4:22 |
| 5. | King (Pharaoh) dies Exodus 2:23 | King (Herod) dies Matthew 2:19 |
| 6. | Moses was faithful Numbers 12:6-8 | Jesus was faithful 1 Corinthians 10:23; Heb 2:17,18; Rev 1:5 |
| 7. | Moses was kind (Num12:3) | Jesus was kind Heb 14:18 |
| 8. | Moses led people out of Egyptian slavery Exodus 12:31,42; 13:3; Hebrews 3:16 | Jesus led people out of slavery of sin John 8:34-37; 1 John 3:8; Romans 6:13-20 |
| 9. | Moses led Israel out on first of Abib Ex 13:3,4; 16;1-3,6; 12:2,6; 34:18 | Jesus led spiritual Israel out on first of Abib Matt 26:17-27; Mrk 14:1-26 |
| 10. | Moses and manna in the desert Exodus 17:5,6 | Jesus and spiritual manna in desert Mark 6:34-44; 8:3-8 |
| 11. | Moses and water in the desert Exodus 17:5,6 | Jesus and spiritual water in the spiritual desert John 7:37-39 |

These are a few of the similarities between Jesus and Moses: readers may like to explore further comparisons.

Bro Martin Silwani (Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania)

The First Sign of the Lord

Jesus, first miracle was the turning of water into wine at Cana (John2:1-11). Even the name “Cana” seems to imply resurrection, for it signifies the place of reeds, coming from a root word signifying to erect, to cause to stand up.

This marriage reminds us of the coming marriage of Christ to his bride after the resurrection. The wine at the marriage feast had run out and Mary, Jesus’ mother, said to the servants, “Whatsoever he says to you, do it.” The water pots stood for the righteousness of the Law which, however, could not provide joy and happiness at the marriage feast. Christ’s first miracle turned water into wine, the symbol of rejoicing in new life. Moses also by a miracle turned water into blood (Exodus 7:17).



Bro Charles Daka.

Bro Charles Daka (Mufulira, Zambia)

“...They May Receive You Into Everlasting Habitations” (Luke 16:9)

The word “habitation” only occurs six times in the New Testament and is a translation of five different Greek words. In Luke 16:9 the Greek word is ‘skene’ and although this is the only place where it is translated by “habitation”, ‘skene’ is also translated in 19 other places by the word “tabernacles”.

However, these refer to various types of dwelling-places that can be identified by their context. Here are some examples:

1. The booth, which was constructed with leafy branches such as was described for the feast of tabernacles. This was the type in mind when Peter said, “Let us make three tabernacles; one for thee (Jesus) and one for Moses, and one for Elias” (Matt.17:4).
2. The portable building, used for the worship of God in the wilderness. This type is referred to by Paul in Hebrews 9:2; “There was a tabernacle made...” Its details and uses are described in the rest of the chapter.
3. A large tent, used as a dwelling. This is also mentioned by Paul in Hebrews 11:9, “By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise...dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.”
4. A building erected to house an idol. There are a few instances of this type.

“The tabernacle of God is with men”

Although the remarkable phrase ‘everlasting habitations’ only occurs once, there is this passage in Scripture that has similarities and occurs in Revelation 21:3. It reads; “Behold the, tabernacle (skene) of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God.” In this wonderful verse, much emphasis is placed on God dwelling and being with men. This close association is indeed the very purpose for which God created the human race in the beginning. Although the Creator is referred to here by the simple title ‘God’, there is no doubt that He wants and expects His people to recognise His greatness and majesty. This is evident from the way He reveals Himself in Scripture. For example in Isaiah 40:28-31, we read:-

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the LORD (Yahweh), the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ...They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.” (v.28-31)

With such a God in mind as we return to further consider verse 3 in Revelation 21, we may well wonder who, exactly, are these 'men' with whom God will dwell? Surely they must be the redeemed saints who have been made immortal and are now equal unto the angels, having been accounted worthy to obtain that world and the resurrection (Luke 20:35-36).

It is difficult to imagine the feeling of awe when being and living in the presence of God Almighty and having fellowship with Him whom we have been calling "Our Father in heaven" if we are going to be there. We should have no fear, for Jesus has said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." (Matt.5:8)

The use of Mammon

One of the qualifications for this wonderful destiny was stated by our Lord Jesus in the preceding phrases in our quotation with which we started. He said, "And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of (Greek, out of) the mammon of *unrighteousness*'. A dictionary definition is 'wealth regarded as idol or evil influence...' In our context, Jesus said, "make friends of it."

To illustrate this point Jesus had just spoken a parable in which a worldly steward had made friends with his lord's debtors by making substantial reductions to their debts. In the Christadelphian brotherhood friends can be made by those who are able by helping our brothers and sisters who are in real need. In our modern world this usually takes the form of financial assistance. The Apostle Paul made a point of this when instructing Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. He wrote, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, which giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." The phrases 'ready to distribute, willing to communicate' literally mean providing money or goods and sharing their wealth with their needy brethren and sisters.

The parable of the Judgement Seat

In his parable of the judgement seat (Matt.25:31) Jesus described a broad range of practical help to our brethren in need. When describing these various acts of kindness, Jesus added; "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." (v.40) In this statement Jesus reveals the closeness of the fellowship Jesus has with his needy brethren, however lowly they might be. It is these assisted brethren, then, who are the 'friends' Jesus has in mind. Because Jesus identifies himself with them, it is Jesus who, in effect, becomes the friend! In that case, it is Jesus who, when you fail, "may receive you into everlasting habitations."

It may be objected that Jesus said, "*they* may receive you etc.", using a plural pronoun. This change in number can be understood by the fact that Jesus will be assisted by a multitude of angels when he returns and gathers the saints for judgement – and – their rewards. This is clear from what he said in his Mount Olivet prophecy, "*He*" (Jesus) shall send forth his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and *they* shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt.24:31).

There should be no doubt, then, that this gathering together of the elect included the ones Jesus had in mind when he said that having made friends out of the mammon of unrighteousness they would be received into everlasting habitations.

Bro. Ralph Green, (Torquay, UK)

All Men Sin

Taking the account of creation, God gave instructions to a man, saying, “Do not eat the fruit in the middle of the garden of Eden. The day that you eat thereof, you will surely die” (Genesis 3:3). Afterwards, the serpent came to confuse the woman (did it know that if it spoke to the man, nothing would have happened?). “If you eat of the fruit, you will be clever like God, and you will not die”(v 4). From that time, all have offended God by sinning. Sin is universal, and no-one is exempt from the presence and effect of sin (Rom 3:1-23). Sin affects our whole being including:

- Our will (John 8:3)
- Our mind (1 Corinthians 1:21)
- Our emotions (Romans 1:24-27)
- Our thoughts (Mark 7:21)
- Our behaviour (Galatians 5:19-21)
- Our speech (Psalm 5:9)

Sin is the root cause of all mankind’s problems, be they war, crime, disease, poverty or death. Ultimately, sin is an act against God. It is a violation of the perfect holiness of God (1 John 3:4; Rom 3:23). It is the nature, or attitude, within us that causes us to do evil/wrong. Sin can be seen as:

- The outward acts that we commit
- The inner corrupted moral and spiritual nature that causes us to commit these acts.
- Missing the mark, erring (Ex 32:30; Ps 51:9)
- Active rebellion, or transgression of God’s will (Pro 28:3)
- Going astray (Lev 4:13)
- Unrighteousness (1 Cor 6:8)

The origin of sin is always in man (Gen 3:6; Romans 5:12).

The penalty of sin is death. In the day of judgement, those who are rejected will die and have no further existence. The disciples of the Lord need not fear death, because, Jesus brought in forgiveness and salvation through his life, death and resurrection. We are no longer subject to eternal death if we seek forgiveness through Jesus.



Bro Jonathan Johnstone at work

Bro Jonathan Johnstone (Kasese, Uganda)

Abraham

There is an incident in the life of Abraham when he has a prayer apparently refused and it is significant and instructive. It is recorded in Gen 17. When God had first called Abraham to leave his home, He promised the childless Abraham that he would have children and that his descendants would become “a great nation”.

Abraham waited for eleven years and no child was born to him. There being no adoption agencies, Abraham followed the advice of Sarah, his wife, and produced a son named Ishmael by his wife’s maid Hagar.

This introduces us to one of the greatest problems of prayer, that of the time factor. Abraham waited a long time by our standards, and then tried to help God out. What he did not realise is that time in the plans of God is different from our timetable. “With the Lord, one day is as a thousand years” (2 Peter 3:8). Again, “My thoughts are not your thoughts” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa 55:8,9).

After the birth of Ishmael to Abraham by Hagar, Ishmael became a firm favourite with Abraham. At the time of the incident, he was thirteen years old and the centre of Abraham’s affection. A great day occurred when God made a special appearance to Abraham to announce that He was about to enter into a new contract or covenant with him. Part of the blessing God was going to give him was that, in a matter of months, Sarah, his wife, would bear him a son.

There were two snags. First, Abraham was too fond of Ishmael to permit any other child to take his place and second, the age factor – Abraham was ninety nine years old, and Sarah ninety. What is more, she had never been able to bear children. Abraham’s first response was to laugh, the second, to pray. What was his prayer? “O that Ishmael might live in thy sight” (Gen 17:18). In other words, his prayer was that instead of another son, God would accept Ishmael as his heir. The response of God to his prayer was immediate and to the point: “No. Sarah your wife shall bear you a son and you shall call his name Isaac” (v 19).

God refused to answer the prayer of Abraham for a good reason. First, God was going to prove that He was a miracle-working God. Second, He had specially chosen Abraham and Sarah as the originators of stock that would become the nation of Israel. Third, He was a God who did not break His promises. He was a covenant-keeping God.

Abraham’s prayer did nothing to change the purposes of God because He had something far greater in store for Abraham. The only thing the prayer did to Abraham was that he experienced a day bright with the sunshine of God’s special appearance and of His special promise.

Bro Fred Mumba (Mufulira, Zambia)

Repentance and Confession of Sin Leads to Peace of Mind

Maybe you feel the heavy load of past sins weighing you down and you feel you have more than you can bear. The Lord offers the remedy: “Repent you, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19). “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives” (1 John 1:9,10). “As a result, you will have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1).

In the 23rd Psalm, David expresses his confidence in God. He gives a very descriptive message of the peace he experienced. This peace and fellowship is for all those who have vital companionship with the Shepherd.

Bro Mangeni Rogers & Sis Margaret Nabwire (Busia, Uganda)

Sober and Sound

Being sober is, of course, the opposite of being drunk. While conceding that the Bible does not forbid its moderate use, the abuse of alcohol is condemned. Many are convinced that the Bible condones social drinking and refer to several scriptures to make their case.

In combating any dangers, Paul uses two terms repeatedly to highlight attributes a disciple will need in his arsenal. The first is ‘soundness’, a term with a sense of being whole, complete, or fully functioning. This is how doctrine and speech should be. A bishop must hold, first, the faithful word, so that he is able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince the gainsayers (Titus 1:9). He must show himself an example, with sound speech that cannot be condemned.

A second attribute for the disciple is ‘sobriety’. Unlike the drunk – out of control, not fully aware of what is going on, feeling that everything is good and that he is more capable than is in fact the case – the sober disciple is alert, quick, able to assess and reason and make sensible decisions. The aged men must be sober, grace and temperate (Titus 2:2). Drinking harms the body (1 Cor 6:19,20). The aged women likewise, that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands and children. Drinking attacks homes, causes suicide, murder, child abuse and assaults in the home (wife-beating plus or minus divorce). Young men likewise, Titus exhorts to be sober-minded (v 6). Drinking leads to other ills (1 Thes 5:22).

The first parts of the brain to be put to sleep by alcohol are those areas associated with judgement, self-control and reason. Alcohol breaks down inhibitions and contributes to immoral behaviour, including sexual promiscuity; it is a factor in crime, prostitution, gambling and drug addiction. The grace of God has appeared teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly (Titus 2:11,12).

Bro Jacktone Ukiru (Ndhiwa, Kenya)

Building for Retirement

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house-building business and live with his wife, enjoying his extended family. He would miss the pay cheque, but he needed to retire. The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go, and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter replied that he would, but as time went by it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship with inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter had finished his work, the employer came to inspect the house. He handed the key to the carpenter, "This is your house", he said, "my gift to you". The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If only he had known he was building his own house, he would have done it so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then with a shock we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over again, we'd do it very differently. We are carpenters. Each day we hammer a nail, place a board or erect a wall. The attitudes and choices we make today build the 'house' we live in tomorrow. Build wisely!

Bro Lajabga Nyomiro (Bolero, Malawi)

OUR REFUGEE BRETHREN – Resettling Operation to be done in Stages

"Things deemed impossible I dare, thine is the call, and thine the care, thy wisdom shall the way prepare..." Thy will be done" (extract from hymn 156).

In my last issue on resettling our refugee brethren, I wrote about someone, who had initiated a training programme in modern farming for refugees from various countries, to help them integrate into American life in a part of the US, offering his own land for this project, with very positive results for both the refugees and the region. I also mentioned that we have brethren with similar abilities as the person who started this programme – some of whom are actually in touch with our refugee brethren in the camps, and in a position to provide helpful information. Moreover, we have the power of the support of our Heavenly Father, who is even more concerned about his distressed children, also the numerous scriptural examples he has provided us, of his miraculous operation with his children, working through people like ourselves, encouraging us to do our part on their behalf, emphasizing by his oft repeated assurances that he is with us. With this in view, we should not be deterred by what appears to us to be insurmountable difficulties, but dare to start in the faith that he will see us through. One such example is Nehemiah who placed his entire plan in God's hand, praying through each problem, starting with his prayer for release from his job as the King's Cupbearer to go to rebuild Judah, the city of his fathers' sepulchres. (Nehemiah 1: 5).

"With confident and humble mind, freedom in service I would find, praying through every toil assigned, thy will be done"

Nehemiah was clearly one of God's faithful and loyal servants through whom he would work to do his bidding. He approached his project in an organized manner, with faith in God's support – thoroughly preparing his plans in advance, carefully surveying the area of operation before beginning the work. He then encouraged his fellow Jews by telling them *"of the hand of my*

God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me.” Their response – “Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.” We should do likewise.

Different groups were assigned their portion of work, which they did in an orderly manner – Ch. 3: 1 ¶ *Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel. And next unto him builded the men of Jericho . And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri. 3 But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof. 4 And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana. 5 And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord. etc.* This was a determined and coordinated effort, but there are always those people who are unwilling to make any effort, as with the nobles mentioned above. This shows how, with planning and co-operation, the work was accomplished, *working in stages, as our great Creator did with his work of creation.*

Nehemiah 6: 15 “*So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.*” despite persistent and fierce opposition. The NIV notes – “*the walls that lay in ruins for nearly a century and half were rebuilt in less than two months galvanized into action by Nehemiah*”. God, in response to Nehemiah’s continuous prayers gave him the necessary energy and blessing to accomplish what seemed to be an insurmountable task. It will be same with us, if we, in faith like Nehemiah, make the effort.

Thine is the power around me now, faithful I stand in will and vow: I conquer, yet not I, but thou. Thy will be done”

Sister Esther Worrell does a lot of excellent work in endeavouring to help our refugee Brethren and Sisters and would appreciate ideas from our readers as to ways of helping such. Please contact her direct. Sis ESTHER WORRELL, 603- 1701 LAMPMAN AV, BURLINGTON, ONTARIO L7L 6R7, CANADA.

Sister Esther Worrell (Canada)

Are You Convinced of What You Believe?

The Lord Jesus foretold events that would happen in the future, so many and some of which may make even believers fail to hold on to their faith (Matt 24:10,24). The Lord in his words puts more emphasis on standing firm to the end, because “even the elect could fall ...” due to the difficulties those who believe would experience (also Luke 21:34-36; Rev 16:15).

There are so many things, so many teachings that a number of people have come to hear and accept as the whole truth. But one may wonder why there are so many churches, so many doctrines, and so many beliefs. Ask such a person and they will tell you, “As long as you know what you do”, or, “It’s the same God we know”. And the question comes to mind: Does it matter what we believe in?

Really this is something worth thinking about. What we believe in should always be in harmony with what God's true message and teaching is, or we find ourselves doing things that do not please Him and think we are right. It's either we are in the right path and others are not, or otherwise. What we preach should reflect what we are, not like the 'hypocrites'.

So, what things do we believe in, that we really are convinced of? Here are some:

- There is only one true God, the Creator and Father of all. True! And our God is a jealous God! (Ex 20:1-6). He alone should be worshipped.
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the only Mediator between God and man. And we are all his brethren (and friends) if we do his and the father's commands will. True! (Luke 1:26-38; Heb 2:10-15).
- There is no supernatural being called satan or devil who makes people sin, and punishes them, but that sin resides in man, and all things come from God and His will should always prevail. True! (Is 45:5-7; Rom 7:14-25).
- That the righteous will possess the land and not go to heaven. God's kingdom will be on earth. It will be 'heavenly' because Jesus will return from heaven and rule and not man (Matt 5:1-10; Ps 37:9-11; Gen 18:16-19). And what was promised in Gen 12:1-3 A blessing, and possession of the land.
- A partaking of the emblems, (bread and wine) shows our fellowship with, and in, the Lord, and it should be done as often as we can (1 Cor 10:14-17; 11:23-29).

Now a time of trial is certainly coming. Those who belong to the Lord will not fear anything. They will always overcome all those who try to hinder their progress in the things of God. If we are such people, dear brethren and sisters, then we should do the things the Lord tells us to. We have to try by all means to be like him, standing firm to the end, and being faithful to the point of death. Then we shall be saved. Consider pure gold or copper. For it to be dear to the user it has to undergo treatment – in a hot furnace. And our faith is likened to gold. It has to be tried, purified, for it to be strong (worthy).

There are a number of things that need to be pointed out, as to what we believe, but just a few we've looked at. We really should watch the 'false' teachings and beliefs, and be able to teach the sound doctrines and practicing the same ourselves. We should be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks about our faith, and explain our conviction from the Bible (1 Peter 3:13-16).

Bro Silas K Chishimba (Kitwe, Zambia)

How Honest Are You?

"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts" (Ps 51:6). Honesty is the virtue of truthfulness relating to all the issues of life, and concerns the inner heart. God is honest Himself (Deut 32:4) and knows the thoughts and intents of the heart, and knows whether we are honest.

Do you tell the truth when you might be found out, but be less than honest when no-one will know?

Do you knowingly leave someone with a false impression?

Do you make purchases on credit when you know you don't have the ability to pay?

Do you tell God how it really is when you pray?

Do you honestly do everything that you know God wants you to do?

Are you honest concerning the teachings of the Bible?

Are you the person you pretend to be?

There is an impressive story in the New Testament of a man, Ananias, and his wife, Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). They sold their property, as many others also had done, but they made a pretence of giving the whole sum to the church. When they jointly agreed to keep some back, Ananias and Sapphira brought some money to the church leaders, saying they had sold it for the amount they were giving. Their dishonesty was immediately judged by God and punished by death. In this account of the early church, hypocrisy (dishonesty) was severely punished. God looks seriously at such falsehood. We can easily be like Ananias and Sapphira, giving a false impression. We can overlook our accountability before God. He knows our hearts, and expects complete honesty.

A hypocrite pretends to be someone or some thing he is not. He may claim to be truthful. He may not be careful when it is to his advantage to stretch the truth. He may talk of the needs of the unfortunate, but is not generous in giving time and money when disaster strikes. He may be ready to take someone else's money as long as he is not caught. He may pretend to be concerned about his neighbours and yet find it easy to gossip about them. In all these things he is a dishonest hypocrite.

The hypocrisy of man has always grieved God. Jesus said, "This people draws nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Matt 15:8). Bringing the heart and the lips together is the challenge for man. Honesty from the core of our being is the key to finding grace and favour with the Lord.

A true Christian prospers spiritually when honest before God. This means we must also be honest to our fellowmen, including in business dealings, so that we can have confidence in one another. If necessary, we must be willing to make any sacrifice for the sake of the truth.

There is a lesson we can learn from the following experience. A teacher asks a boy, "Would you tell a lie for three cents?" "No, ma'am" replied the youngster. "Would you tell a lie for ten cents?" "No, ma'am", said the boy. "Would you tell a lie for a dollar?" "No, ma'am" was the reply. "Would you tell a lie for a thousand dollars?" "My," he said to himself, "What wouldn't I do for a thousand dollars?" This boy was very honest.

Do you say you are walking in the light of God, while at the same time doing such evil works as:

- Not forgiving your brother or sister
- Not making amends when you have wronged someone
- Exaggerating the truth

- Breaking a promise
- Robbing God of offerings

Honesty is a test of character. God knows our hearts and there is nothing hidden from Him. Our motives and attitudes need to be submitted to the honesty test. We need to be faithful, honest, kind, loving, respectful, and joyful if we want God to forgive our sins.

Bro Mangeni Rogers (Busia, Uganda)

Abiding Peace

When you come to Jesus Christ with your whole heart, your search for peace of mind will be over. He will give peace, and calm that comes only from trusting Him. You will be able to say with the poet:

“I know a peace, where there is no peace,
A calm where wild winds blow,
A secret place where face to face
With the master I may go.”

You will have peace of mind in a troubled world, if you open the door of your heart to Christ – just now – and some day he’ll open the door of his heavenly kingdom for you, where perfect peace will reign and never end.

Bro Mangeni Rogers & Margaret Nabwire (Busia, Uganda)

The Lord is My Hiding Place

David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel, was ever mindful of the goodness and grace of our Heavenly Father: “The Lord is my Light and my salvation - the Lord is the strength of my life” and so God cares for us in every possible way. “For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me, He shall set me up on a rock” (Psalm 27 : 1-5).

It is a wonderful thing to know that the angels of God’s presence place their arms of love around us to guide and encourage us in the ways of the Truth.

“Oh how great is Thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man; thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavillion from the strife of tongues” (Psalm 31 : 19,20).

The apostle Paul’s words confirm these thoughts in 2 Cor 6:9 Where he says, “We are as unknown and yet well known” To the world we are unknown, to God well known, because our life is hid with Christ in God our hiding place.

Our memorial meetings are a hiding Place shut away from the world outside and where Jesus presides as our unseen Guest. A time of refreshing and fellowship of the spirit, which the world

could not know or understand. It is special and unique for the saint of God. The Psalmist explains it for us so well in His prayer of confidence and self- assurance, Psalm 32:7 “Thou art my hiding place, thou shalt preserve me from trouble, thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance”

Let us then rejoice and be glad in the Lord.

Bro Sigit Sugiarto (Indonesia)

My Child...

You may not know me, but I know everything about you ... Psalm 139:1.

I know when you sit down and when you rise up ... Psalm 139:2.

I am familiar with all your ways ... Psalm 139:3.

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ... Matthew 10:29-31.

For you were made in my image Genesis 1:27.

In me you live and move and have your being Acts 17:28.

For you are my offspring Acts 17:28.

I knew you even before you were conceived Jeremiah 1:4,5.

I chose you when I planned creation Ephesians 1:11,12.

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book Psalm 139:15,16.

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live Acts 17:26.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made Psalm 139:14.

I knit you together in your mother's womb . Psalm 139:13.

And brought you forth on the day you were born . Psalm 71:6.

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me John 8:41-44.

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love 1 John 4:16.

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you 1 John 3:1.

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could Matthew 7:11.

For I am the perfect father Mat 5:48.

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand ... James 1:17.

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope Jer 31:3.

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore Psalm 139:17,18.

And I rejoice over you with singing Zephaniah 3:17.

I will never stop doing good to you ...Jeremiah 32:40.

For you are my treasured possession Exodus 19:5.

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul Jeremiah 32:41.

Author unknown

Jeremiah Did Not Quit

Do you ever get discouraged and feel like quitting? Many do. Young Jeremiah did. However, he did not let what others said or did to cause him to give up. Let us talk about what Jeremiah was: he was someone special to God. Yet he felt like quitting.

Before Jeremiah was born, the true God chose him to be a prophet to warn the people that they were not pleasing Him. Do you know what Jeremiah said? "I do not know how to speak for I am but a boy." "But to all those to whom I shall send you, you should go. Do not be afraid. I am with you to deliver you" (Jer 1:4-8).

Still Jeremiah became discouraged later. This was because he was ridiculed for serving God. "Everyone laughs at me all day long, and makes fun of me" he said. So he decided to quit. "I am not going to make mention of God and shall speak no more in His name" he said. But did he really quit? "In my heart," Jeremiah said, "the words of God were like a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I could not stop prophesying" (Jer 17:7-9).

Even though at times Jeremiah became afraid, his love for God would not let him quit. Let us see how Jeremiah was protected. God told Jeremiah that the people, the Israelites, would be destroyed if they did not change their bad ways. But the people became angry when they heard this message: "To this man, the judgement of death belongs." However, Jeremiah pleaded with them to obey the voice of God. "You should know that if you put me to death, you are killing an innocent man, for God sent me to speak to you"

Do you know what happened? The princes and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets, "There is no judgement of death belonging to this man, for it was in the name of God that he spoke to us." In this way, God protected him.

Let us see what happened to another prophet, Urijah. Urijah kept prophesying against Jerusalem with the same words. But when king Jehoiakim became angry with Urijah, he became afraid, quit doing God's will and fled to Egypt. So the king sent men to find him there and to bring him back. When they caught him and brought him back, they killed Urijah with a sword (Jer 26:8-24).

Do you see the difference? Even though Jeremiah was afraid, he did not give up serving God. He did not run away but continued to do what God had told him to do.

Can we learn the lesson and follow what Jeremiah did, and not do what Urijah did and run away?

Bro Kuvarega Mavuvo (Triangle, Zimbabwe)

Have You Learned to Be Content (Phil 4:11)

To be content is one of the greatest blessings anyone can enjoy. Many people live from the cradle to the grave without ever knowing true contentment. They are envious of the abundance of things other people possess. They are jealous of other people's achievements. They make themselves unhappy because they want more of this, that or the other. They complain about their health, they gripe about the government, they bemoan their bad luck. However difficult your position is, they can always cap your story by going one worse.

However bad your health, however many mistakes you have made that caused your problems, however badly things have turned out, you can still know contentment. Paul was in prison when he wrote the words of the title of this article, and he spoke about peace whilst he was imprisoned. He had learnt that it is not your circumstances that cause you peace or unhappiness, it is what you make of them.

The secret of contentment for a Christian consists of three things. Firstly, be grateful for the past, for all that God has done and given. Secondly, be trustful with regard to the present, by finding God in it. Thirdly, be hopeful about the future, believing that God will bring to pass His kingdom and His purposes, both for you and His world.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Hints on Giving

How many of us set aside a portion of our income specifically for the poor? It is a command that they should not go unnoticed. As Paul says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Gal 6:10)." There have always been members of the house who have needed assistance. Paul asked the Ephesians to support the weak and "remember the words of the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:25)." One of the elements of the truth is sacrifice, putting others ahead of self. This can be a financial consideration as well as an ethical one. If we continue looking at the apostle Paul as our example, there are many lessons to be learned on the subject of alms-giving.

He told the Corinthians when he was in need while he was with them, what was needed was supplied by those visiting from Macedonia (2 Cor 11:9). He did not want to be a burden to the Corinthians. He only accepted help when it was done with the true Christ-like spirit. He also had strong thoughts on helping those who were indolently dependent on the brethren for assistance. In his letter to the Thessalonians he mentions some who were "working not at all" (2 Thes 3:11). This was enough of a problem that while he was with the Thessalonians he gave the command, "If any would not work, neither should they eat" (3:10).

We can see from his examples that Paul was wise and careful with what he gave and received. Circumstances made a difference in his discernment of obligation. It was not wholesale giving, but according to the fitness of the case at hand. While it is our duty to give support to the poor and needy, it must be done in consideration of truly helping. We cannot ignore the necessities of our brethren. We must be "Wise as serpents, harmless as doves" (Mat 10:16), in addition, while "bearing one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2), doing well to all men as we have opportunity.

Bro Moses Kassim (Kibewesi, Kenya)

“He Sees What the Heart Is”

Appearances can be deceptive. What a person is on the outside does not necessarily reveal what he or she is on the inside, deep in his or her heart. Human beings judge from outward appearance. God looks beyond outward appearance as is clearly revealed in 1 Samuel 16:1-12. God sent the prophet Samuel to Jesse the Bethlehemite to anoint one of his sons who was to be king after Saul. Arriving in Bethlehem, Samuel arranged for Jesse and his sons to share a sacrificial meal. When Eliab, the eldest son entered, Samuel was struck by his appearance (verse 6). God, however, sees things differently. He said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance and at the height of his stature for I have rejected him” (verse 7). God was not impressed by how tall or how handsome Eliab was. He looks past outward appearances to where true beauty can be found.

Jesse had one more son after Samuel had looked at those with Jesse. David, the youngest, was pasturing the sheep (verse 11). So David was summoned from the fields and came before Samuel. Then God told Samuel to get up and anoint him, for that is the one God wanted (verse 12). David was anointed and it was his heart that made him truly acceptable in God’s eyes (1 Samuel 13:14).

God is not swayed by external appearance. It does not matter to Him how tall you are or whether others see you as handsome or pretty. It is what you are inside, in your heart, that matters to God. For it is up to you to cultivate the kind of qualities that will make you beautiful in God’s eyes!



Bro Samuel Marita

Bro Samuel Mariita (Nairobi, Kenya)

The Human Body

Hurrah for the human body!

We are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and the bodies designed by the Great Creator speak to us of many spiritual truths which are a delight to contemplate. Examples:

Food... illustrates the way we need His Holy Word to guide us. The body functions best on three meals a day and this is reflected in the Bible reading plan. This is the best way of assimilating Scripture. Before we consume our physical food, we give thanks and in this way our Father ensures we pray regularly throughout the day: “Evening and morning and at noon, I will pray and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Ps 55:7).

Water... is essential to maintain life, and this reminds us of salvation, “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation” (Is 12:3) which should be springing up in us, “But

whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).

Rest... we can't keep going for ever. The seventh day was hallowed by God as a day of rest, and is a pattern of the seventh millennial rest “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. ... Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest” (Heb 4:8-11). We remember that we shall not be weary in the Kingdom, when we have ceased from our mortal labours, “But those who wait on Yahweh shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint” (Is 40:31).

Sleep... this is a wonderful illustration of what will befall all who are accepted by the Lord Jesus at His coming. If we didn't fall asleep and wake up, we wouldn't really understand about resurrection. The difference is, we dream when we sleep, whereas death is oblivion, “His spirit (Heb: ruach, breath) departs, he returns to his earth: in that very day his plans perish”: but the process of awakening each morning is an exciting foretaste of what God has promised, “But you (Daniel), go your way till the end: for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of days” (Dan 12).

Blood... we have been given blood which supplies life to the whole body, “But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood” (Gen 9:4). The Almighty used the concept of blood to teach us essential lessons about sacrifice and atonement, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your soul: for it is the blood that makes atonement for the souls” Lev 17:11).

Sis Monica Achieng (Musoma, Tanzania)

Mate (husband and wife)

Marriage teaches us about the love that the Lord Jesus Christ has for His Ecclesia usually translated 'church,' “Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church (ecclesia) and gave himself for her” (Eph 5:25). Our longing for Him says “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires let him take of the water of life freely” (Rev 22:17). The fact that mankind consists of two separate sexes, which naturally complement one another, shows us how God's purpose will only be accomplished when our Lord and his bride will cleave to one another at the great Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

We are told that we have been made in God's (Heb: elohim) image, and we wonder how this can be, with all our faults and failings, but in the Kingdom to come we will be all-glorious within, and the King will greatly desire our beauty, “My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer; The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; her clothing is woven with gold. She shall be brought to the king in robes of many colours; the virgins her companions who follow her shall be brought to you. With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; they shall enter the King's palace.”

“Instead of your fathers shall be your sons, whom you shall make princess in all the earth. I will make your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise you for ever and ever.” May that day come soon.



Sisters Monica and Magreta

Lessons from John 11

John 11 is so interesting and encouraging to us. When Lazarus fell sick, his sisters were so depressed, and helpless. They sent a message to Jesus, but he came later when Lazarus was already dead. Verse 24 tells us that his sisters were not expecting to see their brother, Lazarus, until resurrection day. This shows that they had lost hope and felt helpless about the situation. They could not imagine that Jesus would raise him from the dead.

The encouragement in this chapter lies in our daily lives. We might face all sorts of troubles or difficulties; what we need to ask for is help from God. There is nothing impossible for Him. Your problem may cause you to be despairing, lonely or humiliated but should not cause you to give up. Take your difficulty to God. He will answer and comfort you. Remember that your problems can be used to reveal God's power (John 9:3; 11:4,40).

You must be devoted to the work of God and He will reward you positively. If you render your heart and mind to the Lord, His glory will take charge. My friend, now is the time to respond to the call of the Lord (Acts 17:30,31). He is the master of every thing, the healer of diseases, the comforter of mourners and friend of the isolated. In Him all things are solved (Jeremiah 32:27).

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