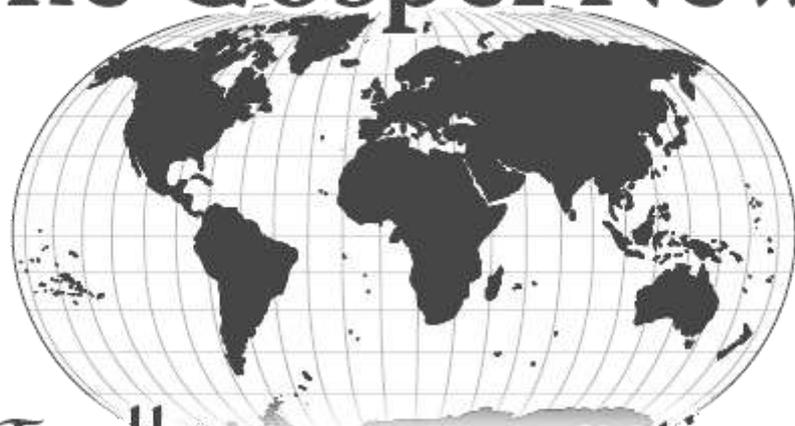
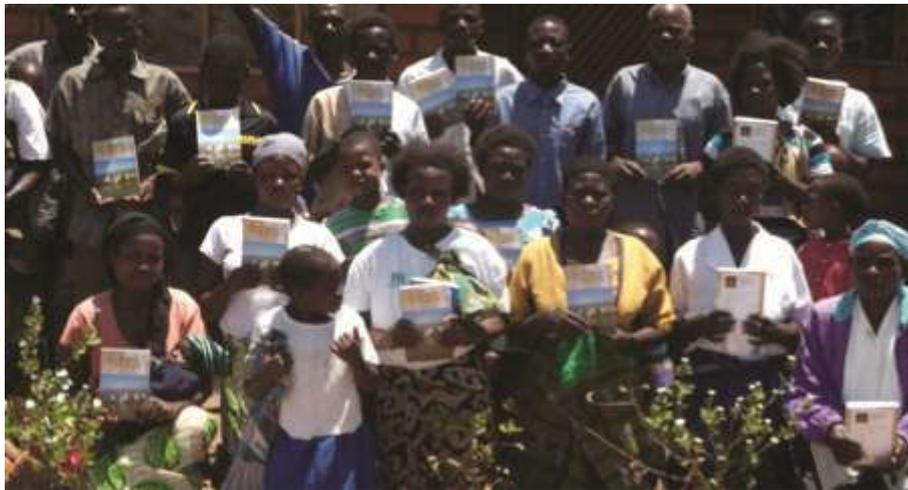


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



EDITORIAL: Bithiah The Great

One important method in Bible study is to keep asking questions as we read a text, and to imagine how the story developed further. The account of Moses being found by Pharaoh's daughter is a classic Bible story- but it begs many questions. Why did this young woman risk disobeying her father? Given Moses' age, how did she manage to survive in Pharaoh's court with an adopted child who looked like a Hebrew and ought to have been killed in babyhood? What kind of relationship did she have with her father? Did he tolerate her sympathy and "compassion" for the Hebrews?



Where else do we read about Pharaoh's daughter? Searching through the Bible, perhaps with the help of a concordance, we come to the references to Solomon marrying Pharaoh's daughter. No great answers there to our questions. Sometimes in Bible study we do draw a blank. And that's a blank. And there's only one other reference to Pharaoh's daughter, hidden away in the obscure genealogies of Chronicles, which we likely skip reading in our daily Bible readings. But there... is the answer. "The sons of Ezrah: Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. These are the sons of Bithiah, the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered married; and she conceived and bore Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah, the father of Eshtemoa" (1 Chron. 4:17 ESV). Who was Mered? A prince of the tribe of Judah. And, yes, he lived around the time of Moses. So... a daughter of Pharaoh married a Hebrew. A slave. And she was the daughter of Pharaoh. Now we're on to something.

We eagerly look up the meaning of "Bithiah". And we find that Bithiah means `daughter of Yah'- there is an intended tension therefore in the way in which she is called `Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh', especially considering that Pharaoh was thought to be God in Egyptian culture. It cannot be an undersigned coincidence that Bithiah is recorded as having a daughter, whom she called Miriam. It's not very common for the names of daughters to be recorded in the genealogies, so it seems a point is being made. Miriam was of course the name of Moses' sister, who had first introduced Bithiah to Moses' family. Her name in Hebrew is almost the feminine form of her father's name, Mered. Mered had another wife who was from the tribe of Judah: "And his Judahite wife bore Jered ... Heber... and Jekuthiel" (1 Chron. 4:18 ESV).

And then we wonder: Am I the first guy to have come to this discovery? This is where the internet is useful. A bit of research shows that no, others have figured some of this out. Not that getting support from others ultimately matters, for we should be ready to stand with our backs to the world if necessary in believing what we have discovered in the Bible. And "no jewel shines so brightly as the one you find yourself", as Bro. Harry Tennant once put it in talking about Bible study. But all the same, it's some level of human comfort to find we're not completely alone, and in this case, to find that indeed Jewish tradition upholds this connection between Bithiah and the adoptive mother of Moses. And Egyptologists have various theories as to who the Pharaoh of the Exodus was. One of them is that it was Amunhotep II. His coffin decorations appear to show that he had a skin condition- perhaps the boils from the plagues? One stele that was discovered shows that two of Amunhotep II's sons have been "erased". Perhaps one of them was Moses?

It seems likely that many Egyptians became proselytes, because many of them left Egypt with Israel. So Bithiah became attracted to God's people, and decided to forego all she could have had in order to save just one Hebrew life. If nothing else we learn that to sacrifice all for the sake of the salvation of `just' one person is perhaps what we are called to. The woman who could have been one of the most powerful women in the world sacrificed it all, to marry a Hebrew slave- who already had a wife. And presumably she changed her name. She was Yah's daughter now, and not that of `god' Pharaoh. What motivated her? Surely her experience with raising Moses. From the mouth of a child, who may well have been with his Godly parents for up to five years, she learnt more of Yahweh's ways. And she must have got to know the family of origin and been impressed by Moses' big sister Miriam... for she named her own daughter after her.

But the chain of influence didn't end there. For when Moses was 40, he did the same as what his adoptive mother did. At age 40, Moses came to a crisis. He had a choice between the riches of Egypt, the pleasures of sin for a season, and choosing rather to suffer affliction with God's people and thereby fellowship the reproach of Christ (Heb. 11:24-26). He probably had the chance to become the next Pharaoh, as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; but he consciously refused this, as an expression of faith in the future recompense of the Kingdom. Bithiah's example would have been ever before him.

It is worth trying to visualize the scene when Moses was "full forty years old" (Acts 7:23). It would make a fine movie. The Greek phrase could refer to Moses' birthday, and one is tempted to speculate that it had been arranged that when Moses was 40, he would become Pharaoh. Heb. 11:24 says that he refused and chose- the Greek tense implying a one-off choice- to suffer affliction with God's people. It is tempting to imagine Moses at the ceremony when he should have been declared as Pharaoh, the most powerful man in his world...standing up and saying, to a suddenly hushed audience, voice cracking with shame and stress and yet some sort of proud relief that he was doing the right thing: "I, whom you know in Egyptian as Meses, am Moshe, yes, Moshe the Hebrew; and I decline to be Pharaoh". In the end, the wonderful honour would have been given to another man, who became Pharaoh. Perhaps he or his son was the one to whom Moses was to come, 40 years later. After a nervous breakdown, stuttering, speaking with a thick accent, clearly having forgotten Egyptian... walking through the mansions of glory, along the corridors of power, to meet that man, to whom he had given the throne 40 years earlier.

And the path of influence continued to Paul. Paul "counted" the things of this life as loss "for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ" and his sufferings (Phil. 3:8), so that he would gain the resurrection. Moses likewise rejected the world for the same two reasons: the excellency of sharing the reproach of Christ, and from respect unto the recompense of the reward, at the resurrection. He uses the same word translated "esteemed" when we read of how Moses "esteemed" the reproach of Christ as greater riches than the treasures in Egypt (Heb. 11:26).

There are a number of passages which invite us to follow Moses' example in this, so that the path of influence goes yet further. Even within Hebrews, the description of Moses' rejection of Egypt for the sake of Christ is shown to be our example: "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures (i.e. Pharaoh's treasures, which he could have had if he succeeded as Pharaoh) in Egypt... let us go forth therefore unto (Jesus) without the camp, bearing his reproach" (Heb. 11:26; 13:13). We should be even eager to bear `reproach for the name of Christ' as Moses did (1 Pet. 4:14), knowing it is a surety of our sharing his resurrection. The way Moses had "respect unto the recompense of the reward" is our example; for again, even within Hebrews, we are exhorted: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward" (Heb. 11:26; 10:35). The Greek for "respect" means to look away from

all else; indicating how single- mindedly and intensely did Moses look ahead to the Kingdom; the knowledge of which was, in terms of number of words, scant indeed. All he had was the covenants of promise.

"(Moses) refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; having chosen rather (Gk.) to suffer affliction with the people of God" (Heb. 11:24,25) suggests that there was a struggle within the mind of Moses, between the reproach of Christ and the approbation of this world, and he then decisively came down on the right side. If we are truly saints, called out ones, after the pattern of Moses, this struggle between present worldly advantage and the hope of the Kingdom must surely be seen in our minds. For this reason Moses is held up so highly as our example and pattern.

We too face choices. To take a second job, rise early and stay up late... to advance in our careers. To get more income, to dispose of upon expensive coffees, the latest gadgets. Or in the spirit of Bithiah and Moses to realize, and realize finally and once for all, that nothing else matters now. The hope of the Kingdom and fellowship of the rejected Son of God is worth so infinitely more than any of Egypt's temporary glory. Moses rejected it for the sake of his service of God's people- who for the most part never appreciated him, and turned their backs on "this Moses". Bithiah likewise, gave it all up... just to be identified with God's people. Being the second woman in Mered's life, a Gentile compared to the other wife being a true blue blooded Judahite, couldn't have been much fun. For all we know, Bithiah died alone and feeling rejected in the corner of a Hebrew slave camp, lamenting how Moses was apparently caught up in the good life of Pharaoh's court which she had given up, buried in the hot sand without a grave, a far cry from the glory girl of her teens. But she did it all so as to be connected with God's people, just as Moses chose to suffer affliction with a people of God who didn't want him.

There are brethren who set us a great example in these things. They lost their families because they married a believer and not the one expected for them. Married someone of another race or colour because of their spiritual connection with that person, thus losing the status they might have had within their own culture. They declined promotion in their career because... they wanted to get home each day in time to read Bible stories to their kids. Didn't take out a court case but suffered the loss of so much, didn't answer slander, left God to judge... Spent their spare time and cash going to the Post Office and mailing Bibles to people rather than... tropical beach holidays. Spent their evenings emailing or visiting old, sick, suffering, depressed, difficult or plain awkward brethren... instead of watching telly.

The chain of influence ran from little Moses and Miriam to Bithiah and then back to Moses, through Paul to us today. Our examples have far more power than we ever imagine. Over some issues and at some times, we, like Bithiah and Moses, must stand with our backs to the world. Despised by the world and even by the brotherhood, but so be it. We shall spend eternity day and night serving God... and it would be strange indeed if our lives now were not likewise totally dedicated to the things of the Kingdom into which and for which we were baptized.

--Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM CONGO



I want to tell you that our ecclesia and my family are keeping well by the grace of God, and to inform you that I am travelling to Kikwiti to visit a group of friends who are studying the Bible, and will spend four days with them.

Bro Kim's

NEWS FROM GHANA



ACCRA

By the grace of God, I have now got a personal P.o.Box. The address is: P.o. Box 582, La-Accra, Ghana. Since April last year we have had five baptisms in Subri, one brother and four young sisters. two of the sisters are daughters of Bro. Amo and two are daughters of Bro. Sakyi.

I have now arranged to stay for two months in Accra and two months in Subri. With much training, Bro. Duncan okai Kotei, my son, has taken over the Sunday and Youth Section. I help him whenever I am in Subri. These five baptisms are his first products.

For three years now, Ghana and Ivory Coast have been having a Joint Bible School. our last School was from 12th 15th october 2012. our usual place of meeting is Shama. The Bible School was successful and well attended and the theme was "Holding on to our Faith".

Apart from our daily morning devotions, six addresses were delivered. two brethren from Ivory Coast gave their addresses in French, two from the U.K. and two from Ghana. (I gave the 4th address, "Faith and Works".) our main interpreter was Bro. maximus mensah (a Ghanaian resident in Ivory Coast). We had two outings in the evening. The public preaching was given by Bro. Yosef Somua Anim of Accra ecclesia.

The 6th address, which was also a farewell message was, "The good fight of faith" and was given by Bro. Stephen Sykes. In his usual mood, he gave a

heart-touching address; a food for thought indeed.

--Bro. Francis Kotei Odiko

NEWS FROM KENYA



CHWELE

Thank you very much for the support of reading glasses for the elder brothers, which fixed up four brethren with the reading glasses. The Gospel news has united us as a household and when we read articles from different brothers and sisters around the world it really encourages us in our walk towards the Kingdom.

--Bro. David and Sister Jacklyne Wanjala

KATITO

I am very grateful for the book "The Real Devil", by Bro Duncan. This is an in-depth exploration of pagan myths developed and enshrined in mainstream Christian religion I shall never miss to reading the daily page by page until I have finished it. I am working on plans to set up an ecclesia in Katito, God Willing, this year and we remain praying for that.

For now, we have been warned by meteorologists of impending el-nino rains.

Let us pray that this new Year will bring the master back to the earth to salvage the mix ups in the present world.

--Bro. Lawrence Kowiti

KITALE

Thanks a lot for your empowering letter and the bulletins motivating us on the signs of the times. We need 10 copies of revision studies, the copy you sent me is helping me very much.

--Bro. Martin W. Barasa



Widows and their children at a Bible Study. Alas, many widows live in mighty difficult circumstances and need our prayers and help. --MH

MOMBASA



On the right in white shirt with tie is Bro. Thomas Radido, (Mombasa Ecclesia) next Sis Emelda Barasa, with 2 children. In back row in glasses is Bro. Edward Kunikina. Last in blue shirt, myself, Bro. Martin Wafula Barasa. Venue Mombasa Ecclesia Bible Study.

--Bro. Martin Wafula Barasa

NAIROBI

The Lord has been so faithful to me. I have experienced His care and sustenance since I lost my job six months ago. I still hold on to His promises in the Bible. I believe that when He closes one door He opens another and God does not lie because He is not a man to lie. Whatever He says He will surely do. I am very happy and appreciate so much the publications you sent me and the Bible. This is the most important asset for a Christian, that is the Word of God. My brother has been diagnosed with kidney failure. It is now a year down the line and we are trusting God for his healing and if possible a kidney transplant. Please always mention us in your prayers.

--Bro. Jared Manera Kidiga

NAITIRI

I am very interested in the books you are sending me, they are really building and strengthening my faith; also the lessons you had sent to me previously are helpful to my life and also to my friends that I am discussing these things with.

The following are a few thoughts on prayer:-

In prayer we depend on God for solutions to our problems. God's power is always good. The Christians communicate with God. Prayer focuses on God and He it is who is praised when solutions to problems are found. Faith in God helps the Christian to pray.

Let us remember each other in prayer because God is omnipresent (He is everywhere present) and also God is good all the time.

--Bro. Nasongo Simiyu

NANGO

I am fine and waiting eagerly for the return of our master, the Lord Jesus. I am enquiring whether you still have a stock of the rulers and the copper bracelets made by our brethren in Zambia, which you sent to us some years ago. We did put them to good use and would like to have more of them if they are still available.

--Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

RAPOGI

First and foremost I give thanks to the Almighty who has granted me this chance to send you greetings. The Lord is still on my side while waiting for the second coming of Jesus. Generally I am always praying for the brethren throughout the world to stand firm in the faith just as quoted in Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Some have gone outside our faith due to a situation being encountered, economically, spiritually, physically and emotionally. However, my prayer is to the Saviour to give you ability to keep on attending to brethren throughout the world as you always do.

--Bro. Mike G.O. Juma



Bro. Mike and Sis. Everlyne on their wedding day.

SINDO

1 Cor.16:13,14, "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." "Let all that you do be done in love." CAT's love to the truth, to our fellow brothers and sisters has been reflected in serving us individually. may the God of Israel bless you all. Please get me more biblical teaching about the Bible Sabbath. I have many friends and relatives who are Adventist and they base their teaching on keeping the Sabbath.

God's Son, Jesus of nazareth, humbled himself, faced death on the cross and was raised back to life again. Through love you have provided me with spiritual food and I must remain watchful, stand firm in the faith, endure and remain steadfast in the truth. Philippians 2:1-11.

--Bro John Owalo Onani

TURBO

Bro. martin Barasa and myself are working together in preaching the gospel in mASABA and have preached to forty people in their Church by permission of their church leaders. Can you assist in any way? We need more literature. Remember to send us more Bibles as all these friends do not have any.

--Bro. Emmanuel Mulimo



Leaders of the Church in which we preached.

**MANGOCHI**

I appreciate the Gospel news magazine which enables the Word of God to be spread worldwide and for me to see many brothers and sisters wherever they may be. Please God, bless this task.

The photo is of Changamile ecclesia which consists of thirty baptized members.

1. We deny that Jesus existed before he was born, but accept that he was in God's plan before his birth.
2. We refuse to believe in a supernatural being called `Satan' but accept that Satan refers to an adversary or to sin that resides in man.
3. We refuse to believe that heaven is the land for the righteous to possess but accept that God's Kingdom will be on earth soon.

We would be glad of any Sunday School materials you could send us and also copies of the book, `The Real Devil'.



Changamile Ecclesia (Mangochi),

Brothers and sisters, indeed fear saves. We should also have fear. Do you remember that in eden a snake came and spoiled the relationship between God and the first pair? After that, enmity began between mankind and a snake. Thus, everyone upon seeing a snake fears and begins trembling. The snake causes dangerous tensions because it can easily spoil the body of mankind. even at a funeral a snake can disturb the whole proceedings. The snake stands for sin; when temptation comes we should have fear, and destroy it.

Please, once tempted, just remember it is a snake kill it in order not to sin.

--Bro. Charles Assani

NKHATA BAY

Things have not been so good here. There has been a strong wind occurring for some days resulting in some houses (including mine), being destroyed. Although the malawi Government, through the Red Cross, supported us with food and tents for temporary shelter, we normally survive from cassava and with the wind many gardens have been spoilt. In the Book of Books there is a verse which strengthens me, "Do not bother what we shall eat or drink for tomorrow."

I am very pleased with the items that brethren and sisters contribute in the Gospel news magazine for they are educative, entertaining and encouraging. Be strong in the truth to achieve good goals at the final whistle. many thoughts arise when one comes to a road junction for the first time. When approaching a junction, one has to choose the right way (think of the narrow and wide way). many people choose the wide way resulting in the false choice. The Bible states that Jesus clearly declared himself in John 14:6 to be the right way. If we put on Jesus we are on the right way. no confusion arises within us. on many roads there are road signs, these warn drivers what is ahead. The signs warn the drivers about distance to the place, humps, steep slopes, sharp bends, potholes, bridges, zebra crossings, etc. So without signs drivers cannot reach the destination, safely. For us to reach our destination safely we have to be in Christ. That is why God so loved the world that we might live through him (Christ) and not perish, but have eternal life. 1 John 4:9, John 3:16.

--Bro. Joel Singini

NEWS FROM NIGERIA



EBEM

I give thanks to the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.

With a warm heart I send much thanks to you for your kindness to me, both spiritual and physical and I thank God so much, who through His infinite mercy, helped me to know the truth and made me free after many years of following and teaching the wrong things. The things which were gain to me, I counted loss for Christ, yes, I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung that I may win Christ (eternal life). Therefore beloved kindly receive my warm greeting for helping everyone in my household. may His mercies always abide.

our house to house preaching (sharing of leaflets and the Radio programmes of Aba ecclesia) is yielding fruit and many people are now asking where we fellowship and some of them are now more interested to know the truth. This has led me to look for a rental place and I have found an uncompleted building which needs roofing and flooring, so I am appealing for help to make the place fit for use and your prayers for God to perfect His work here are much needed. Finally beloved, the world is moving to a thrilling end of the game, Bible prophecy and signs are being fulfilled right before us. There is suffering in nigeria, the government is falling, killings everywhere, people work for no reward of their labour, there is sickness and many are dying. In fact, I am seeing the Day of the Lord fast approaching. The church people now give glory to men, not God. The magicians in Pharaoh's house are now in the christian churches, deceiving and being deceived. I am hearing the Lord saying again, "Whatsoever you do, hold it fast, for the night is coming when no one will be able to work." In fact we need always to be alert and watchful. (Luke 12:35-40).

--Bro. Uka Egwu

IBADAN

You have made a significant contribution to my understanding and I am most grateful to you for your tangible support. Only the Lord can repay your labour and expense of love. I appreciate this from my heart and I am looking forward to remaining in regular correspondence with you.

Kindly keep praying for all our brothers and sisters here who might be victims of bomb explosion and violence by the Boko Haram sect. These are really dangerous times in Nigeria.

--Bro Timothy Temilola

MBAISE

I received your surprise parcel and letter in the early hour of 7.15 a.m. with joy. It is like someone dreaming they are receiving a gift, but because for Christ's sake it happens. May our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ bless you for such love. Also thank you for the new testament Bible and the "Wrested Scriptures", which are very useful to us. I was baptized in 1990 by Bro. Stephen Sykes and the late Brother H. Jenkins.

I am thankful to my God that during my period of isolation I was able to convert two people to Christ, who are fellowshipping with us now. Lots of people study with me in my home and I will introduce them to you for correspondence courses. My wife greets you. She has also been baptized. God willing I shall soon have my Post office Box no. I need you to send me the Christadelphians and some Sunday School materials and some other important literature which can help me answer some questions. Our ecclesia is progressing in Mbaise.

--Bro. Adolphe Effiong

I received "Bible Basics" and some pamphlets and was truly happy to hear from you. I have shared the books with our baptized members who are at home doing the memorial service together on Sundays, Bible study on Wednesdays and Saturday's lecture. I need to have another copy of "Wrested Scriptures", "The Real Devil" and "The Real Christ" as the ones you sent to me have been taken over by the brothers and sisters of Mbaise for their reading. In Mbaise ecclesia, there are four newly baptized who need Bibles.

--Bro. Blessing Nwigwe

NEWS FROM TANZANIA



DAR ES SALAAM

I am so pleased to get your letter full of encouragement in the Word of God and the Kingdom. I am sorry to inform you that I have already shifted to Dar es Salaam city and I am no longer in Unene so the above address is the latest one you may use. My brother, I am truly interested in receiving Gospel news so please send me more. I assure you that I am still an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ under an umbrella of the Christadelphian Church.

--Bro. Daimon Saimon Mbona

If the God whom we love is willing, I am planning to visit the central part of Tanzania soon. My plan is to go and start Bible Classes in the Dodoma region as there are more than fifteen who wish to take Bible Study lessons in Kiswahili with preaching activities as well, as they are really interested. I have already got some Kiswahili Bible lessons from U.K. Please could you send me

two copies of the whole Bible and the new testament as you sent me, but which I had to hand over to my daughter who lives a long way from me. one copy is for me and the other is for my wife as it is sometimes difficult to share together. Also I need a Kiswahili Bible Basics for the same purpose and 10 or more copies of the Bible Companion, and copies of the neV Bible.

--Bro. Ayubu Sazi Kilumbi

KIGOMA

We are going well in our country, apart from the havoc of moslems trying to destroy our churches which you may have heard of, but with our Holy Father we always hope to win, although they wish to abolish our real faith all over the globe.

Would you please send me the book that deals with "moslems". We are almost surrounded by their believers who tend to destroy our Holy Book. It is time now to know their beliefs in depth to be able to hold a positive argument against them. Please do not hesitate to send them to me, so that we can gainsay their arguments. Warm greetings to all Christ's followers heartily awaiting the second coming of our Lord.

Please kindly help us by sending these soon. Warm greetings to all Christ's followers who keenly wait for the second coming of our messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

--Bro. Lambert K. Tambwe

Thank you very much for your kindness in sending us many books, which are giving us consolation.

With the events in the world today we can certainly look to the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ when we will all be together in the glorious kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

We always receive the C.I.L. papers from the UK. we congratulated Bro. David Welch of teignmouth, UK on his exhortation of 11th nov. 2012, this has touched many of us. Please give him that message as well and if it is possible, we would be happy to hear from him again.

--Bro. Daniel Sabuni

MBEYA

I write to acknowledge receipt of four neV Bibles with commentary and other literature. It is now three weeks since I had the parcel; however we were very busy studying the commentaries and so forgot even to say thank you!

These commentaries are really vital, they have made us enter into a deeper dimension of understanding God's word. I know that now I can teach and exhort my class with boldness because of being sure about what the Bible teaches as a custodian of the truth. The Bible is now self-explanatory according to our belief. many people have come to admire these Bibles.

Brother, since I had my stroke, my eyesight is poor, and doctors have advised me to have reading glasses. Can you please help?

--Bro. James Mwangoma

**BUSIA**

We have managed to baptize four people in our ecclesia so we have now increased in number. I pray that during my holiday I will be preaching to people for baptism, using the material which you have given me and that of my tutor (Bro Colin Jannaway).

--Bro. Wangoni Rogers

KAMPALA

I went to my home district and on the return to

Kampala we had a car accident. By God's grace nobody died but had serious injuries and we are all o.k. although I still get pain in my right shoulder joint. I want to thank you and the members of the trust for the good work you are doing. may God continue to bless you as we wait for the return of our Lord and master on earth as a true Ruler. I also want to thank you sincerely for Bible Basics and neV Bible. Please kindly avail me of a small pocket Bible.

--Bro. O. Ogenga

MAYUGE

There are four of our pupils, two brothers and two sisters that need Bibles.

--Bro. Peter Ouma



Bro. Peter Ouma

MBALE

I would like to inform you that it has been a long time since I wrote as I was seriously sick from September 2011 to 2012. I was taken to Nairobi, Kenyatta Hospital for treatment and now seem to be recovering.

After receiving the Bibles I distributed them to

all preaching centers. I currently have eleven preaching contacts plus Butiru ecclesia itself, which has born all these centers. to each place I gave 1 Bible and 2 new testament Bibles.

According to the growth of God's work here I shall request you to continue adding me more Bibles so that members from these centers can have the chance of getting Bibles. Thank you for the Bible Companion booklets you sent to me and to brothers and sisters. These booklets are really needed by people as they help them in revising the Bible without repetition.

I would also like to remind you about the request I made to you concerning my new testament Bible in my own language to be printed in many copies for my people who really need to read the Word of God in their own language. I have an old new testament in Lugisu language which I need more copies of.

I have started a nursery and Primary School in the ecclesial building so that children can be taught the truth and grow up with it.

--Bro. Boyeyi Boniface Masalala

NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



CHIMWEMWE

I take this opportunity to ask you if you can send me five Bible Basics in english and seven of the French for preaching purposes. I have played the CD on the devil to my fellow teachers at school, which has enabled me to discuss this with them.

--Bro. Robert Mpundu Miwele



On the left Bro. Robert Miwele standing with fellow school teachers.

CHIPATA



Sis. Esther Mbewe and her granddaughter

KALOMO

I hope this finds all well with you. Thank

you for the Bible new european Version. We are so excited to read the Gospel news and I do wish to continue to receive it.

--Bro. Ackim Sikabuli



From right to left Bre. Titus Nakayola, Joft Siakannga, student Shalon Mudenda, Sis. Ronicah Sikabuli, two students, Mr. Obey Mudenda and Mr. S. Ruvie Sibulyobulyo and me, Ackim Sikabuli.

Back left to right Sis. Annetty Sikabuli, Saviour Sikabuli, Bro. Livess Sikabuli and student Mumba Sikabuli at DAFAN on Sunday morning.

KALOMO

We have gladly received the literature and Gospel news and would just love to have more Bible Basics. At the moment we have battery problems with the tv and so Cannot use the CV, but trust we can soon. We had a good Fraternal with an attendance of 79 plus 12 students.

--Bro Kanembe

KAPIRI MPOSHI

The Real Devil is a book which teaches me the truth about God and satan. It is very interesting and encouraging and I can now explain it to my fellow brethren more deeply than ever before.

Thank you for the parcels sent to me containing nice books and leaflets, which are very interesting to me and all the members of the ecclesia. If you still have Bibles in stock please send us six more as Bible study is growing every week but there are few Bibles in comparison with the number of people. Please send more leaflets and Bible story books.

--Bro. Ostine Chisosa and family

KASAMA

Thank you for the beautiful designed Gospel news and especially for the CD on the Real Devil and lots of other publications. We could do with other CDs concerning the Word of God. If possible I would also like some French Bible

Basics for some French speaking contacts

--Bro Joshua Mushili

KAZEMBE

As regards Bibles, each member of the ecclesia has received a Bible, eight of them in all. Some members have not attended for a long time and they were not given copies. I gave a Bible Basics to a student. I heard his complaint when he stressed that it had taken a long time to be examined for baptism and therefore the need for his own copy of Bible Basics.

--Bro. Vincent M. Mwense

KITWE

So many thanks for the latest edition of the G.n magazine as well as the enclosed DVD on the Real Devil. I truly appreciate. I know it will greatly help to explain more - I played it in the evening same day I received it and my siblings and friends were watching - just said, "Surely the `Real Devil' is within us". Thereafter questions were asked, I tried to explain more with references. may God continue guiding you through his works, and please keep sending me Gospel news in hard copy as I have no assured access to internet for now.

--Bro Silas K. Chishimba.

LUSAKA

I hope and trust that this letter finds you in good health and thank you for everything you have done for me and my fellow brothers and sisters in the mission. It has given me more courage, such that I could study deeper into the Bible. I am working so hard to get an advanced certificate in I.C.t. (Information and Communication technology).

--Bro. Stephen Siamabi

MAZABUKA

I am happy to report that at last I have found some work to do. Thank you very much for your prayers and spiritual support. Life otherwise is hard in Africa and the world over if one is not working and has to take responsibility for looking after a family the way I do to my two sisters. At times the Lord is gracious that He does not leave us alone but does His best that through our suffering, He at least provides us with food, clothes and shelter. These we must be content with in life and be like the apostle Paul who learned the secret of being content in each and every situation, whether in need or in abundance, he goes on to say "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil.4:12-13).

I have sent some material for consideration for publication in Gospel news. I am deeply impressed by your remarks that you like all my articles. This in turn gives me much courage and zeal to send more. I shall continue sending them when I can.

The signs of Christ's return are seem everywhere. We are all aware of the troubles in Syria and how the present government brutalize and kill its own citizens. It has been said that Syria could at any time bring the middle east into terrible disaster. The middle east will be the base or the starting point of the last world war. We must not be afraid because all these things are written in the Bible and given for our learning. may God bless you daily.

In mazabuka recently I was very pleased to witness the baptism of Bro. George Creighton Samboko by Bro. Kelly in Kafue. Sometimes it is a slow process to bring Almighty God into the hearts of people but it is very rewarding for the Church as a whole when a new person begins to see the light. It is like when we stand in a garden in springtime searching bushes and trees to see if this year may be rich in berries and fruit. often the bushes and trees are full of blossoms in springtime, promising a plentiful harvest and then comes one night of frost and destroys most of it. So it is with our preaching, we talk to many people but we must do our best by looking after them and supporting them. to use the garden as an example again: we do not just plant the plants for food and leave them to their own devices, we look after them, to make sure they get enough nourishment, see that the soil is aired so that they get oxygen, we make sure that all weeds are removed, to make sure they get the goodness that the soil provides. to me personally a weed in the garden among the good plants is like sin in my life, it must be pulled up and destroyed, that is what we can do about weeds, but with the frost we cannot do anything.

I have good news to report, our journey to Kafue was a success and Kelly was able to baptise Creighton Samboko my contact whose tutor is Sister mirriam Denbak

I don't know why I have to affix a stamp this time on your pre-paid envelope as you can see. I have been posting them all along without stamps but I have now been asked to put stamps on each time I write. They said that the rules have changed and that pre-paid stamps are only

accepted within the U.K. I do not understand this and it is a problem to us as many brothers and sisters cannot afford a stamp.

--Bro. Gideon Hankomone

The postage is a problem because

the sellers of stamps get a small commission on the value of the stamps sold, which is, in effect, their wages. With our pre-paid envelopes, which are legal and cover the world, they do not get any handling charge. Whilst they are wrong in not accepting our envelopes, I am reluctant to report them as any enquiry could result in friction between you and the posting agent. --MH

We endeavor to talk to people about the truth and 'promote' our doctrine. In order to 'advertise' ourselves in our area, I participated in a debate on 'Death Penalty in Zambia', and addressed the Zambia episcopal Conference. My prepared speech was presented to the Committee on the Draft Constitution of Zambia and will be presented to the Provincial Sitting of the Committee before the second reading of the Draft Constitution. In all its presentations, my document was received with standing ovation and some people have requested for corresponding Bible verses for I presented it as a mere speech.

Most of the evangelical churches gave assent to the 'Death Penalty'. I was surprised to see and hear the Catholic Church veto it vehemently.

--Bro. Timothy L. Mwale

NDOLA

Thank you for the CD you sent me about the real devil. I would like you to send me two copies of the book "The Real Devil" as one of the head teachers at a High School is very much interested to read this book. He borrowed it from me and did not want to give it back.

--Bro. Green Mumbelunga

All the natural and spiritual family are doing relatively fine, except for the usual third world related problems mainly associated with poor environmental management here, otherwise we are soldiering on. Thank you very much for your letter in which you clearly outlined the necessary scriptural quotations regarding David's throne and the subsequent coming of his promised descendant, Jesus Christ, to sit on it.

Indeed, the Lord Jesus was not a King at his first coming but his Kingship will be when he returns to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God.

I am equally delighted to receive a CD tape on the devil, which is a very heated debate here compounded by the Pentecostal movements who preach a literal devil and satan, responsible for the world's problems.

--Bro. Denis Kombe

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



BANKET

Thank you very much for the wonderful work we have seen CAAt. doing in the Lord's vineyard here in our ecclesia. We enjoy reading the Gospel news magazine and other books you sent to many of us. We are still actively at work here and our memorial service is fairly well attended.

I am pleased to let you know that the parcel of Bibles and a few Introducing Bible Basics sent to me have arrived safely. once more I would like to thank you for your invaluable help by keeping on feeding the flock in these difficult days to deal with.

In a song of praise the Psalmist cries out, "one generation shall laud thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. on the glorious splendor of thy majesty and on thy wondrous works, I will meditate." (Psalm 145:4- 5) The book of James tells us to count it joy whenever we face trials, knowing that it is for a short time, and the times we are in are the last days, just before the return of Christ, when he will restore order in this troubled world.

--Bro. David Banda Yelulani

When we read or hear God's Word, He expects us to put it into practice. Read ezra 9:1-15. After only a few months, a serious problem of a life-style inconsistent with God's words became apparent. People were convicted by such passages as exodus 34:11-16, Deut 7:1-4 which spoke of purifying the land and banning foreign marriages, ezra 9:1- 2, which inevitably led to the worship of pagan gods. ezra, realizing the grim situation took it straight to the Lord, not in any `holier than thou' attitude, but in deep sorrow for his people, ezra 9:3-6. God's holy name was at stake because of the contamination of His holy people. What do we need to do when we know we have sinned? ezra's prayer is honest and humble, ezra 9:8-15. Again we begin by acknowledging our own unworthiness. Facing and owning the sin and making no excuse can be the hardest part, yet we remember God's grace in the past. From our point of view in history we look to the mercy and grace of the cross and trust God for pardon and peace.

Thank God that the blood of Jesus , His Son, purifies us from every sin. 1 John 1:7-10.

--Bro. Fibion Ngozi

CHEGUTU

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you. I do hope you are well through the grace of God. As we look to the new year, we hope it will result in Jesus' return. We do appreciate the good works CAAt are doing toward helping all people in the world

to know and understand the Word of God. may God bless you for your loving and caring heart.

The following are some helpful notes on the one to call upon in trouble based upon 2 Kings 20:1-6. v.1. "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death." our times of trouble determine where we stand and on whom we call. In times of hardship or happiness our cries must be to God. our family can deceive us, our friends, husbands or wives, but God will never let us down. v.2. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord. He knew God had the answer about his illness. We do need to go to God and tell him our situation. Also we need to walk in the ways God favors so that when trouble or persecution come, God will answer our prayers. v.3. "Remember, o Lord, how I walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done good in your eyes." The way we present our cases before God makes our cries to be heard. Hezekiah walked truthfully and when the prophet Isaiah came with the news of death, he cried to God, and before the prophet left God had answered his prayers. now does God answer our prayers in all our situations? Let us all check our ways and let the Lord

Jesus rule in our lives. In the wilderness we read concerning the bronze snake. numbers 21:8, "the Lord said to Moses, make a snake and put it on a pole, anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." they looked at the snake on the pole to live, but not on their wounds. We need to look on the cross and call on our Heavenly Father, rather than look at man for deliverance. God is able to help us and overcome our situation. then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake they lived. So let us look at our Lord and live. His arms are stretched open to receive us for comfort. So let us all go to the Comforter and know the one to call on in trouble. God is ready to receive us, brothers and sisters, so let us pray, walk and live in the truth of God.

--Bro. Farai Phiri

CHIVI

Thank you so much for your letter to me, which was so helpful about my health and work in the chrome mine. The idea of emigrating to Australia is sounding good to me. Help me brother, how can I emigrate there? my wife is a sister and we have a baby girl of 14 months. By now I am holding a certificate in safety and mining management regulation. Yes, chrome mining is very dangerous but the Zimbabwe mining Board has made regulations that we work with.

Also, here in Zimbabwe things are still hard for those who are not working. to get money to buy food and pay bills is hard. We thank God that He has helped us to have a better life. Prices are not going up as they have done in previous years. In your letter you said that it is like Sodom and Gomorrah. This is not only in the U.K., it is the world over. Christ is round the corner to come and dwell in mount Zion. Let us keep watching and keep our lamps burning with oil.

After months without being paid I was unable to attend the A.G.m. and since we live in a mining area communication is very poor which also affected my welfare items such as food and medication. one tone of chrome ore is paid \$10.00 (£4.00). We are paid when the ore is carried out to Zimasco. This can take a long time, while the family is suffering from shortage of food and medication.

--Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

GURUVE

In Guruve we are fine, the rains have just started so we are now busy preparing our lands for planting. In your last letter which you sent me you mentioned growing cassava and you said that in countries like Kenya it is doing very well. I spread this news to my fellow brethren and sisters who became interested in growing this, but the problem we have is how to obtain the plants in our rural area. We are ready to try the project if we could get all the required materials.

--Bro. Fanuel Mavodzeka

Information available

from SCC. No. 1 Verona Gardens, 70 Livingstone Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe,

KARIBA

As an ecclesia we are very pleased to receive the Gospel news magazine through the copy you sent to our secretary Bro. Witness majecha. I used to receive a copy but it has since stopped. For the past year I have been receiving a copy intended for Bro. emmanuel mhondiwa who

stopped coming to church in 2009, and all efforts to bring him back are proving fruitless; that copy, together with the one sent to Bro Witness we then share with brethren.

Thank you for the movie, the real devil, we will be sharing it, all of us have the gadgets to play the video. I ask you if have got CDs for hymns, especially those in the english black hymn book, we don't know most of the songs tunes. It is also unfortunate that none of us is able to interpret the notes for the songs.

--Bro Danmore Kaocha

MAGUNJE

There are things that are detestable, hateful and abominable to our God and our Father. The Scripture expresses God's displeasure with numerous actions and behaviors. God is interested in our attitude towards and understanding of Him being matched by our outward display of His values. Anything else is not wanted.

--Bro. Joseph Ndoromasi Chishumba

Thank you very much for the distant education you give me. Please don't get tired or bored with my thoughts or questions, as other churches do not believe these true teachings. We are African, without teachers, and all those that you teach are praising the good and true understanding of God's Word. I thank you very much for "Wrested Scriptures" which gives us the answers to many questions and is a great help to our brothers and sisters.

--Bro. Misheck Hondonza

News from Europe / Eurasia

NEWS FROM AUSTRIA



now another Christmas is approaching and while it was once a time I loved, a time for meeting friends and for meditation, modern development is largely not my taste it is now a time to spend money we can ill afford (often) on many useless luxuries with little or no thought of what was once the meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Creator, in whose memory it was once intended to remember Christ's birth: (but He was probably born in September, not December.) two years ago I was travelling home on a bus and as I stood up to press the `stop' button, the driver had to brake violently because a young man turned his car exactly in front of the bus. I fell on the back of my head and woke up in Hospital. I was transferred to a Hospital outside Innsbruck with head injuries, broken bones in my right foot and, which they discovered later, broken bones in my spine. I was operated upon later and now have five pins in my spine. I was in Hospital from 7th December until the end of may, so I could almost regard it as a holiday I was very well treated.

In September I risked going to my caravan: I have neighbours from Italy with whom I have been friends for years, and I discovered that they had prepared the caravan for me, having cleaned and washed everything. I was almost speechless at all this kindness.

If such kindness were spread around the world, wouldn't it be a happier place? I see American, British, European and Austrian news on t.v. and it is absolutely frightening. I have wondered several times why God the Creator doesn't wipe mankind off the face of the earth.

It is interesting to read in Genesis that He did have regrets: there are many man-made problems which man cannot solve. It is so good to know that the Creator has given power into the hands of His Son Christ. There is so much beauty in our world if only we have the eyes to see it.

--Mary Knechti

NEWS FROM LATVIA



PILTENE

With my joy and gratitude I write to you to let you know that I received the interesting congratulation at Christmas: I will treasure it. Thank you for keeping in touch with me.

In October I had to put a new number to my age (86). It is wonderful to be young with clear sight, acute hearing, elastic steps. But the old age celebrates harvests, youth, the sowing. I am not ashamed of my own age. Everything must become old; mountains, rivers, oceans, stars. The evening-time of life is bright if I have God through Jesus Christ, who is the light of my life.

Bro. Lloyd Peake has begun to write me nice letters from Western Australia. I have read that New Year is not widely marked as Christmas in England. On 31st December some people go to bed at the same time as usual, and I am among them. May God continue to bless you as I am confident He will. Let the words "I am bringing you good news of great joy" fill your hearts with happiness.

It is cold in Latvia. A wood burning range is a good place in cold, stormy weather to relax and have meals.

--Sis. Olga Goldmane

News from the Americas

NEWS FROM GUYANA



Mocha Fraternal

The Mocha Fraternal Gathering continued from 30th June unto 2nd July with the exciting study of 'Jonathan - the man who should have been king!' by Brother Mark Ghent

How many of us are aware of the vast disparity in age between David and Jonathan. Doesn't this speak to us of the importance of not skipping those daily Bible Readings when we are faced with lots of names and genealogies!



Bible School

Though not held in Guyana, but because of the usual tremendous numerical support by the Guyanese contingent, it is important to mention the staging of the Bible School in Tobago at the new John Dial Community Centre, followed immediately by our 12th triennial Caribbean Youth Camp at the Roxborough High School



At the Bible School, Bro ted Hodge of Canada (pictured below) did a great job of demonstrating how the Word of God is meant to develop our faith, which in turn must produce the love of God in our actions!

Bro David Andrews dealt with the theme 'mysteries of the Kingdom' and tried to show the true purpose of the parables of Jesus.



Bible School, John Dial Community Centre, Tobago - 2012

Youth Camp - Tobago

The Youth Camp that followed was (as always) a challenging experience for both participants and organizers.

Bro ted Hodge led us on the perennially exciting discussion of evolution versus Creation, successfully demonstrating why we can confidently dismiss Mr. Darwin's failed & outdated theories in deference to the Bible's solid witness to creation by Almighty God! Equally thrilling were presentations by Bro Nathan Badger on 'Jacob's Struggles' - with just about everyone around him including his God!...and the bitter but endearing lessons we learnt in the end. Each of these gatherings recorded attendances of about 160! Sincere thanks to our Brethren in Tobago who tried so hard to make our stay a comfortable one.



Youth Camp, Roxborough, Tobago - 2012

TRINIDAD

This past year has been one of hope, tension, excitement, stress and disappointment.

In September 2011 our minister of Justice announced that some prison inmates would be pardoned. A list was put together and I was one of those chosen. Reports were prepared on our prison history, and it was said that we would be home for Christmas. no-one was pardoned.

In February 2012 the minister of Justice announced that as part of our country's 50th Anniversary of Independence celebrations this year, 50 `worthy,' long incarcerated inmates would be pardoned. Some changes were made to the previous list, but again I was selected.

In June, "recommendation for pardon" documents were completed for those expected to be pardoned. I was left out. I was disappointed, and somewhat depressed for a few days, but I bounced back quickly, thanks to God. my brethren and sisters in the truth then petitioned our country's President, asking him to pardon me. That petition is still pending.

August 31st was Independence Day, but up to now only one inmate has been pardoned: he was aged 84 years, and died from cancer shortly after he was pardoned.

In September the minister of Justice was fired for an unrelated wrongdoing.

I thank God for keeping me strong throughout all of this, and I feel confident that He will make the petition from the Brethren successful. Please pray for me.

I have `retired' from teaching,(in the prison) because I had expected to be, and still expect to be pardoned in the not-too- distant future, God willing. However, I still manage the school's stores and related duties, which keep me busy for most of the day.

You are in my prayers every day; I wish you all the best, and God bless.

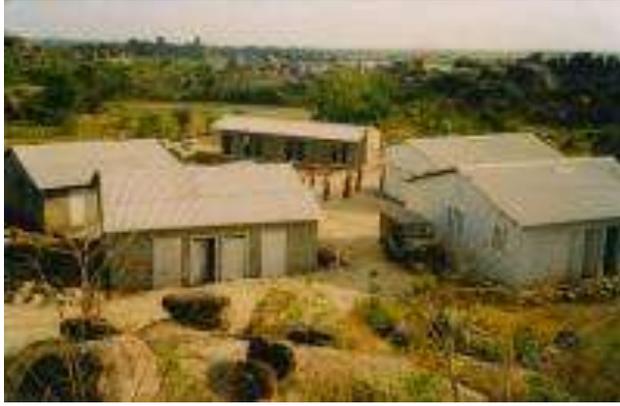
--Bro. George Constantine

More prayers are needed for George

News from Asia

NEWS FROM INDIA





Christadelphian Leper Village built in the wilderness, it had to be in the wilderness, because no village wanted it to be near them.

--Bro Lloyd Peake

The Worship of Idols

"We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no god but one, for even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many gods and many lords) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one lord,

Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live" (1 Cor 8:4-6). This passage tells us clearly that an idol is nothing. We cannot worship an idol instead of worshipping the only true God, the Father of Jesus.

In the Old Testament, we find how three young men refused to worship an idol which king Nebuchadnezzar made and ordered all his people to worship. But Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego refused to bow down and worship the idol. This made king Nebuchadnezzar furious and ordered that they be thrown into the furnace (Daniel 3:13-28). The words that give me encouragement are what the three young men replied to the king: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O King. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O King, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up".

God had given Nebuchadnezzar a lot of gold (Daniel 2:37-38); this made the king proud and he wanted people to worship him. He forgot that it was God who made him possess the gold in abundance and it is God who should be worshipped.

In this age we can be confronted by some lords who will want us believers to obey them rather than our Lord Jesus. We want to remember that there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, whom we should serve.

Recently, (on 28th August 2012), the Catholic Church received a statue from Rome. This happened in Chingola Kasompe Air Strip, here in Zambia and the statue represented one of their saints called Jean Bosco. The statue had one of the hands of Jean Bosco inside it. I was shaken

when the announcer on Radio Cengelo Catholic Radio Station reported such a thing. The announcer further stated that only young people attended the procession from the Air Strip into the town centre of Chingola where worship of the statue took place, taking any part of a dead body, in Zambian tradition is witchcraft. Dear brothers and sisters, let us be on the alert against false prophets.



Bre Mabalanga (Chingola, left) and Robert Miwele (Kitwe)

Comment:

Brother Robert, this idol (of so called Saint John Bosco) has travelled around the world and arrived in London on the 15th of January and thousands worshiped before this idol and queued up to do so. So we also have thousands of idolaters in London and your warning against idolatry is very much applicable to us all.

Relics of St John Bosco, founder of the Salesian order, arriving in London



The wax effigy containing the relics is unloaded in Lambeth Road outside St George's Cathedral



Young people queue to enter the cathedral to see the relics.

Bro Robert Miwele (Kitwe, Zambia)

The Need for a Redeemer

Men and women who try to follow the voice of their conscience to do better find a force in themselves that so often brings defeat however hard they try. They need a Redeemer. God Himself has provided one by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

God foresaw the need for such a Redeemer from the very beginning when He created the earth with all its biological diversity and placed man in it. Jesus was slain in the plan of

God from the foundation of the world (1Peter 1:7-20). In the fullness of time Jesus came and was "born of a woman" (Galatians 4:4).

Until that time in the midst of history, a placeholder for man was found in the Old Testament (or Jewish economy) through obedience to ordinances and sacrificial work. A hymn writer wrote: "Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain, could give the guilty conscience peace or took away the stain, but Christ, the heavenly lamb, takes our sin away."

It is up to you and me to choose to think, live and work in harmony with God's purpose for our lives, so that we shall be to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:12)

Bro Henderson Sosola (Mtenthela, Malawi)

At That Time Shall Michael Stand Up

These words which form our heading open the 12th chapter of Daniel's prophecy. This chapter is a continuation of the prophetic survey given to Daniel in the whole of chapter eleven. It introduces Michael who is described as 'the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people'. Michael who is also called Michael the Archangel (Jude v.9), is also mentioned in chapter 10 v.21 of Daniel as being involved in controlling the activities of a king of Persia. This activity was carried out with another angel who was probably Gabriel. It is evident that these angels are able to influence world leaders and others in order to fulfil the purpose of God.

The Time for Action

The time when Michael was to stand up is stated to be when 'he shall come to his end and none shall help him'. (Ch.11 v.45) The individual described in this extract is none other than the King of the North referred to in v.40. The context of the intervening verses enabled us to identify this power as the Turkish Empire; this power came to its end during World War 1, 1917. Its end came about because Turkey had sided with Germany. British troops advanced into Palestine where the Turks had based their main army. In the ensuing battle British troops led by General Allenby took Jerusalem on December 9th 1917. The war soon came to an end with the removal of the desolating Turks from the Holy Lane.

General Allenby dismounted his horse and in respect walked into the Holy City of Jerusalem

The Wandering Jews

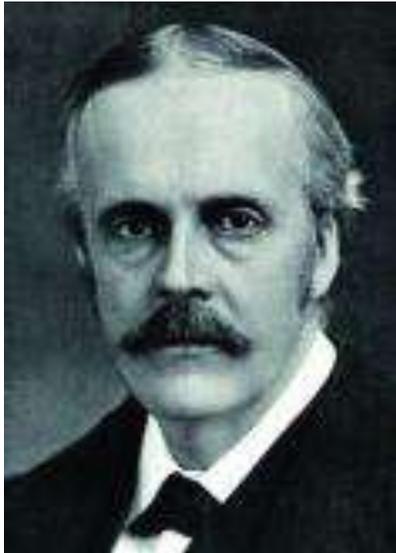
We have to remember that the Jews, for a long time, were a people without a land. They wished for a country that would welcome them, millions of them, because they were all refugees. There are therefore good reasons why Michael should stand up for the Jewish people at this time of need and opportunity.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann

Dr. Chaim Weizmann

This Russian Jew was a brilliant chemist; he discovered a better way of making acetone, vital to the production of explosives. For this practical contribution to the war effort he was asked by Lord Balfour, the spokesman for the British Government, what he would appreciate as a reward. In reply he asked for Palestine for his people. On November 2nd 1917, before Britain had been given the Palestine Mandate, Lord Balfour wrote the now famous 'Balfour Declaration' in the form of a letter to Lord Rothschild, a former Zionist leader.

The Balfour Declaration



Lord Balfour

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any country."

There can be no doubt that Chaim Weizmann and his Jewish friends would have been very pleased with this declaration which was so sympathetic to the idea of establishing a national home for the Jews in Palestine. It would now be possible for Jewish colonists to buy land from willing Arab owners which at that time in Southern Israel and the areas around Tel Aviv was nothing but sand dunes and scrub.

The purchase of any land in Palestine would have been impossible when the Turks dominated the land. Similarly, it was not possible to drain the swamps that were prevalent in the North. This would enable the reclamation of valuable fertile land suitable for growing crops of all kinds.

The British Mandate

In the post war allocation of spheres of influence over the conquered territories of the deflated Turkish Empire, the League of Nations proceeded to appoint Britain as the Mandatory power for Palestine in 1920. At San Remo Conference, 52 nations endorsed Britain's endorsement.

In the framing of the Balfour Declaration and in the appointment of Great Britain as the mandatory power we can see the influence of Michael over the members of the British Government and the National Leaders in the League of Nations in guiding and furthering the affairs of God's people.

It was quite wonderful to observe how three angels of God could and did control the course of history to allow the Jews to return to the land of their fathers and, in spite of much opposition, to come with singing unto Zion.

Bro. Ralph Green, (Torquay, UK)

Compassion

When last did we show compassion to our brothers and sisters or to our neighbours? Jesus is expecting us, his followers, to show compassion to each other. Our God is the Father of compassion. He had so much sympathy for our suffering that He sent us His one and only son to die for us, John 3:16. Do you share God's compassion? Do you realise that Jesus Christ wants to express through you what the Father expressed through bringing love and hope to a hurting world.

We, as God's people, are to be clothed with compassion. What are you wearing today? Are you wearing clothes of compassion? Some of us, from a tender heart, see the trouble of others. We may think we are too far away or too powerless or even afraid to help but that is not true. Our prayers are powerful. They transcend time and space. We can be praying for someone in our living room in Jamaica for someone in Canada or other distant place and our prayer is answered.

Nehemiah was an unselfish man of prayer who looked beyond himself and his needs. His example shows us what we need to do to be powerful intercessors for this world. Like Nehemiah we need to find out what is happening outside the sphere of me, myself and I. When Nehemiah met Hanani, one of his brothers who had recently come from Judah, Nehemiah asked for the names of Jews in Jerusalem, Neh 1:1-3. As soon as he heard of their situation, Nehemiah sat down and wept. He felt compassion and his heart mourned. The Bible says he fasted and prayed asking God to hear him, remember His promises to His people and give him success, Neh 1:4-11.

What wall can you rebuild? What need do you see outside yourself?

When we hear of distress in the world, your heart should respond with compassion. We should pray with persistence and, if so led, take direct action. Take direct action, be filled with confidence that God will work in the situation.

In this world Jesus says we will have trouble. When things seem hopeless, we must be confident that Christ will meet us in the fire, so to speak, as the angel met Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. When terror seems to reign on every side, continue faithfully onward remembering that if we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it and He will because of His compassion. We will not be consumed. See Lamentations 3:22.

I can speak for myself. My life is a perfect example of what it is to suffer in the truth and God has restored me from the enemies that tried to take my life. God was by my side and He stopped them. I have much to thank God for. Because of his unfailing compassion, I was not consumed.

These verses will confirm what I have said: 2 Cor 1:3, 1 Tim 2:1-2, James 5:11, John 17:15- 18, John 16:33, Phil 2:1-2, 2 Cor 10:4, Matt 5:14, 1 Pet 3:8, Eph 6:12, Dan 3:17, 1 John 2:17 & Col 3:12. May God be with you.

Sis Rosie Wright (Jamaica)

Best Way To Preach

The best way of sharing Christian faith is through relationship, according to new research from the Evangelical Alliance. Its survey showed that 81 per cent of Christians have seen 'friendship evangelism' work effectively.

The survey, 'Confidently sharing the gospel' set out to find out whether Christians in Britain are still evangelising in the 21st century, but found changing patterns in the way that Christians speak about their faith.

It also revealed that today's Christians are unlikely to be found preaching in the open-air, with only nine per cent feeling that street preaching is an effective way to talk about Jesus. Eighty per cent find the intimacy of a group of friends is a safer and more effective place to share their beliefs.

Krish Kandiah, director of churches in mission at the Evangelical Alliance, said: "It's no surprise that the good news about Jesus is best communicated in friendly conversation. Jesus modelled confident graciousness to his Church. He was not afraid to explain the gospel, but he did it in a winsome, engaging way. Let's continue to walk in his footsteps."

Other results from the survey:

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48 per cent feel too scared to talk about their faith to non-Christians

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57 per cent believe it is their actions that will point people to Jesus, rather than their words.

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75 per cent have seen people come to faith through courses

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87 per cent believe the poor public image of the Church and its leaders hinders evangelism

Resettlement Of Our Refugee Brethren

The Horrible Devastation Of Displacement

Sis Esther Worrell, (Canada)

About a week ago, I'd been looking at the disaster that befell those Americans hit by the storm called Sandy. It was horrible, particularly hearing the expression of despair of those who had lost all they had, and grievous to hear of the loss of loved ones from others. As I looked at the debris hopeless remains of destroyed homes all around, and thought of the number of families suddenly displaced and grouped into shelters, I tried to imagine what this sudden devastating transition would be like the privations that had to be endured so suddenly. Many of us would be thinking this way too, as so close to us now, we are struck by its stark reality. Then, inevitably my thoughts shifted to our own brethren living in refugee camps many of them for years in this situation, and feel strongly that we should be more proactive in doing something substantial for our brethren.

Action Rather Than Inactivity, Starting Gradually: Obviously we cannot undertake the program of resettlement at one go, as there are so many aspects involved, even situations that we may not even think about, but which will open up as we get into the program. Rather than remaining inactive, we can start with a group or committee consisting of brethren who feel strongly about the distressing plight of our brethren, and like Nehemiah who was so greatly moved about the condition of Jerusalem, begin our program with prayer and proceed with action.

Advantages Available to Us: Our immediate and great advantage is prayer where we can intercede for Our Heavenly Father's help, his power and blessing. From thereon we could enlist the assistance of willing and compassionate brethren and sisters, using the sources of information that are accessible, for example brethren who frequently contact refugee brethren in their visits to the camps, also many refugee brethren themselves who may have useful pointers, in addition to necessary skills which may be required from time to time. Involving them as much as we could in an active way would be encouraging to them, giving them a sense of responsibility in their own affairs. Then there are UNCHR staff who may provide helpful suggestions and advice on our project which they may consider as some relief to them in our effort to get some people off of their hands. With this and other useful information acquired on the internet, brethren could get together and pool their ideas and information. The committee or group should be under the umbrella of an experienced group who organize and operate programmes involving various preaching and pastoral activities, in order to receive guidance from these experienced brethren. These are plans that could be started along with collection of funds for this project. This fact-finding and research activity could be the beginning and foundation of our ongoing programme of resettlement of our refugee brethren. This is where we begin our action. The book of Proverbs offers some advice on preparation process for building - 27 "Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house."

Start Small And Move On Gradually, Acquiring Expertise With On-going Experience: As we all know, this is how we develop in any undertaking. With prayer, diligence and zeal we will move on with Our Heavenly Father's help and blessing. This beginning activity is within our grasp and capability. It is my constant prayer that those servants whom I believe Our Heavenly has already appointed for this mission, will arise and start this rewarding work.

I AM APPEALING TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF OUR PUBLICATIONS TO THE BRETHREN WORLDWIDE, TO ASSIST THIS EFFORT BY INCLUDING THESE APPEALS IN THEIR PUBLICATION, THEREBY GIVING AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, THE PRIVILEGE AND OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS REWARDING PROJECT

Religious Extremism & Creation

The French Interior Minister Manuel Valls at the National Assembly in Paris Nov27 2012 detailed the official policy of secularism, said "the government had a duty to combat religious extremism because it was `an offence to the republic' based on a negation of reason that puts dogma ahead of the law.

Giving examples of religious extremists, he mentioned creationists in the United States and the Muslim world, radical Islamists, ultra-traditionalist Catholics and ultra-Orthodox Jews who want to live separately from the modern world"

Increasingly Government legislation

Comment:

is being made against Christian teaching, e.g. recent marriage laws, voting etc. This is just another sign of the times, Jesus said "And ye shall be hated of all men for my names sake; but he that endures unto the end shall be saved" (Mark13:13) Paul exhorts us against "oppositions of science falsely so called" (1 Tim 6:20).

Obeying The Commandments Of God

The Bible tells us from Genesis to Revelation that God is a serious God and that He means what He says. Obedience to the commandments of God brings life and disobedience results in death.

A good example of this is found in the Old Testament in Genesis 6, Noah preached to the wicked during his generation. The people had a choice whether to believe in Noah message repent and be saved or ignore it and perish, they ignored the commandment of God so during the flood period they perished. God does not change his mind towards us. We can also see that Noah also had a choice, he could build an ark of God be saved or reject The commandments of God and perish, but he did exactly what God commanded him to do Genesis 6:22.

The message to us is that if we ignore the commandments of God on baptism then we choose death rather than life.

The Jailer at Phillipi, asked Paul and Silas, Sirs,what must I do to be saved? Acts 16:30, the answer was believe in the Name of Jesus Christ and be baptised. Jesus himself though sinless was baptised. It is right for us to do what God requires us to do, (Can we ignore baptism when Jesus didn't? Mathew 3:15),so we must follow His steps in this as in all things.

I was happy to travel to Kafue with one of my contacts Creighton Samboko for baptism and he was baptised in the saving name of Jesus Christ by brother Kelly Simayumbula of Kafue ecclesia.

1 Corinthians 3:7 says, so neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. We only water and God gives the increase, May God and His son Jesus be with him in his walk to the kingdom,

Bro Gideon Hankomone, (Mazabuka,Zambia)

Yes It Really Works!



Bro. Gideon & Sis. Elizabeth plan to be married in August 2013.

I want to briefly tell you their story... Gideon lives with his family. His father is still alive as well as his brother who is married and has 3 children. His sister and her husband died leaving behind a son who also lives with the family. They are very poor and haven't been able to provide the basics for the children in the family.

Gideon was baptized in 1999. After struggling through school because of lack of finances he was finally able to finish high school in 2003 at 20 years of age. Then, even though he had excellent grades, for 6 years he sat at home with his family just trying to find enough food to eat for the day.

In 2009 he was enabled to apply to the 'Atashinda' program through Agape in Action. This program enables Christadelphian young people like Gideon a chance to get some education so they can get skills to be able to support themselves, their families and their ecclesias.

Gideon joined teacher's training college and in August 2011 graduated with very good results enabling him to secure a job with the government as a teacher.

On a recent trip to Kenya he was talking about his plans God willing. He hoped to save some money to enable his older brother to also get some education so that he can support his own three children. He then plans to help other kids from the ecclesia with schooling. He says now, as he works as a teacher, everyday he sees these teens coming to primary school, very bright students, but without books, without a uniform and he says it always reminds him of himself growing up and he wants to be able to help these young people.

In February of last year when a family of Bible students from the Mwandeo ecclesia migrated to their homeland of Kalalani which is 2.5 hours towards the interior, Bro. Gideon made the commitment of visiting this remote, hot, dusty place to do regular Bible studies with the family and the group they had started there. This involves a dusty and extremely hot motorbike ride, off road to get to this remote place.

With God's blessings, I was privileged to see the first baptisms take place here thanks to the work of Bro. Gideon and some others from the Coastal region of Kenya. His education has helped him in so many ways!

In addition, he is engaged to Sis. Elizabeth who has a similar story. She still has both of her parents but is the second youngest in a family of 8 children. In her family, her brothers and sisters were not even able to go to high school and now all struggle with their own families to feed their own kids.

Elizabeth was sponsored through high school and through a community health worker program and is now working. The skills she has learnt are very valuable to the ecclesia and the community. She is determined to help her family now that she has been given this opportunity.

In 2009, Gideon and Elizabeth officially became a couple after `a long talk' said Gideon. They plan to be married in August 2013 God willing. Partners in the truth, partners in preaching the gospel, and partners helping their brothers and sisters in need in these last days!

Thank you to all who contribute and sponsor one of these young people in the Atashinda program. --DEB

A formula to take one out of unemployment, to Teacher Training College, a Job, being able to help others, and finding a wife

What Is The Atashinda Education Fund?

Atashinda is a Swahili word meaning `he/she will succeed, he/she will overcome'. This education fund has been created to support sponsored children and their siblings pursue a high school education or a trade. Atashinda is a central part of the Christadelphian, Agape in Action's mission to improve life, provide opportunity and instil hope amongst the neediest of our family around the world. These young people are eager to learn and be in a position where they can support not only themselves, but also others in need around them. Agape in Action is committed to seeing these children complete their education. Without a high school education or trade, these children will find it extremely difficult to support themselves. Their options will be limited and they may very well find themselves in the same tragic situation from which they were rescued.

There are over 200 young people currently benefitting from this program. There are, of course, very many times more that would love to benefit from this scheme, but that's not possible at the moment for everyone. It is not possible to cope with all the very deserving cases of need to be helped by this scheme at the present time, but you can get further details from them of the great work they are doing `and how they may be able to help you.



It is claimed that 97% of the world's population have heard about Coca-Cola, 72% have seen a can of Coca-cola and 51% have tasted it. It has only been around for 130 years.

These statistics really shook me from a simple one man situation Coca-Cola has become universally known. The Christadelphians have been going for over 160 years and to our shame in many cases we are not even known in the area we live in and even fewer know of our existence

worldwide. One of the later days signs Jesus told us was "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt 24:14). We need to urgently spread the Gospel into all the world which is just part of our reasonable service.

Extracts From The South African News Letter

Local News Letters

In this issue of Gospel News we are printing extracts from copies of local Newsletters from South Africa and Caribbean. They are so informative and knit together their communities as families in the bonds of love and peace and I feel are so uplifting and encouragingly stimulating, that it could be a good idea for others to follow in producing local newsletters in their areas.

The Gift of Faithfulness

My child, don't lose sight of good planning and insight. They keep you safe on our way and keep your feet from stumbling. You can lie down without fear and enjoy pleasant dreams. Pr 3:21,23-24

As the old year ends, we look forward to the year ahead. We make plans and commitments to try again to do our best and to live godly lives. It's good to plan according to God's will and purpose. It's good to remember what God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Soon we'll be starting a new year. Embrace the possibility of God's goodness and His faithfulness to you. Remember to include Him in all your plans and He will keep you from stumbling and give you nights of peaceful dreams. (Karen Moore)

Johannesburg



Br Thompson (Yeoville) exhorted us this month on fearing and respecting the Lord from Dan 5. Our ecclesial lunch, was followed by the concert and prize giving. Visitors from Kempton Park, Yeoville & Soweto Ecc came through to help make the day a memorable one.

Br. Travis & Sis Salome Lekhoane joined the others from our Gauteng family in going to the Summer School. Two of our Sunday School children & a member of our youth went to the Gauteng youth camp. Br Travis' company has asked him to relocate to Durban & God Willing he will be doing this on 1 Feb, transferring to the Pinetown Ecclesia. Johannesburg ecclesia will be voting in a new committee at the half-yearly meeting on 20 Jan. Farewell dear brother, like the swallows who fly south for the winter, we know we will be seeing more of you this side of the kingdom. Great truths about growing old: It's frustrating when you know all the answers , but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Kempton Park & Surrounds



With the blessing of Birgit and Gernot baptisms, our little ecclesia in Kempton is growing again. With them come three junior school children. Birgit is a busy musician who plays the harp, cello and violin

Great truths CHILDREN have learned:

No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.

Our guardian angels have been busy in our ecclesia this month Sis Trudy crashed into an ambulance at the beginning of the month, by the grace of God she and Georgia-Lynn were not injured, her car was "written off". This happened the day after Br. Lucas had a nasty accident, when a drunk driver cut right in front of him from the right-hand lane. We thank God that apart from a minor ankle injury no one was seriously injured.

Adieu has hosted another spate of volunteers this month: - Bre. Matt Drabenstott, Matt Bilello, James Caudrey, Sis Natalie Ferguson, Rachel Johnson & Lauren Ghent. They have all done great work here helping with the preaching & outreach work. One Sunday Br. Matt Drabenstott, joined the "hat-trick club" by giving three exhortations - @ KMP, Aphiwe & finally @ Congolese ecclesia. He is the third brother to have done the "hat trick" Sunday :-)

Gauteng Youth Camp was a great success:" For me these last 4 days the Youth Camp - have really been a "kingdom glimpse". We had 37 kids between the ages of 8 & 18 attend, with Br.Matt Drabenstott & Sis Lauren Ghent helping out with the lessons, and "aunty Leona" spoiling them with quality cooking and special treats in the kitchen.

We had a jam-packed week planned for them 3 classes every day; with Bre Matt & Michael leading the oldest group in a variety of studies, Lauren exploring the prophet Elijah with the middle group & myself exploring ways to "preach without using words" with the youngest kids. To set the tone for each day every morning started with a short devotional message before breakfast.

In the afternoons we had some friendly competition & lots of laughter completing an obstacle course, competing in a volleyball tournament, finding all sorts of objects in our biblical treasure hunt, and on those days that the weather permitted, enjoying some time in the pool.

Darkness falling didn't slow the pace we spent the first evening playing all sorts of games (nothing beats fun & laughter for breaking the ice!), and the second evening was dedicated to praising God through singing and reading passages of praise from the Bible. Our last evening included a talent show, a quiz relating to the lessons of the last few days, and ended with a slide show of pictures taken during the camp.... This camp really gave us all a little taste of what it will be like when "all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."Lilandi.

Six of us were privileged to help "Network of Caring" assemble 35 wheelchairs that will God Willing be given to needy people later this month. We spent 2 hrs & had fun working with other people who, also, want to make a difference. The wheelchairs are really nifty and robust and have already changed lives in the world in recent years.

If you want to start the year On Fire for the Lord then do yourself a favour and check out the Ignite2020 & COP Trust face book pages as there are LOTS of photos of all the many activities that took place during December. The Internet addresses for these pages are <http://www.facebook.com/groups/igniteSA> and <http://www.facebook.com/COPTRUST>

Edited by Sister Paddy Campbell, South Africa. caribbean outreach Magazine

Editor Brother David Andrews

The following are a few extracts from this new quarterly magazine

Open-Air Meetings

We were happy to conduct yet another series of open-air meetings the third for this year, on the drive-way of Bro & Sis Harilall of Eccles. By God's grace the rains held up and allowed the support of many Brethren and Sisters.

Cottage Meetings

During the last quarter, three such meetings were held at the home of Bro Rasheed Khan and Sis/wife Mohanie, at Glasgow Housing Scheme, East Bank Berbice. All were well attended and included a few zealous 7th Day Adventists who were quite surprised to learn why keeping the 7th day Sabbath is no longer obligatory for our salvation. We look forward to continuing these sessions in the new year, God willing.

Ruimveldt Children's Aid Centre

This is a charitable organization designed to help underprivileged children in a very depressed part of the city of Georgetown. It has much potential as a preaching channel, not only through its functioning Sunday School which has about 60 students, but as a corridor for the gospel to reach their parents as well.

Though legally speaking, it is a private Charity, in reality it has always been primarily a Christadelphian concern. It originated as a brainchild of a Christadelphian Sis Jean Martin, a Guyanese who has been residing in the UK for several decades now, and who by the grace of God, undertook this mighty challenge around the year 1991

The Centre is operated as an afternoon learning exercise where each child, in addition to tuition in basic academic subjects, receives a free meal each day. Religious teaching and focus is paramount in its objectives and this is ably piloted by veteran Sis Maudlyn December, through drama and other avenues. Surely, this enterprise is worthy of our generous support!



Sisters Maudlyn (L) & Lorna Murray at the Ruimveldt Children's Aid Centre

BILL BOARD of special events - 2013

Some main events on the horizon are:

Bible School

It is New Amsterdam's turn to host our Bible School 2013 booked for the Easter week-end: Fri 29-Mar to Mon 1-Apr

Our main speaker will be Bro Ted Sleeper of California, USA.

Bro Ted and Sis/wife Dolores are both well known to Guyana, having labored here tirelessly for a number of years during the 1970s and continue to so do as our CBMC link in this portion of our Lord's vineyard. We do look forward with eagerness to their upcoming ministrations.

Youth Camp

The Guyana Youth Camp is set to be held at our camp site at Plegt Anker, Berbice River, from 10-17 August 2013.

Youth Circles and all young people are hereby encouraged to plan well ahead for this grand event. It is not too early to start preparing for those Bible skits, debates etc. so that you can "hit the ground running"!



Plegt Anker Camp Building front view; Presently under renovation



Plegt Anker Camp Building side view; Presently under renovation

Fraternal Gathering G/town

The Georgetown Ecclesia will be hosting their Annual Fraternal Gathering over the CARICOM week-end: 30 June Mon 2 July.

Truth Corps

Those who attended the Tobago Bible School 2012 would have enjoyed the privilege of meeting the several young and energetic members of the Truth Corps so ably guided by Sis Myra Lucke and Bro Brad Butts.

This is a group of eager adventurers, excited over the Word of God, who willingly surrender a portion of their personal routine to share their knowledge with many far and wide.

Here is an exclusive opportunity for young Brethren/Sisters to meet and work along with them for a week or two. They are coming to Guyana and are booked for Berbice and Demerara for the 1st and 2nd week in July, respectively. There will be much to do, but much more to learn and share as well.



Bro Brad Butts with Truth Corps in Tobago - 2012

CELEBRATE!



Sisters Lorraine (L) and Glancy with Atiya after her graduation

Whether you reside in the UK, Canada, or the USA, Sis Lorraine Mitchell (beloved Sis/ wife of the late Bro Hugo) is synonymous with the Brotherhood all the way back to the early 1950s when she was just a little `peach' (Hugo's favourite term) working at the Timehri Airport then known as Atkinson Field.

How many of us are aware that the commencement of the CBM in the early days was largely due to the influence and push of Sis Lorraine on our English Brethren such as Harry Whittaker et al ...while she was holidaying in the UK?!

Then followed the mighty Bible Campaign in 1955 conducted by Bro Harry along with Bro Alan Hayward of the UK, at the Georgetown Town Hall which saw over 14 children of Adam put on the Saving Name -within 3 months of hearing the gospel! What an outstanding witness!

Yes, Aunty Lorriane hit the 90th milestone last October 29th. We all pray her God's richest blessings. Perhaps it is the Father's will that she stays to comfort us unto the coming of our Messiah and Lord... her unsuppressed desire and expectation.

Baptism!

It was a day of great rejoicing at the Mocha Ecclesia on Sunday 23-Dec-12 when they celebrated the baptism of Ms. Waveney Iniss, sister of Sister Marilyn Babb of the Mocha Ecclesia. We share in their joy and wish her God's constant care as we journey together to His coming Kingdom.

--Bro David Andrews

Ugandas National Repentance



Ugandan President dedicates the Nation to repentance and turning to Christ

This is the public prayer of the Ugandan President

"We want to dedicate this nation to you so that you will be our God and guide. We want Uganda to be known as a nation that fears God and as a nation whose foundations are firmly rooted in righteousness and justice to fulfil what the Bible says in Psalm 33:12: Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord. A people you have chosen as your own.

"I renounce all the evil foundations and covenants that were laid in idolatry and witchcraft. I renounce all the satanic influence on this nation. And I hereby covenant Uganda to you, to walk in your ways and experience all your blessings forever.

"I pray for all these in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

This is an incredible statement,

but perhaps a foretaste of what might happen when nations turn to Christ. One of the decisive events of the last war was the miraculous delivery of the British troops at Dunkirk. The British people as a nation earnestly prayed to God for deliverance and it was granted. God is able to bless nations that turn to Him and we pray that this repentance may be genuine.

Early in the 2nd World war the British Army where about to be destroyed. At Dunkirk in 1940. On 27th May the German High Command announced: "The British army is encircled and our troops are proceeding to its annihilation".

Churchill said "I thought...that perhaps 20,000 or 30,000 men might be re-embarked... the whole root and core and brain of the British army...seemed about to perish upon the field or be led into captivity."

The previous day Sunday 26th May at the request of His Majesty King George VI, was observed as a National Day of prayer, In a stirring broadcast, the King called the

people of Britain and the Empire to commit their cause to God. The whole nation was at prayer. Three miracles then happened. 1) Hitler stopped his general advance, 2) A storm of extraordinary fury grounded the German Air force on 28th May. 3) A great calm settled over the English Channel for several day. Enabling 338,226 troops to be evacuated from Dunkirk. Such was the effect of a sincere desperate national day of prayer.

Note: CAT has written to the President and sent him an NEV Bible together with a copy of Bible Basics. Also sent a statement to the Ugandan Press wishing for the success of this repentance and offering to send literature to help those that wish to understand more the Bible message of salvation.

The Time of Judgement

The words of Jesus Christ our Lord in reference to the events before his second coming are being fulfilled (Matthew 24:6-8; Luke 21:25-26). Daniel watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated while a thousand thousands ministered to Him and then thousand times ten thousand stood before Him (Daniel 7:9- 10,26). The prophet had been shown the great and solemn day when the characters and lives of every individual should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth. The books were opened including the book of life: the dead were judged according to their works by the things which were written in the books (Rev 20:12). The books in heaven in which were recorded the names (Luke 10:20) and the deeds (Matthew 12:36-37) of men, which are to determine the decision of the judgement. All secret purposes and motives appear in the unerring register, for Yahweh will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and will reveal the counsels of the hearts (1Cor 4:5). He will bring every work into judgement including every secret thing whether good or bad (Ecc 12:14). Some are accepted and some rejected.

The law of Yahweh is the standard by which the characters and lives of men will be tested in the judgement. "So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:12), "whoever has sinned against me, I will blot him out of my book" (Exodus 32:33). "All who have

truly repented of sin" (Proverbs 28:13), "are baptised into Christ" (Galatians 3:27), "by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice" (Acts 16:30-31), "they become partakers of the righteousness of Christ" (1John 2:29), and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of Yahweh, their sins will be blotted out and they will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares: "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for mine own sake and I will not remember your sin" (Isaiah 43:25). Such will take part in the resurrection of the just.

The crisis all over the world is telling us to be ready, and the books will soon be opened (Ezekiel 21:25-27).

Bro Uka Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

God rescued king Hezekiah of Judah from the hands of king Sennacherib of Assyria and from the hands of all his enemies (2 Chronicles 33:22). Verse 27 states how much Hezekiah accumulated in wealth and other possessions God had entrusted to him. The Bible states in simple and plain words that Hezekiah prospered in all his works. During his later reign, he became sick ("snares of death encompassed him; the pangs of sheol laid hold on him") and he prayed to God. He was answered with a sign and deliverance, Isaiah 38:5-8.

This was a test. God left him to himself in order to test him, and knew all that was in his heart. Hezekiah made a deeply sincere confession because he was thankful for his deliverance.

It is a little wonder that many worldly kings of today have been overtaken by pride over their greatness in terms of wealth. They have no conscience about how they attained to their positions, and have no understanding that they derived these from God and not their own might. That is why there is no peace and security in the times of their rulership.

In contrast, Hezekiah's rule did develop peace and security in the last years of his reign on the throne. In this regard, he considered in his mind what he should render to the Lord for all his benefits. And he put this in writing, Isaiah 9-20.

We, too, can be healed of our suffering in distress and anguish if we develop the same outlook. The psalmist in his sufferings still loved the Lord for his mercy and called on His name. God delivered his soul from death, so he promised to walk before the Lord all his remaining days. He considered his own place before God (Psalm 116:1,4,8,9). God has bestowed upon us countless benefits for this life and future life salvation. Let us offer ourselves a sacrifice of thanksgiving, calling on the name of the Lord through prayers in the courts of the house of the Lord (v17,19), ie in the assembly of believers.

Bro Lawrence K'Owiti (Katito, Kenya)

The Meaning of Worship

Worship is acknowledging God, praising Him for His greatness and His achievements. It is thanking Him for His love towards us. Worship is reverence paid to God. We should regard Him as sacred and exalted, and admit our endless dependence on Him.

It should be one-to-one with God. It should be deep meditation, not shedding tears publicly for all to see. "Worship the Lord in the splendour of His holiness: tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns'. The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity" (Psalm 96:9-10).

Moses had a one-to-one relationship with God while tending the flock (Exodus 3). Abraham spoke to God when God made a covenant with him; the angel of the Lord appeared to him. So if we worship him with all our might, He will reward us in due time. Abraham was given a son though he was old.

What lessons do we learn from all this? Listen to these words: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him" (Psalm 34:7-8).

On many occasions Jesus Christ had a one-to-one with God. He would move to a secluded place to pray to God, to worship his Father. One such incident was when he was with his disciples (Luke 22:39-43). In verse 14, he actually withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed. He was alone when an angel of God appeared to him.

Let us worship the Father with our hearts and minds and be in deep meditation always.

Bro Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)

Living With a Widow

We, Rosemary and Joshua, are on missionary work in Ethiopia for six months from September 2012 to the end of March 2013, God willing. As you can imagine, leaving home, family, friends and everything else and going to a foreign country with a totally different people, language and food is not easy. But the pair of us enjoy it because the Ethiopians have a great interest in the Bible.

The deep-rooted Orthodox religion is dominant and very hard for an older person to change; but young people are prepared to listen. And slowly, very slowly, some middle-aged persons are listening to the truth and beginning to respond to it. In Ethiopia, we so far have 17 brothers but no sisters.

Preaching started before 1998. The unsuitable culture has impeded the spread of God's work here. Ethiopia has never been colonised directly and the development of their civilisation is below average. Their culture does not allow females into meetings where men are. So talking to females about the word of God has been on a low note and we do not have one sister up to the time of writing.

Since their God is different from ours in Kenya, we usually choose to rent a house in each place we visit, where we can cook our own food. Life is difficult since basic commodities are

expensive; for example, the cheapest house to rent is Ksh.20,000 per month without furniture; cooking materials and sleeping items totalling Ksh.35,000 per month. The cheapest single meal is Ksh. 100 (1,000 Ksh = £8). By renting a house, we have our freedom, and Bible students come to share Bible teaching there.

In Nekemte, a small town in the west of Ethiopia, we were offered a little less payment but to share with a widow and her four children, two boys 16 and 9, and two girls, 20 and 12. We were to prepare our own food; the family would prepare their own "Injera", the staple food in Ethiopia, plus black coffee. The widow, Genet by name is 45, and had an old Amharic Bible which she used to read every day. We could hear her praying in her room always.

In the first week, we decided to do our readings in the common room. Genet moved close to us with her Bible in her hand and because she could not speak English and we could not speak her Afana Remo language, we were stuck. In the evening when her 16 year old son came back from school. He translated that she would like to learn the Bible with us. We said, "Fine". Time for the reading was set for after dinner when the son was there to translate. Each time we read the Bible together, Genet was very keen and came up with many questions about our faith. Then she told us that she had spent 20 years in her church. We said that everything has its own time and she was not late. Then she said she would like us to baptise her.

We told her of our procedure concerning baptism and lessons started straight away. We had to ask one of our brothers in Nekemte to come in the morning for teaching with translation. We were amazed at her faith and interest. She stopped attending her usual church and she came to the CBM ecclesia.

We pray for her and, God willing, we will visit her in February 2013. If we find her still strong in her commitment we shall be grateful. Now we are going round Ethiopia preaching, and we ask for the prayers of "Gospel News" readers.



Bro Joshua and Sis Rosemary Kisuya in Ethiopia



Sis Rosemary, Genet (widow) and her son, Shone, daughter Gadiso: in front, Genet's other son Mikeza.

CARELINKS

Christadelphian Ministries

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Here are just a few highlights from recent issues:



Sister Valya

VALYA was once a high school teacher of Maths and Physics. Her two children live in the USA... but she's living in a night shelter, carrying her few belongings in a bag, walking with great

difficulty to our meetings in Riga, Latvia, every step she has to climb seeming a mountain, struggling with basic survival. But this lady has a lifetime of intelligent thought about God's word behind her, and having attended our meetings on and off for 2 years, all came together in her baptism into Jesus:





Bro Joshua & Sis Rosemary Kisuya (Ethiopia)

Southern Russia

We're pleased to announce the baptism of VALERIJ in a town in southern Russia. Our brother has had a long search for the Truth, passing through various religions and denominations, first becoming convinced of the unity of God whilst in the army many years ago. Here's our new brother after baptism.

It was a pleasure to have sister Vika from Gelendzhik and brother Alexei and sister Vera from Min Vody travel some distance despite their major health problems, in order to break bread. Alexei was baptized nearly 20 years ago and has been a wonderful example of witness and genuine care for others. Sister Vika is really in a bad situation. A refugee from the fighting in Abkhazia, she has no documents and survives by making and selling pies. However, she can hardly walk. Indeed, she cannot walk, - she gets around on two crutches and has various spinal and other issues. She gets no state support at all. No pension, no free medical care, nothing. How she survives is amazing, - and she travelled a round trip of 500 km. just in order to be with us and visit another sister in hospital. Now, facing, old age, our sister has a very bleak perspective before her. Her close family members - siblings, parents and son - are all dead. Truly the hope of the Kingdom and knowledge of the present love of Christ is all she has, and therefore she is never short of a smile, despite being in much pain:

It was a wonderful thing to see our sisters and brother waiting for us on a bench with their bags, walking stick and crutches: Of such is the Kingdom. They are the salt of the earth.

We thank God for blessing our preaching over the years and leading us to His true people. Vika has a kind heart and used to give her potato pies free to a hungry looking young boy. He brought her a present one day to show his gratitude- a Bible Basics which his father had. This was the start of our contact with our sister and clearly it was of God. We provided her with major welfare and will try to continue to do what we can, although the Governments of Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia all don't want to give her any recognition of citizenship. So please pray for this lonely but joyful old sister.



Malawi Report

Drove to Dzaleka refugee camp to collect about 23 of the refugees who form the church there. Ferried them to Lodzi where we hired a lodge for the day. Gave exhortational power point talk on the Power of One which encourages us all to realize that we all can make an eternal difference working for the Lord. Also a power point talk on the nature of the devil. After lunch, Greg spoke on Faith. It was inspiring to see that the refugees have built their own church hall from handmade mud bricks. They have reached a stall point being unable to afford the roof. I appreciate this sort of initiative, so we gave a donation towards the roof, and also some bags of maize.

On to Ngona where a church has been established. It started from a woman who heard our teaching and left her Pentecostal church. Others followed her, and we also met her son Limban who has left the Seventh Day Adventists to follow the Truth. We taught again on the Kingdom and the devil. Visited Sister Ruth where a house church meets broke bread with her family and gave Bibles for the group there. Frederick came back with us from Ngona to be baptised in the bath at our lodge.

Travelled into town in the morning to try to get the data projector fixed. As a result we met a young man named James who we preached to and he was happy to take a copy of Introducing Bible Basics. He led us to a young man who fixed the projector for us. I learnt last time to trust God when things go wrong, and all things work for good.

Arrived in Nkhota where we were met by Catherine / Esther / Florence and Alice. Apart



from Alice, the other sisters were stalwarts last time and travelled with us everywhere. they are just as keen still praise God! We gave the group there a Power point talk on the devil. We spoke to a woman called Love, who is a school teacher. She was a Muslim and wants to become a Christian. I explained to her the vast difference between Jesus and Mohammed. Jesus' credentials as far as the prophecies He gave and those which came before Him show He is the true Messiah.

At Thale only about 20 kms from Nkhota. Used Austin's generator to give Ppoint talks on Kingdom of God / Baptism. 3 baptisms in the pool filled via the village pump a slow process!

Traveled to Nkhota which is along a dirt track. Last time we had walked this. Again we had our meeting under 2 shady mango trees this is truly one of the highlights! Bros Innocent and Daniel have started a group here and Greg spoke on the importance of Truth as a follow up to what they already know doctrinally. We were given Nsima and relish for lunch in their newly built church hut again a great example of initiative shown. There were 13 of us brothers all eating together which reminded me of Jesus and the 12 having fellowship around a meal. Distributed Bibles and Bible Basics.

Drove to Matiki and taught about 100 people in a hired school room. Gave ppoint on the Kingdom / Hell / soul / baptism. Broke bread. Baptised 33 people in Lake Malawi.. As we do everywhere we go, we gave them a notebook, pen and Bible and they wrote down all the scriptures relating to the devil being human nature and other doctrines etc.

On to Chitala. Met in a school hall and again used Austin's generator to give ppoint on the devil. Greg again followed up talking about the importance of Truth. Arrived at Mangochi about 9 pm to meet Bro Esau who is the brother baptised by Duncan in Norway who then showed Leonard Bible Basics, and Leonard with his evangelical skills has been spreading the Truth since. We spent a couple of hours discussing the way to further develop the Truth. Leonard and Austin both agreed that the main priorities are: Transport cost / Bibles / Teaching books / self sustainability. So, we see our mission as primarily twofold: 1) To supply Bibles to Malawi. 2) To supply Bible Basics in Chichewa. Carelinks has just ordered another 1000 copies to be printed in China and delivered in Malawi early 2013.



Feeding Scheme In Riga, Latvia

The progress of the Truth at Riga Bible Center continues. We've had some record attendances lately, both at our main meetings and at Cindy's women's and kids' church on Wednesdays. There are baptisms most weeks. Typically a few members of the ecclesia press into the kitchen area for the immersion, and each gives a testimony as to God's work in their lives and a word of encouragement to the new brother or sister. At Aleksandr's baptism, sister Valya picked up on a discussion we had just been having about Job and the minor prophets in our Bible class, which looks at the Bible Companion readings.

Valya spoke of how, as a small child, on December 8, 1941 she stood holding her mothers' hand on the Moscow Prospect in Riga, watching the columns of Jews with their children being marched from the railway station to the extermination camp at Rumbula, where on that day 26,000 Jews were exterminated. She told of how she watched the mothers holding the hands of their children, and how her mother called out 'Let your child run away, I will look after it, the guards won't chase after a child'; and how one Jewish woman replied, 'No. This is God's will'. Duncan mentioned that Sister Sue Woodin of the Erith ecclesia had visited us in Riga, and her mother had been one of those women slain at Rumbula. Sue had been sent to safety in England. We marvelled at God's providence; who would have known on that dark day that the daughter of one of those Jewish women would later be baptized into Christ in England, and how the little Russian girl whom she would have walked past would be baptized 71 years later. And almost 71 years to the day later, would sit in Riga and testify to these things at the baptism of another brother. Truly there is a God in the earth.

You can see our sister Valya in the photos as she spoke, being watched carefully by sister Judite [who has just lost a second child), and others.

As Winter closes in, the Riga Bible Center continues to provide around 200 meals / week and countless coffees and snacks to the many people living on a very low level of existence, often through no fault of their own. All our meetings feature Bible studies and extended discussion of the Gospel and various doctrinal and practical issues.



Australia

One advert in the Australian magazine "Women's Weekly" has brought in around 1000 requests for the NEV Bible [about 50% of them from men!]. Some people who've got the Bible have gone on to study the Bible Basics course. We had a complete set of answers returned from MARYGRACE in Sydney, along with a request for baptism. We called her... to find that that morning she had, in her daily morning devotions, prayed that the Carelinks people with whom she had correspondence with would arrange somehow her baptism. This is how we find God at work in human life time and again. We had only been talking about this theme of "God at work in human life" at the Carelinks gatherings in Brisbane and Sydney over the last few days. Due to her handicap, we went to fetch her, and had a pleasant evening with her at the Jones' home, during which she was baptized. Here you can see her being baptized in the family setting, and being welcomed into the Lord's ever growing family by the Carelinks treasurer, Brother John Thatcher. Our Sister has passed through and left various churches and rejoices at having found the pearl of great price. And we give thanks to God that He is so actively at work worldwide, not only in places like Africa and Eastern Europe, but also in complacent Australia. We continue praying for other contacts desiring baptism throughout Australia.

God's Order in the Home

God is a God of order. When He created man He knew and understood that man would need an order or plan by which to govern his life. When men plan and work together in an organised way, they can accomplish great things. We see this in the account of the tower of Babel in Genesis chapter 11. If God had not stepped in, the people would have made a name for themselves. God has ordained powers for the nations of the world to maintain order. As long as the people under a ruler respect and obey him, the country is able to function and, at times, even prosper even though the man in power may be using that power to promote himself and his own ideas. But when someone tries to overthrow this power, it brings turmoil and confusion. This is also true for the home.

God has an order that He will bless when followed. When everyone accepts his rightful place, there is security. Security brings happiness and contentment; when anyone tries to step out of his place and into someone else's, it will cause disruption.

It is alarming how many broken homes and single parent homes there are around today. It is heart breaking when we see the havoc it works in the lives of those involved. The children receive many emotional scars. Mistrust, sometimes even hate, governs the thoughts toward one another: parent to parent, parent to children or children to parent. Many times ungrounded suspicions are planted. One sad result is that the children who find themselves in these situations have no foundation upon which to build their own homes when the time comes. It becomes a very weakening element in any organisation.

Another cause for alarm in many homes today is disobedient children. Many are the heartaches of parents whose children do not respect and obey them. Disobedience to parents is one of the marks of the end times. God has placed parents in authority over their children, and He will not bless children that do not submit to authority.

We should stop and reflect on our own homes and appreciate the many blessings that we enjoy. We should also ask ourselves if we are fitting into God's order. If the negative observations stated above are true, then surely the opposite can be true for those homes that are following God's order. There is a tie that binds together. Parents should look at their responsibilities in all seriousness and recognise the fact that the atmosphere in the homes in which their children grow up will have long-lasting effects. The comment has been made that today's weakness will be tomorrow's standard. What kind of foundation are we helping our children lay up for their future homes?

The son who grows up in a home where his father has rightfully filled his God-given place as the head of the home will find it much easier to accept his place when he gets married and has children. The daughter that observes her mother filling her place with humility and love will know what God expects of her when she is a wife and mother.

Young people, learning obedience to your parents will prepare you for accepting your responsibilities in the future.

David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Let Unbelievers See Our Boldness

We are Christ's, we are not totally in the flesh because our mind is set to understand spiritual things discerning the Spirit of God, and accept them. We are therefore in the Spirit. We interpret spiritual things in spiritual language because of the sound words that we have heard and learned, and words dwell in us (Romans 8:8-9;

1Corinthians 2:10-16). Many are astonished at our teaching, since we are not prevalent in Christendom. Some say of us, "These babblers, they prate the word of God in voices of myth" a misnomer accorded to the saints of old, whose faith we copy (Acts 17:18; Jude 3). Hence few people are for us (John 2:24-25; 5:40-44; Matthew 24:5).

When we embark on winning converts, we ought to be fervent in spirit, speaking sound words of Jesus to the people, and devoting ourselves to prayer before we witness. God will search the hearts of our hearers and He will show which ones He has called by our preaching. Not all have faith, even some supposed Bible students do not really have faithfulness. But we should strive with those who listen to us, and struggle on their behalf in our prayers, that they might be delivered from unbelievers and evil men who oppose our teaching. The word of God is not bound (and it is not confined to correspondence courses). The faith has been delivered to us for the relief of those who would develop faith through our boldness (Proverbs 28:1; Acts 5:29)

In the first century, those who delivered the faith were in conflict and were sometimes shamefully treated by those who opposed them. They proclaimed the word in the synagogues and market places. They tried to persuade Jews explaining the right teaching of the kingdom of God, and many who heard them were astonished at their doctrine yet had not had formal education. Some were provoked to jealousy and tried to silence them (Acts 14:1-4; John 3:36). We should not be discouraged if we are faced with similar experiences.

Many of our contacts do not understand what we say to them, because we present what to them are strange things a unique doctrine not spoken by Christendom. We remember how we ought to imitate the saints (Jude 3) who received much affliction, yet they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer persecution and we should rejoice likewise (Philip 1:28-29). We must not be ashamed of our doctrine but we must tell everyone all the glad news of righteousness for their salvation, for it is the testimony about our Lord Jesus Christ: "Even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed to you" (1Corinthians 1:2; Mark 8:38). That confirmation continues with us; we have never taught a doctrine contrary to the sound doctrine of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the apostles.

We cannot be popular in the world. But our will must be shown to be God's will. We might be regarded as fools or out of our minds, but we must copy the Lord Jesus who faced those accusations. By our teaching, we should continue to bear witness to God and we must work together with Him. If we maintain true doctrine, we shall be blessed (Luke 5:20). God will lead us in a triumphal procession in what is right, the truth, because we hear and understand His word.

As we wait for the promise of the Father, we should rejoice and be glad to extend our doctrine abroad with boldness. God will look upon our opponents and hear their words of contempt, with which they speak, not to offend us, but to mock the living God. He will grant us to continue to speak His word much more boldly without fear, as we ought to speak to, and dispute with, the erroneous teaching of Christendom.

Our boldness should be the sign that the Lord is with us, and to persuade others even if some are filled with jealousy (1Thes 2:2). Our unique teaching and boldness are factors which will encourage others to follow our example in doctrine and our by our practical christian life.

Bro Timothy Lemekani (Mwale-Mazabuka, Zambia)

Be All of One Mind

The Acts of the Apostles is the witness of the work The Acts continued after the Lord's death and resurrection as recorded after the four gospels. The Acts is attributed to Luke and we read in the

first chapter that he addresses one called `Theophilus': "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1). Who `Theophilus' was we are not certain, but this name means "Friend or lover of God" and indeed this could be a general title given to all those knowing God's truth and desiring to walk therein. After the Lord's resurrection he appeared to his disciples and charged them not to leave Jerusalem, but to "'Wait for the promise of the father which', saith he, `ye have heard of me. For John truly baptised with water, but ye shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days hence'" (Acts 1:4-5).

As the disciples gathered together with the Lord after his resurrection, they naturally wondered if he would immediately establish the Kingdom of God on earth as God's son, the Messiah. However, he replied: "... It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:7-8). The kingdom was not to be established then, but only in God's future appointed time. However, prior to this, they were to be given the great work of spreading the gospel message to all peoples throughout the world. We, as Gentiles, have learned of His name and what is required to walk in God's ways, because of the apostles' work of witnessing and the precious record they made. Jesus was with the disciples for forty days after his resurrection, after which he was taken to heaven to reside at the right hand of God the Father.

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, `Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:7-11).

Not knowing what exactly to expect, the disciples gathered together to strengthen themselves through prayer and through the bonds of unity and fellowship they shared until the promise of the Lord came upon them: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14).

When the gift of the spirit came upon the twelve, it came in the visible form of tongues of fire accompanied by the sound of a mighty, rushing wind. This portion of God's power invested them with the gift of healing, miracles and speaking in tongues, in order to spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus to all peoples and nations. These apostles were for the most part uneducated men, fishermen from Galilee, who could now speak in the languages of whom ever heard them: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

As those who heard and believed the word were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ they joined the apostles as brethren in fellowship - part of God's household. "And they, continuing with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having favour with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46-47). How the disciples must have been encouraged as they witnessed to so many with their newly found spiritual power, seeing great numbers joined daily to the body because of their work!

Their lives were not easy, even with the addition of spiritual power. They were threatened, beaten and imprisoned by the council of elders, who sought to halt the belief being spread of

Jesus of Nazareth as the son of God and Saviour. These men counselled against the disciples, saying: "Let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.' So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing, or how they might punish them, because of the people, for all men glorified God for that which was done" (Acts 4:17-21).

Strengthened by the hand of God, they rejoiced in the deliverance granted, and in the unity they felt among their brethren joined with them in fellowship: "And being let go, they went to their own company and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted their voice to God with one accord and said, 'Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is.' And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:23-24,31-33). The unity they felt one with another helped to sustain and strengthen them in the work. The same knowledge and understanding, we are privileged to know through their witness, and is to help us similarly persevere today although our work of witnessing is not with power to perform miracles, healing or the gift of tongues as was theirs.

Paul exhorts: "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love ... There is one body, and one spirit even as you are called in one hope of your calling ... One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all" (Ephesians 4:1-6). Joined in that same unity of spirit and mind we, too, can know His care and nearness which strengthens us from day to day.

Bro Francis Kotei Odiko (Subri, Ghana)

Thanksgiving

The scriptures urge all people to worship the Lord with thanksgiving. The Psalms speak a lot about this, and a letter written by Paul to the Colossians states that the Lord should be praised with thanksgiving at all times. We know that all good things come from the Lord, but some misfortunes also result from the designs of the Lord (Job 1:16,17), the story of King Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:10-13) and the sufferings of Israel during the times of the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-12).

Though all the children of God will go through tribulation at some time in life, the Lord has to be praised always. Believe in Him and your end will be great. He has done it for me and for many others; believe and He will do it for you too. Worry not about the length of time it will take, nor that you do not see Him. The powers above will prevail in your favour to make you win in life despite the odds.

Remember that out of thanksgiving, the yoke of 'Assyrians' in your life, and the 'walls of Jericho' in your path will crumble before you. You will definitely give birth to a multitude like Sarah (Genesis 18:9-15), Elizabeth (Luke 1:40-57) and the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-17)

celebrate their pregnancies at an old age, when they had no hope. Praise the Lord and prosper in health (3 John 2), wealth

(Deuteronomy 8:17,18) and position will be yours (Daniel 1:17-20).

Praise one, praise all. Therefore we ought to be thankful always to our Almighty, heavenly Father for all the benefits that we receive from His hands. Let us all look up unto the Lord for His glorious Kingdom that our Lord and Master Jesus is coming to set up.

Prepare Your Minds for Action, Be Sober Minded (1 Peter 13-16)

Bro Joseph Chrivious (Mazabuko, Zambia)

Peter proclaims Christ as the shepherd of God's people. His letters teach endurance. Everyone in this world suffers in one way or another. Climate change and the like are affecting human lives today, yet man cannot do anything positive to bring it to an end. We just have to make ourselves ready for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which is very near. If we die before his coming and we die in him, we shall also be raised in him (Isaiah 26:19; 1 Thess 4:16).

Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Rome with good news for the baptised believers there. Though they would die, they would live again as long as they had lived according to the will of God in this life (Romans 6:1-4). Therefore baptised believers are no longer slaves of sin but of righteousness (Romans 6:16-18). After baptism we are changed, and so are our masters. Before baptism we are slaves of sin, but after this act we become slaves of righteousness being saved by the Lord Jesus Christ only. This is the beginning of a new life in Christ.

When we are baptised, we take our first step in the Christ-centred life. This is a very serious step to be taken by any committed Christian. That is why we are to be sober-minded. We children of God should always stay awake since we do not know the day of our Lord's coming (Matthew 24:42). If we sleep, our Lord will suddenly come. What do you think will happen to those found not doing his will? Be awake, that he may find you doing his work, since he will come at any time, any day (Mark 13:32-37).

"For by grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned" (Romans 12:3). Can a drunken man judge rightly? Absolutely not. When one is drunk, a person can do anything he/she thinks to be right even though it is evil.

Just as beer is not good for human health, so is evil doing. We know that doing evil is bad but we continue sinning deliberately. Are we different from a drunkard? Surely not, my brethren and sisters; let us stay awake and be sober-minded. If we want to be drunk why not drink up spiritual drink, feeding on spiritual food, the word of God.

But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you as a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day; we are not of the night or of the darkness. So let us not sleep as others do, but let us keep awake. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love: for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as you are doing. Amen.

Bro Joseph Kwesi (Cape Coast, Ghana)

Your Duty to Love (Psalm 133:1)

Throughout the ages, the world has experienced the disastrous consequences of disunity. The church, instead of being one in the spirit as Jesus prayed, is divided and precious time is wasted as the various denominations and groups argue over comparatively minor issues instead of uniting in the strife against misunderstanding. War, civil unrest and acts of aggression and terrorism are shaking civilisation to its foundation, and these dreadful acts seem to be increasing rather than decreasing.

A variety of reasons are put forward concerning the causes of these divisions and the unrest, but the root cause must surely be the complete disregard by man of our Lord's command to "Love one another, as I have loved you." It seems to be beyond all doubt that obedience to that command would solve all the problems confronting mankind and the world in these critical times.

The starting point is not at international level but with you. The ordinary Christian is called to love, to be compassionate, understanding and tolerant, to forget pride and prejudice and to be sympathetic to the views of others. The smallest pebble dropped in a pond will send ripples throughout that pond. Your act of Christian love could be the beginning of a ripple effect across the length and breadth of the country. Why not put this into effect? After all, it is your duty.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Life and Death

Many people think that the Bible says that God has already chosen those who are going to be saved. Whether you are doing right things or bad things, if you are already chosen, then you will be saved. But is this right?

The Bible says that God has put life and death in front of us to choose (Deut 30:19). Israel had to choose whether to move out from the bondage in Egypt or to remain, but they would have to abide in the laws of God in order to be accepted by Him.

"If it seems evil to you to serve Yahweh, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. As for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh" (Joshua 24:15). There is a blessing for obedience and cursing for disobedience; it is up to us whether we follow God's given commandments or not.

"Behold, all souls are mine: as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine. The soul who sins, he shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). So it is up to God to act upon which soul has sinned.

Cain and Abel were given the opportunity to sacrifice to God, but Cain chose his way by taking his farming product of the field, ignoring the principle that blood must be shed. Abel's sacrifice was accepted because he chose the right way by bringing an animal sacrifice.

God gives a blessing but it depends upon deeds if the blessing is obtained or not (Ephesians 1:3). God can see any limitations where man cannot. God knows the future, He knows the time of the coming of His son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Although there are some people who claim to see the future and many people who believe them, it is impossible. "For there are those called

gods, whether in heaven or on earth, as there are gods many and lords many, yet for us there is only one God" (1 Cor 8:5). God is bringing us near to him, but there is a condition attached calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13). It depends on what you hear and how you respond.

Bro Fred Mumba (Mufulira, Zambia)

To The Newly Immersed

As newly immersed, having submitted to the obedience which Christ requires, you have made a good start on the road which leads to life eternal.

A blessed prize is before you which is well worth your greatest perseverance to obtain. Christ told his disciples that in the world they would have tribulation and this also applies to us for Paul writes the same thing: "Whom Yahweh loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth" (Heb.12:6). Yet we have the consolation of knowing that we have a faithful high priest, who was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, to intercede for us at the right hand of God. Christ has trodden the same narrow way which he has now called upon you to follow. He has borne its sorrows and felt its bitter trials and temptations and he watches with interest your growth in the Truth. He is watching and noting the changes which it is making in your walk and conversation. The smallest event in your life is known to Him.

He bids you to continue steadfast to the end. He invites you to come to him when you are weary and heavy laden and says he will give you rest. He warns you not to look back upon the world you have left. Its pleasures must no longer have an interest for you. The Word of God must be your only guide, and this fact we commend to you most earnestly, since your spiritual strength depends on your constant reading and meditation of the Word. If you make this your study, and the precepts it teaches the daily rule of your walk and conversation, then after the care and anxieties of the present life are over; you will receive an abundant entrance into the Kingdom of God. God grant that you may be strengthened and immovably fixed in this blessed faith, so that you may be able to use words of Paul written in Romans 8:35.

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