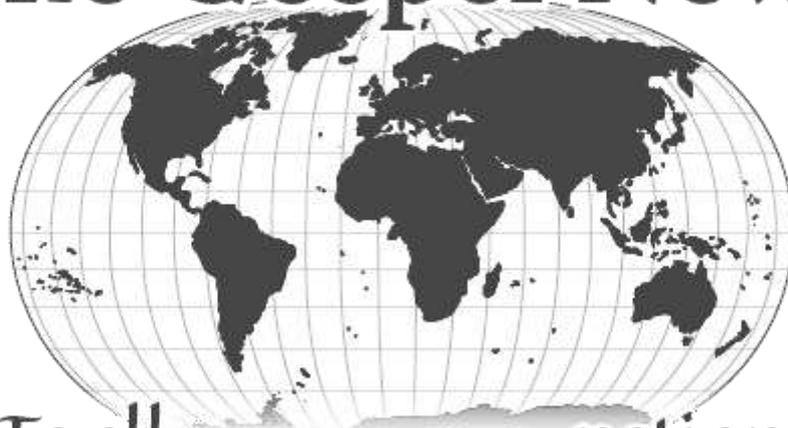


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”

A Prayer to Pray

We live in a world where the majority are drifting through life as in a dream, doing roughly the same things the same way, living on autopilot, not too much in touch with themselves, existing rather than living. Make no mistake about it. For all their apparent achievements in study, business and family life- this is the hard reality for most of our fellows.

We have been given life in Christ, and "life more abundant" (Jn. 10:10) - an allusion to how the natural creation brought forth life



` abundantly' (Gen. 1:20). Those who have become part of the new creation are to experience this same `abundance' of life - whether trapped in poverty, difficult family situations, ill health or even clinical depression. The `abundance' of our lives is to be what makes us different from those in the world - we are to salute not only our brethren because we are living "more [same Greek word translated `abundantly'] than others (Mk. 5:47). There is a power at work in us which does "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

But how do we lock in to this abundant life? It is none less than the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus. The life of Jesus is now being made manifest in our mortal flesh; and that life "works in you" (2 Cor. 4:11,12). The Christ-focused life means that He is working through us, doing His work, so far as we open ourselves to Him. Sure, we should read the Bible, and, that daily. But we can too easily leave it there, thinking that our duty is to maintain correct understanding of some doctrines, read the Bible, go to church, keep our nose clean, live a reasonable life. But we can do all that and still not make that vital personal connection with the Lord Jesus as a person, feeling His presence, communicating with Him, knowing Him, consciously serving Him and ever seeking to be as Him in this world... making and allowing His thinking to be ours. To have "the mind of Christ", His outlook, perspective and worldview, to speak as He would speak, reason as He would. The Jews studied the Bible, but they would not come to Jesus that they might have life (Jn. 5:39,40).

We are called to live, to live for Christ and with the life of Christ - not to merely exist. Not to live merely in the sub-culture of being a Christian, full of good theology and fine phrases. There is a `life' in some groups who have totally wrong beliefs, which should challenge us deeply. The Mormons say it takes them 500 hours of work on the doors to get a convert. And they do it - thousands of their young people are out knocking on hostile and unwelcoming doors as you read this. And the JWs are another example. And we... with so, so much more and better to tell folk... what are we doing? Immersed in our sub-culture - or out there doing something with our lives? Just as you get middle aged spread, so our beliefs can become stale, and we become flabby. Nothing excites us anymore. But this is not the abundant life in Christ.

This is not just a point to agree with and skip on. Clever and inspirational words are cheap. We put them on Facebook profiles, status updates etc. and talk soberly and approvingly of them. But our usage of them can disguise the fact that much of our would be zeal is borrowed. The revolutionary and dynamic message of the real Christ can still be unfelt by us personally. We

can read thousands of 'great books', hear hundreds of powerful exhortations - all in a fog of unreality. And yet never really change or live this life. We undervalue ourselves and our huge significance to God and our Lord. That's probably one reason why we have a tendency to hero-worship and setting up brethren on pedestals - 'I wish I were him / her, I never will be, the best I can do is reverence those who spiritually made it'. But as Marianne Williamson put it, "We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world" (from Return to Love). In the eyes of God and the Lord who so loved us to the point of death, we are all those things. We are talented - He has given us talents, to go trade with and achieve something for Him, to make some increase of what He has given. There are good works which God before ordained that we should do for Him (Eph. 2:10). Right now, ask Him. Yes, stop reading this and pray - that God will show you His hopes for you, His intentions, what He has set you up to do for Him, what talents He has given you.

But say 'Amen' to that prayer realizing it will require radical change. And just accept that you like all human beings are a conservative. We cling, desperately, to patterns of coping and established ways of being. The Lord recognized the essential conservatism of human nature when He observed that no matter how good the new wine, we will think that "the old is better" (Lk. 5:39), taking it as read that "the former days were better than these" (Ecc. 7:10). Yes, for all our much vaunted liberalism and open mindedness, our reasonable openness to new ideas which we assume we have - we are conservatives by nature. Don't disturb me or upset my social club. The seed of the Gospel was sown in our lives so that we might bring forth fruit. Not to just be retained and to lay dormant. The Lord's judgment of the one talent man may seem unusually harsh- he who carefully preserved the talent (and the same Greek word is used later in the New Testament about the need to "preserve" the Truth). He didn't spend it on himself. Didn't lose it. Didn't let it get dirty. Didn't forget where he buried it. But his inaction was the basis of his condemnation.

In the wider Christian world, Christianity is becoming increasingly professional. But just like the colossal scale of a cathedral dwarfs Catholics into thinking they themselves can do nothing, so this professionalism can do to us. Smart websites, power point presentations, truly funny jokes, entertainment. But this is not how God works. It is through the likes of the late, great Ludmila Fyodorovna Kuritsyna, who never had a cell phone, had no teeth and no dentures, thought the internet was only for her grandkids... and yet converted several hundred throughout the former USSR by letter writing and constant personal visitation and teaching.

"Endure hardship like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No-one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer" (2 Tim. 2:3,4). Not for us the disillusion of feeling we gave our lives for the wrong cause, that we made such commitment without knowing the real facts, of seeing the feet of clay in our leaders. The life in Christ, the work for His cause, shall never disappoint. But we must keep focused on it, as the bigger picture overarching our lives. We will not allow the hard word of others, their failure, even your own failure, the major calamities, loss of fellow soldiers falling at your side... to interfere with the overall thrust and direction of our lives.

The fact the Lord Jesus died for you personally will mean you seek to respond without wavering, without flinching. Not for us the philosophy of 'balance' - a bit of effort for the Lord, but balanced by our commitment to our hobbies, wealth seeking and other passions. The end result of it is simply life in the mire of mediocrity. He gave and lived His life to the full for us, and has given us that kind of life. We are to live in harmony, I would say, not maxed out on just one

particular aspect of serving Him - but there is a subtle difference between 'balance' and such harmony. Watch out, in this generation as never before, for time wasting. For life is full of ways to waste the precious hours God has given you, and each one is lost forever once it's over. We will spend eternity serving God because our nature will be changed. But every effort we make for Him in the constraints of this nature, where such service has to be a conscious choice, is perhaps in a strange way even more meaningful and pleasing to Him. So please, pray a prayer something like this: "Father, who created me for Your pleasure, and Lord Jesus, who died for me, please show me what are Your hopes for me. What can I do. Lead me to the right people. May I get into the right conversations. I believe You will lead me and show me as I ask. But please also give me the courage to follow where You lead. I open my life and my heart totally to You. I want to give my all for You. I am willing to lay my life down for You. Help me to do it. For the sake of Jesus and so that all His love and work for me will not be without response from me, Amen".

--Duncan Heaster



Somali Refugees in Kenya

News from Africa

NEWS FROM CONGO



We are all OK here in Kinshasa Ecclesia in spite of all the problem. Last month I went to Mbandaka over 700 KM way, to visit our friends who are learning the gospel in that area. There are many there who are seriously interested in the Truth, it was very nice to see peoples enthusiasm to accept the Gospel. There are four Brethren in the area.

--Bro.Kims

Photos Bro Kims preaching and with the children



NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA



The Bible is the Word of God which was written by the prophets and apostles by God's power. (2 Tim. 3:15-17) By reading the Bible, we can gain great knowledge of God Himself, His Son, Jesus Christ, and His Kingdom.

In Psalm 119:105 God's Word is the true guide for everything and is the light for our eyes to help us work for wisdom. In the book of James 1:5 we are told to pray for wisdom to understand the Word, and in Isaiah 66:2 we read that God has said He will 'look on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my Word.'

--Bro. Patrick Wekesa

NEWS FROM GHANA



Through the book you gave me some years ago, 'Where there is no Doctor,' I realized that there was a problem with my prostate gland. I started treatment at our local Hospital for enlarged Prostate for more than two years, but the treatment only reduced the pains, which returned.

Early last year I was introduced to Hunchun Capsules and Doxycycline Capsules. By the grace of the Almighty, I am now able to control my bladder and its function is normal.

Concerning the request for old Gospel News magazines and the Gospel Pioneer, my copies were destroyed when the storm ripped off the roof of my house and almost all my books were soaked in the rain. The parcel has been received with much gratitude.

--Bro. Francis Kotei Odiko

NEWS FROM KENYA



BARATON

I appreciate the gift you sent to me plus a CD and Middle East updates, with a handsome volume, "Women in Jesus' Life". This book is very important to me and other brethren in Kenya, in fact your help to us is very great. I also thank you for the revision studies which I have distributed to brothers and sisters in my area for them to use as a weapon to Christendom astray. You have really uplifted our skills of preaching, please keep it up. Thanks for the addresses of "Meal a Day" and

"Agape in Acton", I am soon going to write to them. We have many widows who are leaders in various groups.

--Bro. Martin Barasa

BUNGOMA

Greetings from your beloved brothers and sisters. We hereby announce the death of our elderly sister Norah Mafula, who was 106 years old last December. We also report the following that were born spiritually also on 30th December 2012 as follows: Lilian Mutabati, Joan Simiyu, Christopher Simiyu, Herbert Sitati. Brenda Mansitra. Juliet Mutbasi, John Kthenba and Carolyne Wamaluma; may the Lord keep them on the way to His Kingdom. They were baptised on that day.

We in Kenya are looking forward to the election on 4th March 2013 and praying that we may have peace so that we may not have that violence that we had at the last election when some people were dispersed.

I will not forget to thank you for the CD you sent me, The Real Devil, I received. May God be with you as we wait for our Lord to come.

--Bro. Boniface Juma



Ndugu Wa Christo Ecclesia in Bungoma

CHWELE

We are always thankful for the steady supply of Bible literature you send to us. I think that "The Real Devil" is the hardest subject we find in our study. It is very topical and so it will be helping us

greatly during our Bible discussion, especially with people in the neighbourhood. As a result many will learn the truth and so flock to our faith.

We have come to learn that the postal costs are increasing tremendously, which means you have to combine two magazines into one to cut down the expense.

The European Version Bibles you sent to us have really made preaching very clear and easy owing to the commentary. On the other hand it would have been much better if some references were put on each page. I had a visitor home to discuss about the Kingdom of God in the future and after going through my Bible he demanded that I should sell it to him, but I said I would request a copy from you. He keeps calling me on the phone asking me if I have received it, but I say not yet. Please send a copy to me for him.

--Bro. Manasseh and Sis. Dorcas Wamamili



Bro. Manasseh Wamamili working on steel for bread winning.



Raphine, Bro and Sis. Wamamili's fourth baby girl.

ELDORET

I have been completely down with a malaria outbreak. My prayer is now that I will be able (God Willing) to put up a poultry project plus fish farming. We are on the verge of election fever once again and seriously need your prayers as this issue of Hague Matteu is still haunting Kenya personalities.

--Bro. Jacob Okotti

GEDE

Thank you very much for remembering me by sending me the Bible Course which I have enjoyed very much by discovering a great deal about God's Word and I hope you will send me more and also a Bible which I do not have. I had believed that we would be rewarded in heaven but now I discover this was wrong and not Biblical.

--Sis. Beth Naliaka

KAKSINGRI

After going through the Gospel News I have a few comments. I did appreciate the coloured photos to show the activities of brothers and sisters witnessing the Truth. We also support Gospel News in their efforts to reach the brothers and sisters in the world.

I have spent the last two years studying the word "heart". Sin comes from within the heart of man, the word "heart" involves the mind, our thought. Whenever I come to read from my daily Bible Companion I mark the word "heart". The "heart" of man actually reveals the mind of human nature, the thoughts. Prov.18:21. Beware of poison thoughts, they can kill you. From our thoughts (heart) come good vs. evil, hate vs. love, success vs. failure, win vs. lose.

The God of the Bible is holy, immortal and invisible. The King Eternal is one, our Heavenly Father, Creator of heaven and earth, the God of love, mercy, full of grace and abundant love without measure. The reason why we do not work or live in harmony with God is very clearly shown from the beginning of our first parents. God expects respect and wants us to fear, obey and listen to Him and keep His commandments, for this is the purpose for creating us in His image. The moment our mind, thought, heart, thinks of pleasing ourselves that relationship is broken and the punishment of death comes in. Jesus Christ of Nazareth won the victory over sin and death by doing the will of God. He died and after three days was raised back to life and given immortality.

The book of Genesis ch. 4 reveals how the sons of Adam, Cain and Abel were tested in their relationship with God. Cain was rejected because of evil thoughts in his mind, he murdered his brother Abel who had the righteous mind of God. Heb.11:4, 1 John 3:11,12. Beware of poisonous thoughts. Let us put God's mind in our hearts.

We must go back to God with all our mind and heart if we want to get our life back, Job 11:13. Job experienced human sufferings but was commanded to prepare his heart to God. We also must learn this lesson from our Lord Jesus of Nazareth who did the Will of God, died on the cross, suffered and finally won the victory over sin and death.

John Owalo Onani on 21 August 1975 decided to believe the Gospel to save his life from the corruption of the mind and body. Please make your decision whom to serve, the God of Israel or

Baal, whether you have the mind of Adam or Cain or the mind of Jesus of Nazareth or Abel. Jeremiah 21:8, Deut 30:15-19, Joshua 24:15, 1 Kings 18:21. Remember the three steps to salvation Belief, Baptism, Obedience. Unless we accept the Truth with all our heart we shall perish no hope of life beyond the grave.

--Bro. John Owalo Onani

KITALE

We need some more Bibles, 12 full copies please, as we have many youths in our ecclesia without Bibles.

--Bro. Martin Chemiati

LUUVA

Please brother, it is a humble request that if you can get some more copies of the NEV Bible kindly please send them to us as there are 12 brothers and sisters who are in need of one and also thirteen friends who are currently in the class for baptism for this year.

--Bro. Boniface Juma

MYANGA

I am learning much from the pamphlets concerning Israel and its surrounding countries. Let me say that you did a very important act in enclosing the DVD of "The Real Devil" and I am sorry to inform you that a brother took it and he just told me to ask you for one. He had watched it somewhere at one of our brothers who is far from me and said that it was very interesting with good teachings.

Bible Basics are much needed. At Mwanga Ecclesia we have many good English readers who can understand the book. I had asked you for a few Swahili Bible Basics if you have a stock of them. There is also "Wrested Scriptures" the one on hard passages from the Bible.

--Bro. Edward N. Kunikina

NAITIRI

Recently we managed to change our postal address to 138-50211 Naitiri. This is personal and very close. In case of sending anything, this is the right box and it won't take long for me to reach it. I have started a small? and it is doing quite well. I have started with ten hours and after another two months I hope and expect to join the higher Institution.

--Bro. Nasongo Haron



Bro. Nasongo Haron

The work you are doing is very interesting and it helped me convert some people you saw on the previous photo I sent. Those are my converts and they understand the Word of God very well because we can't be good without God's Word. So, brothers, first and foremost could you please help me with a New European Version of the Bible.

--Bro. Kevin Simiyu

NAKORU

Thank you for your tireless efforts. Up to now the Australian government has not given me a visa that I applied for in 2006, despite still communicating with them. Instead they are only offering a tourist or visit visa that cannot allow me to work and live there. I have spoken to certain Christadelphians in Sydney and Brisbane and they agreed to accommodate me while I look for employment. Our outgoing President is an economist, but for the last ten years he has been in office the economy has not grown by as big a margin as expected and unemployment still remains a big challenge.

We have seen the number of baptised brethren and sisters going up annually. We thank God for that for we are living in the last days and Jesus can come at any time, because the Holy Bible says that even the angels in heaven know not the hour. You remember how you and I translated the book "What is the Gospel?" into Luhya language? Now the copies are out of stock and I am sending you the last copy for a reprint. Some brethren and sisters in Western Kenya have not received them. I am also now translating it into Luo and later into Kikuyu, Kiswahili etc. God Willing.

--Bro. Samuel Wanga Watako



Bro Samuel Wanga with his Bible.

NANGO

Please kindly consider supporting us with at least six copies of the NEV Bible since we want to place at least three copies in a nearby Secondary School with 450 students, twenty teachers and several support staff. We have had Bible discussions with them and more so with the so called Christian Union members. Thank you for sending me the address of the one to direct my enquiry whenever I want Bible leaflets and pamphlets for distribution to friends.

--Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

SARE

I was very pleased to receive the articles that you sent to me, I got the booklet on the Bible and magazines, also the CD on the Devil. It has created a point of discussion because a friend of mine who has a gadget played it or me, and then we had a good discussion about it.

Furthermore I will not go without informing you that the Lord has opened for me ways to join a college, just as you quoted that our Lord has all the resources. My ecclesia at Okumbo managed to raise some money for my fees and I added some, which has enabled me to finish my first Semester, so for the second, the third and the last I call for prayers from brothers and sisters throughout the world, and I do request you to call my name while praying.

--Bro. Mark G.O. Juma

SONGHOR

I received Gospel News and the movie on the real devil. I am very thankful for them and I wish to continue receiving such. What is needed perhaps is to get most of our goals set and achieved despite confrontation from forces all around us. Paul said, "For what I want to do I do not, but

what I hate I do." This is defeat but we should keep praying. God has given us guidance in the Bible to enrich us daily, 1 Tim.5:3-15. Paul gives us good reminders of our daily duty so we should not ignore them.

--Bro. Linus Onyango

SUNA MIGORI

The wages of sin is death. Regardless of what it is, every sin has to be judged before God and the judgement for all sins bring death. In order to atone for all sins the people of Israel had to offer a sheep without blemish before God. Therefore God prepared the lamb to deliver all people from their sins.

--Bro. Benjamin Mwatu

TURBO

It is with great pleasure that I write to say that I received the DVD of "The Real Devil". This has aroused my curiosity over who the Devil is and strengthened my faith in Jesus Christ.

I wish to request you for assistance for our Sunday School members who are in dire need of various Sunday School learning materials and charts.

--Sis. Beatrice Naliaka



Sis. Beatrice leading a sisters' Bible study session at Turbo.

**BALAKA**

I have heard that you have been very busy because you have been making some preaching items for DVD and disc. These issues are very interesting and I will pray with you that everything you need will be ok. with strength from God. I want to request that if it is possible you send us a DVD and disc to improve our belief of God and His Son through that message. Secondly, we also need some more Bibles as many people have already been baptised so they need a Bible to read.

--Bro. Harry Beniton

LILONGWE

Here we are all well. I forgot in my previous letter to ask you to send me copies of Bible Basics in Chichewa. I find it difficult to introduce the truth to somebody who can't read English and then later on when I make a follow up there is nothing he has done in between. I think Chichewa Bible Basics will help as in my absence they can read it. At the follow up time then I will know how much he has read and discussions afterwards will be fruitful. I have several copies in English but they are only helpful to those who can read English and most of my contacts are not able to do this.

--Bro. Thomas Muleso

MANGOCHI

Gospel News is indeed very educative and spiritually satisfying. Every time we learn about what is happening to our brothers and sisters in other countries. I am also pleased to report that I got the DVD with all the spiritual materials and I am sure the materials will go a long way in uplifting our spiritual lives

It my prayer and wish that the good Lord will reserve enough energy and good health for you, so that you can accomplish more. May God intercede for you as you intercede for others. Thanks to brothers Duncan and John who are untiringly putting together these materials. I am also indebted to brothers Leonard and Austin in Malawi who are devoting SO much of their time to the work of God.

--Bro Esau C Chirwa

MZUZU

The Almighty Father be praised greatly for preserving us with life. Only the living can give praise to God for the dead know nothing, all their plans perish with them. What is the greatest treasure for man? Is it the abundance of what he possesses in this life? Hey! Consider Jesus' parable of the ground of a certain rich man which brought forth plentifully. And so the owner thought that having enough of life's desires he had longer time to relax. The man thought he was clever but the Lord pronounced him a fool, because the next day the man was no more. So treasure in this life can do us no good if we happen to lose life. Warning: labouring in order to please ourselves won't help but if we labour by denying life's desires, the end result eternal life, which is the greatest treasure for man, and of the two, man has the choice.

How sad it is that life's desires have led many to walk not in the narrow path which is the gateway to real life.

--Bro. Sylvester Tembo I would like to thank you for providing me with a disc and the Gospel News. I still wait for more good and new things to happen to me and may God keep blessing you. If there is another opportunity of having another copy of Bible Basics please let me have one.

--Bro. Dutch Mphayah

NKHATABAY

Many thanks for the DVD containing the movie "The Real Devil", which I found helpful in preaching, plus study on a difficult subject. Many people who watched this disc with me are asking for one so if there are any more please send some, of a higher quality if possible.

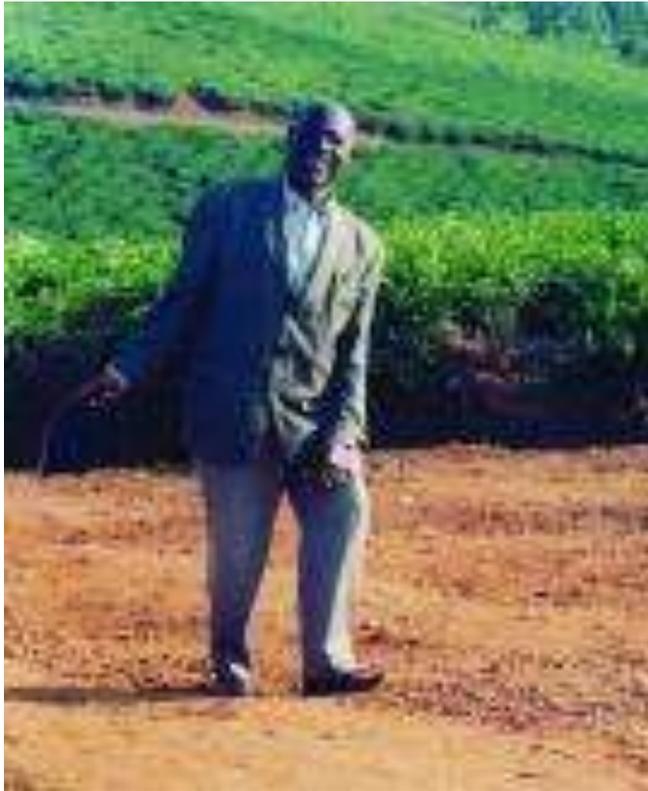
I would like to thank all brethren and sisters who contribute articles to Gospel News as they are very educative, so keep on contributing so that the magazine can continue. Last year in my area there was no rain but strong winds blowing heavily leaving houses with no roofs and other families homeless. This year there is hunger, but one good thing is that the rains in my area have started very well and the crops, cassava and rice, are promising. God cares.

--Bro. Joel Singini

SALIMA

This is to acknowledge receipt of the NEV Bible and the DVD "The Real Devil". From a couple of articles in the Gospel News Sept-Dec 2012 I understand that you have printed a Chichewa version of Bible Basics. I have access to two ecclesias which would benefit from reading the book in their tongue, seeing that most members don't possess Bibles. You may decide on the quantity to send depending on how much postage the CAT can afford to spend.

--Bro. Ignatius A.G. Maluwa



Bro Ignatius with tea plantation in the background

We are now experiencing good rains and if God wishes it to be consistent then we will, in the near future, have a bumper harvest. However, it accompanies heavy storms which cause flooding and washing away of crops including demolition of houses in other areas. The other problem is that, during the months when we usually receive rains here in Malawi most people run out of domestic staple food which is maize, not enough to feed their families until harvesting time.

Lastly, the teaching is going well and the people show zeal and keen interest to hear the truth of the Bible.

--Bro. Austin Frank Nyirenda

RUMPHI

Bro. Miles' booklet was very much appreciated. Bibles are needed to match Bible Basics. Jesus' return looks imminent, which will result, by His grace, in our salvation and eventually peace and goodwill in all the world it just cannot come quickly enough.

Warm greetings of love and peace are sent to all brethren and sisters.

--Bro. Lukanga Nyomiro

THALE

Our Ecclesia in the Nkhotakota region were thrilled to see a picture of some of us on the front page of the last Gospel News.

We endeavour to spread the Gospel throughout the area, but it is not easy going, but Jesus is with us in our humble endeavours and the glorious message of the Gospel is furthered.

When Jesus was on earth although he had no territory, they called him a King. He never went to medical college, yet they called him a healer. He had never gone to a Bible college, yet they called him a teacher. Yet, the people of those days wanted to continue in their sins and refusing to recognize him, crucified him with the thieves.

In spite of their killing him, he rose from the dead and is still with us today. We are so honoured to have such a Leader, who has loved us and given us

the sure hope of eternal life. If we do not forgive one another, we are sure going to lose this eternal life and perish.

--Bro Leonard Chaunga

NEWS FROM MAURITIUS



Health and Blessing in the Name of Our Savior Jesus Christ who will return as promised 2,000 years ago. It will be a greatest event undreamed of man. Let us watch and pray less we are taken by surprised!

Thank you for the e-mail which is uplifting and encouraging. Your team are doing a wonderful work in propagating the seeds throughout the world. We pray that the truth will germinate in healthy baptism. Thank you for the Gospel News magazine which I read with interest. Many students of the NEV Bible are expressing a positive approach to the great event undreamed of by man - the future Kingdom of God. There will be no more death, or illness, or man-made chaotic existence. There are injustices to be put right and reprieves to be given.

Let us watch and pray constantly! We yearn for the time of redemption when we shall see the Lord's face in glory as the disciples saw him 2,000 years ago.

--Bro. Lilkan Ancharaz

NEWS FROM MOZAMBIQUE



TETE

With love we are happy to report the baptism of Brother Porish Maugente, the son of the undersigned, Brother Filipe Sabai Feli, Sisters Felisberta Meque, Francis Sosinta, Hasvinei Takeseire, Aurola Sabao, Acelia Correia, Helena Gimo, Wengai Abilio, Tina Adolfo Ines, and one student from Malawi, Bro. Matemba.

We pray for God's blessing to be on them, and look forward to their company and fellowship in our walk to the Kingdom.

--Bro. Emmanuel Maugente



Bro Maugente fourth from right in white shirt with some of the 7,500 (yes, seven thousand five hundred!) Brethren and Sisters in Mozambique

NEWS FROM NIGERIA



ABA

I am writing to inform you that our Radio Programme, "Tagged" PREACHING THE TRUTH is gaining ground from the religious public. People are responding massively after listening to the Radio preaching and upon this, ten people have been immersed since its inception a few years ago.

Therefore, I am requesting you to please send the following materials: Ten copies each of Bible Basics, NEV Bible's and some quantities of colourful pamphlets on different topics. These will enable the gospel committee to meet its demand and challenges in the eastern states of Nigeria. I am always appreciative of your usual kindness, and I look forward to hearing from you.

--Bro. Gabriel Alaribe.

AKWANGA

I want to thank God Almighty for letting us be among the living ones. We give Him the glory and adoration for His love to us. As the time goes on, there is much unhappiness which is the fulfilment of Bible prophecies towards the return of Jesus. There are wars, violence, kingdoms against kingdoms, earthquakes, etc which today are all over the world with different names. Those in Nigeria are Boko Hara, in Mali Alshabab, Al Quaida,

and there are many more names. All are heralding the return of our Master. May he find his servants worthy at his return. As we know, he is the coming king over the whole world. He will be the Judge and reward his faithful ones. I need some books: The Bible Basic Study Manual and The Bible and Islam

--Bro Rukpu U Isa'ac

I greet you in the wonderful hope of Israel we all share. I am well today, only things are very hard here, but with the constant hope that the Master will soon be here to console all who wait for him. Nothing makes me more happy than when I hear from you or read from brethren. In fact, it has straightened me a lot in this isolation of mine, but I strain a lot to see the truth build up here.

I am strongly appealing for more literature to teach others on the crisis of the last days, like devastating earthquakes or floods, and books that teach on Daniel. I need such help for the compound/ community schools and the preaching on which I am about to embark. I am highly in need of the books *The Real Devil*, *How to Grow a Balanced Diet*, *Living with Alcoholism*. The letters you sent to me are all well understood; once again thanks so much. As it is written, he hath dispersed abroad, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness remaineth for all.

Many years ago I lived my life and preached as a pastor to people about what is not on the agenda of God: heaven going and hell fire - from the Mennonite church to the real Bible church, and I thank God that I am alive today and happy to receive the gospel truth. But I would like to give to the Lord and to Duncan, to all, a thousand thanks for helping me in so many ways: the materials, the study books which have not let me be lonely or bored in isolation. Yes, they have been a great blessing and knowledge of the real word of God. For this I give you many thanks. . God bless you, continue harvesting souls.

--Bro Uka Egwu



Bro Uka Egwu coaching his team for the State Shell Cup Final

EZINIHITTE MBAISE

I'm so happy to hear from you as I was looking to hear from you, and for some books I asked you to send me like *Wrested Scriptures*, the *Reading Plan* and other books written by Duncan Heaster. If you can please help by increasing the quantity of books like *Gospel News*, *Bible Basics* in English, French, German and Igbo.

--Bro Blessing Nwigwe

IBADAN

Being young in the faith and new to the Christadelphian family, as I was baptized two years ago, I am affiliated to the Lagos ecclesia, but presently in isolation because of my medical studies at the University in Ibadan. Despite the lack of regular periodicals and regular fellowship, I have a continued need to keep learning and living the truths of God's word and to be fully aware of the subtle errors in Christendom so as one can avoid the mistaken views and ideas of sincere but fallible people. I try reading over and over again any available articles that I have received from you.

I really appreciate your kind support and your prayer support, so as to keep standing on the truths of God's word in the face of intense oppositions from family and other present challenges with medical school needs and my

evangelical family's opposition to my faith. My siblings and my family are not happy that I have embraced the Christadelphian faith, and it has not been easy trying to explain things and maintain my beliefs in the Bible truths that I have seen within our community. Honestly, it has not been easy at all as they treat me as an heretic who has disowned my previous faith.

Bro Timothy Temilola

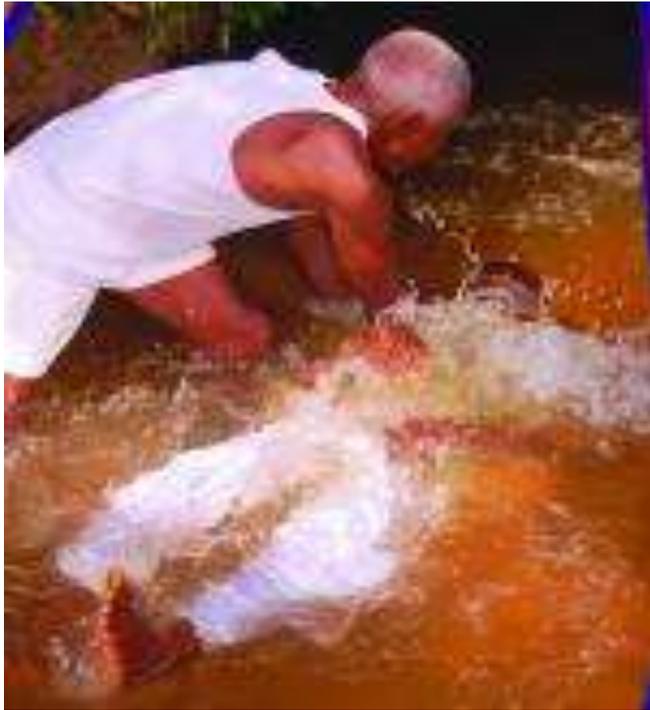
OWERRINTA

I am extremely grateful for the Bible Basics you sent to me. It has gone further to enlighten me in the areas where I had hazy ideas or no ideas at all. The personality of God I did not know much about. The book is great in making a believer understand the true picture of the Almighty God. I thank you so much. My interest in reading the Bible on a daily basis has been heightened. I do understand most of the things I read. I have just taken delivery of the current Gospel News magazine and the DVD enclosed, although I encountered some problems playing it due to the fact that I haven't the correct gadget for playing it.

This year 2013 I have resolved to add more time to my reading the Word. The situation in which I found myself could only be allayed by the knowledge of God. I strive not only to read but also to do the bidding of God through the directives of Jesus Christ. The editorial in Gospel News "Fragile", the sub-section "Back to the Bible" was a real pointer to rekindle me towards the daily reading of the Word. All I ask the Almighty God is to help me to be a doer and not only a reader. Except for my daily reading of the Bible and other Bible-based literature I should have felt that my situation is the most hopeless. The Word has consoled me and made me look beyond my present difficulties. God is great and will be ever merciful to those who worship Him in spirit and truth.

--Bro Iheanacho Iherjirika

NIGERIAN PHOTOS



Alozie Okoro in water baptism by Bro Johnson Uwasomba



Members of Okwe Oboro Ecclesia, Abia State.

MBAISE

I, Brother Effiong and my wife, Sister Glory Effiong, and young Ben, study in the Bible Basic course. We found it to be very useful to us. There are some people living far away from us who cannot study together in our ecclesia and I feel they need some Bible Basics and complete Bibles to be given to them for their studies. These people are preparing for baptism. "The Real Devil" is very useful to us. I

would like you to explain or send literature. One of the topics that disturbs most Christadelphians here is paying tithes: is it right to pay tithes? Explain also the passages of scripture Matthew 23:23 and Malachi 3:8-11.

However, on the whole I thank God and our Lord Jesus Christ for the hope of eternal life and the resurrection about which he assures us.

--Bro Adolphe Effiong



Bro Adolphe and Sis Glory doing the readings with their young son, Ben

OBORO

As I wrote before, I have six brothers in Ikwueke Ecclesia requesting the wonderful new European Version Bible. I pray thee not to forget your promises as I wait to receive the new coming printings. The Almighty Father worked so marvellously when I underwent a hernia operation a few months ago.

--Bro Friday Enyiogu

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



JOHANNESBURG

We had 30 attend the Youth Camp in December (Kabelo & Thokolo & also Noncebo). The photos prove that they had a whale of a time! They had 3 study sessions per day interspersed with lots of time for swimming & playing all sorts of sports/ games.

Bro Ron Cowie (East Torrens Aus) spoke on `Job - Coming forth as purged gold' to a hall filled with friends, youth & members of all our Gauteng ecclesia's. We had a wonderful evening of fellowship followed by, over an hour of fellowship over tea, coffee & cookies.





SOWETO

The year started with a bumper crop of new students at a fraternal/seminar led by Bro Ron Cowie; which included visitors from our Gauteng Ecclesias. Somehow 54 crammed into our little classroom, happily without any casualties! Bro Ron's excellent studies on Enoch and Lot, kept everyone riveted to their seats. Sunday continued with the ministrations of Bro Ron & Sis Lynn. To the delight of all...a great weekend to kick off 2013!



We rejoiced with the angels in heaven this month as we huddled under umbrellas and witnessed the Baptism of our new Sis Winnie Mokoena, amid gentle rain and in chilly waters. Sis Paddy had met Sis Winnie in Randburg, 18 months ago, at a choir concert in the retirement village where Sis Winnie works as a receptionist. Proof that a word in season can bring rejoicing in heaven. Our prayer is that she keeps strong in faith as she journeys with us to God's glorious

**KASULU**

I do appreciate it when I receive your news concerning Israel and the world today. The eyes of the world are again on Israel and her enemies, and we rejoice in the fact that all these signs are heralding the soon return of the Lord Jesus to the earth and establishing the kingdom of God.

Some brothers and sisters are ready to return to our homeland but find life very difficult after 16 years in the camp without anything, they ask for any support for them.

--Bro Daniel Sabuni

We are very happy that our Brother Gidion Moses Komanya, my first son, who was not in fellowship for five years, is now back. We are sure angels sing, praising the Lord with us. So we ask all brothers and sisters worldwide to pray for him that he will not go out of our ways again.

--Bro Moses Komanya

We are OK here in Tanzania, although we have our problems. There is food shortage as our crops are drying with the sun. The food in the market is at a very high price. This is one of many signals for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here in Tanzania, we are doing well with our activities in preaching the gospel.

--Bro Joseph Kaliyaya

KIGOMA

Thank you for the parcel you sent me. It is more valuable than ever. I am enjoying it while expanding my Bible knowledge. This includes a teaching textbook.

We are in a very critical situation in our country Tanzania. Moslems are now cutting the throats of Christians, leaving them for dead, and demolishing Christians' Praying Hall "Churches". I really fail to understand this, especially when I think of our past history. We are totally upset by these faithless people. We continue praying so that the Almighty may save us from these incidents.

Continue sending me soul-building and reinforcing materials.

--Bro Lambert K Tambwe We have recently received: nine copies of Bible Basics in French, two copies of Introducing Bible Basics, one copy of Bible Basics in English, a book on James and other copies, some Bible educative papers, tracts and pamphlets. Reading these allows us to acknowledge the exact truth which the Holy Bible teaches, while also showing us vividly how to conquer sin the great enemy. Hence we have the hope of inheriting

everlasting life on earth when our Saviour returns.

--Bro Mukandama-Simalenge Jerome

MBOZI-MBEYA

Every year that passes brings us closer to the return of our Master. How wonderful! Thank you for the books you sent. Six copies of the Holy Bible are very helpful but I am afraid we still need

seven more copies for everyone to have their own copy. We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Gospel News and other material.

--Bro Raphael Mkeya

NEWS FROM UGANDA



BUSIA

The Bible is the only book which shows us the Word of God, 2 Tim.3:16-17. "All Scripture is God breathed and useful for righteousness." These words give me strength to preach his Word to his people, so that through the message many people may be saved at the last day of judgement. In our ecclesia we are ten brothers and sisters, six contacts and 30 Sunday School children.

--Bro. Robert Wanyama



Busia Ecclesia and Sunday School.

DOKOL

I have received the CD you sent with great thanks. May God bless you and continue to bless us with more CDs.

--Bro. Odur Paskweli

KAMPALA

Thank you very much for sending me and others the Gospel News and DVDs, we are so grateful. Thank you, too, and others for the great work CAT does of preaching God's Word worldwide.

--Sis. Annet Namagga

LUMINO

Thank you for your letter, Gospel News and DVD-CD which are very encouraging and useful. I don't have a gadget on which to play it so I use my friend's and this makes very good discussion! Please send or us more of this kind of thing.

--Bro. Godfrey Egessa

**CHAMBISHI**

I have a problem concerning the breaking of bread, as I am still in isolation. I have tried so hard to broaden the spectrum of my preaching in the area, and have received overwhelming response. The problem is that we don't have a Christadelphian supply of doctrinal material nearby, and the only source that could be found is in Kitwe, some 26 Kilometres away from where I stay.

However, we are not far from the Lord's return, and, God willing, we shall soon be together in the coming kingdom.

--Bro. Willies Simbowe

KABOMPO

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for always praying for us, and the spiritual food I and our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus in Kabompo district here in Zambia have been receiving from the Lord through the Christadelphian Advancement Trust.

We are praying for you that you continue supporting us, wherever we may be, as you always have been doing, that we may proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all parts of areas where we stay, that the Lord may add many to

His household through our preaching, using the spiritual help we receive from you.

Though I am no longer the secretary for Kabompo Ecclesia, my preaching errands are going on well with the purpose of bringing many to the Lord, and be added to His household (existing ecclesia in Kabompo,) for I have realized that I have a calling from the Lord and a ministry in His service.

Many times I feel I should register the ministry so that my preaching errands could be legalized according to the laws of Zambia. What is your advice on this matter? When registered it would be `CHRISTADELPHIAN OUTREACH MINISTRY,' and its address given as P.O. Box 140062, KABOMPO, ZAMBIA.

My son Timothy graduated from Solwezi College of Education and is now a teacher, posted at Chikonkwelo Primary School, P.O. Box 140097, Kabompo, Zambia. He is a baptized brother and co-servant in the Lord and has the same mind as me in the Lord to spearhead the ministry once formed.

We are therefore asking you to send us again at least ten Bibles, and the higher quality DVD on `The Real Devil', more Bible Basics and also two copies of the `Real Christ,' plus two of the `Real Devil' books by post, as we still cannot afford a computer to put ourselves on the internet, which is our desire, to enhance the preaching work of the Gospel.

Our home plot No.198, Zangi Section, Kabompo town, will be the operational office of the ministry, God willing. I will retire from secular employment on May 1, 2014 and dedicate the rest of my life to preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, God willing.

We are thanking you in genuine anticipation.

--Bro. Reuben Musole Kaambeu

I am writing to inform you that I have been employed as a teacher, and would like to use the teaching skills in spreading the Word of God. My father and I would like to register the Christadelphian Outreach Ministry in Zambia so that the Word of truth and hope for the whole world is spread to many. We therefore would like your advice on this matter.

Please remain as you have been doing in assisting us with some books which support and help with the Christadelphian faith.

--Bro. Timothy Kaambeu

KAFUE

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor outcry nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

(Rev 21:4), Life Without Suffering is a Trustworthy Promise

--Bro. Lotson Kayuni

KABWE

Could you please send me Bible Basics in English and French which I will appreciate. Yes, brother, I don't have equipment for playing the CD on the Devil which you sent me, but I have a friend who played it for me: it is a very interesting CD - even my friend commented on it. Please also send me a DVD on the 'Real Devil', discs in the 11 languages if possible and books by Bro. Duncan. Brother, I am sorry this will be a burden for you, with the considerable postal increase. True, the work can only be achieved through the Lord's blessing and the generosity of the supporters. I do appreciate you sending me literature, and am always mentioning you in my prayers.

I am happy now to inform you that we have started meeting at Bro Sidney's home to break bread together to remember the death and resurrection of our redeemer.

When the Lord Jesus knew that he was living the last days of his life on earth, he took great pains to teach the disciples one thing. He used one little phrase over and again it was 'Abide in me' (John 15:4-7). He wanted his disciples to know that their place of safety was abiding or remaining in him. There, and there alone, was where they would be safe and protected. To abide simply means to remain, stay, continue, dwell: you don't have to

fight in order to abide, or to get under cover. All you have to do is to stay where God has put you. Where has God put you? In Christ - Stay there.

The armour of God (Eph.6:10-18). Rom. 13:12-14: 'The night is nearly over: the day is almost here, so let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the day time, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. But rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.'

--Bro. Greenwell Kunda

KALOMO



The picture below shows left Bro. Costa Kanembe then Bro. Ackim Sikabuli, discussing the prophetic dreams of the Bible



Sis Mary Kanembe with her Sunday School. She wishes to thank us for uplifting her spirituality with literature. She needs more material for her 18 Sunday School children.

KANKOYO

Thank you my Brother for sending me the DVD of `The Real Devil.' Yes, I would also like the high quality version. I also need two Bible Basics in English for the new students. I also kindly request a copy of the newly published Bible, and would request one for myself, as when they were sent to our Ecclesia I was away.

When we are still on earth we need to encourage one another. No man is stronger than another, because so many men of God in the past failed. Peter the disciple thought he was strong, but in spite of that he denied his Lord. To overcome our failings, we need to pray every day to God to renew our strength. Our days are very short we need to be communicating with our Father all the time.

Brethren and Sisters, let us not stop spreading the seed of God's Truth. The teachings of our King, Jesus Christ, are that we are to be of service to one another and to the wider world as we work and wait for the Lord's return.

--Bro. Charles M. Daka

KASAKA

`I exhort that supplications, prayers... and giving of thanks be made for all men ...for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.' (1Tim 2:1-4)

God's desire is for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The reason for bringing salvation to all men is not only for them to receive it and escape death, but also to come into an intimate knowledge of fellowship or one-ness with the truth: that is when you really start living. For example, 1 Peter 1:23 says, `being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.' This means you are born of the word; you are the word in flesh, your life as a Christian is the manifestation of the word. God wants you to come to the knowledge of the truth. Romans 8:28 says, `And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.'

--Bro. Maxwell Choongo

LUSAKA

Thank you very much for the DVD it gives a very clear picture of its lesson, is so powerful, and I like it.

--Bro. Herbert Tigerepasi



Bro. Herbert and Sister June Tigerepasi

It's my pleasure to send you this letter in the wonderful Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and I am humbled to communicate with you now, hoping that this letter will find you in good health and your family at large: also pass my greetings to the Ecclesia there.

I am asking if you could send me books entitled `Letter to the Ephesians,' and `Letter to the Hebrews.' These books will enrich my study in the Word of God so that my spiritual life may be strong despite the opposition I face. I am overcoming this and no-one will move me or disturb me from the things pertaining to the Kingdom to come. (My email address is StephenSiamabi@yahoo.com)

I want to thank you for all you are doing for me in order to continue with this belief which has made me different from my fellow youths in the neighbourhood. You see nowadays, here in Zambia few young men who could stand to lead a decent life because of peer pressure and other vices, such as beer drinking, smoking and an immoral lifestyle, which have destroyed my society. So I thank you for the confidence you give me by sending the literature you do, as they have helped me tremendously in my spiritual life.

--Bro. Stephen Siamabi

COMMENT: *Maybe someone can send you the books you desire. There is a good exposition of both these books on the disc sent to you last month. Turn to New Testament Commentary Vol.2 and scroll down to the books you request. --MH*



Bro. Stephen Siamabi inside the Ecclesial hall.

MAZABUKA

One thing is certain, all mankind is searching for peace and security. We Christians are on the right track, but non-believers seek to find this in ever more exotic gadgetry without finding it. For us, regardless of where we live in the world, it is more important than ever not to take our eyes off our Lord, not to be nervous about our situations, but patiently wait for our Lord's return. "All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of our God for ever and ever." (Micah 4:5)

We as a community keep saying, `Come, Lord Jesus!' It won't be long before our Lord Jesus returns. I was baptized in 2006 when I was 23. `It won't be long now' is on every Christadelphian's lips how long is `long'? Well, it will be soon!

Though we should focus on the land of Israel, in the city of Jerusalem we can see that Jews are not allowed to pray on the Temple Mount, the holiest place: this is quite astonishing and one wonders, why not? We don't know all the details going on in politics. What is keeping them

back? It simply means to us that Israel's time is not yet ready, but very soon Jesus will return to establish God's Kingdom and put things in order.

The words I have said above have substance, they are not just words and hope, they are words from above, I believe. Let us continue to live by faith in the Son of God until he returns, and may He bless each one of us wherever in the world we may be, who long for His appearing for we are all God's people.

There has been much going on concerning the signs of the times, recently we have seen the dramatic news of the resignation of Pope, Benedict xvi telling the world that he is stepping down as head of the Catholic Church. Just after his announcement, lightening struck the vatican, perhaps it is was a Divine warning of problems to come.



We all wait for the time of Zion's glorious day when the resurrection of the sleeping saints will take place with the returning of the Messiah to establish God's kingdom.

--Bro Gideon Hankomone,

NDOLA

You may wish to know that I was your Bible student from 1987-1990, August 18th when Bro. Graham Mitchell baptized me. During this period all the magazines sent to me have been passed on to other fellow Bible students.

--Bro. Dennis C. Kombe

SERENJE

I have received Gospel News and the DVD and I am anxious to take it to someone who will play it for me. My main reason for writing this letter is to request one New European Version Bible, (as we have only one Bible between us); the book entitled 'Wrested Scripture,' and the book 'Principles of Marriage.'

--Bro. Cephas Kalungah



Bro. Cephas Kalungah

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



BANKET

I want to express my appreciation for Gospel News. I read the magazine with interest, and it is more than interest which keeps me glued to the pages. I hope it helps others who find themselves in a similar situation. This is one of my favourite quotations from Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore!

--Bro. David and Sis. Eneres Yelulani

CHEGUTU

Just to say thank you for the wonderful work the CAT team are doing. It is a very good and interesting work that the Word is being preached worldwide and all have access to it. Matt.28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Our ecclesia is in need of English and Shona Bible Basics and also the Bibles with commentary because we did not receive any. Let us all work for God and our reward is with Him.

--Bro. Farai Phiri



Chegutu Ecclesia, Bro Farai Phiri kneeling

JERERA



Bro. Suuvire Faustino

MAGUNJE

Clean in and out means that most of us are clean outside the body and wearing clean clothes, but inside the heart, the lips, can talk mischief. Sure, most people go to church but when you look at them they are like fig fruit which looks good outside but inside there are ants. So if you follow God's Law be sure to be in God's Way and to preach and share God's News not in the second way, sharing the world's news.

I am sorry for my wife, Sister Joice, as she has been bitten by a Puff adder so she does not go to Church because the Church is so far from us and we have to walk 7 km. to Shumba where we meet others on Sunday and she cannot walk far before her legs become painful.

--Bro. Joseph Ndoro Mazasi

Puff adder bites are dangerous

and immediately we had this letter the Welfare Sections took prompt action.

MATABISHA

Romans 15:1-3 says, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good to build him up. For Christ did not please himself."

Galatians 6:9-10 says, "Let us not be weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up. As we have opportunity let us do good to everyone and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

--Bro. David Ngwenya

MOUNT DARWIN

I was saddened and shocked to hear of the falling asleep of my dear tutor, Bro. George Fitch. He was my tutor from the 1980's till his untimely death and was sending us the Bible Message Calendar every year. The calendars had their special position and place and this year the calendar position is empty. Together with my children and the entire family we will remember with affection the late Bro. George's wide knowledge of the Truth. May our Father grant him a joyful awakening to life and peace evermore.

--Bre. Sylvester, Patrick, Ignatious and Walter Chakaipa

TONGOGARA REFUGEE CAMP, CHIPUWE.

The Ecclesia has 18 baptized members and five under baptismal instruction and 45 Sunday School children. One problem is they do not have a suitable place to meet and are making fifteen thousand mud bricks and, should Jesus tarry and things go well, hope to build their own hall this year.

Obviously being refugees means they are deprived of many of the facilities that we tend to enjoy. They greatly appreciate the food parcels Bro. David Smith, CBM Linkman has been able to arrange. The photo shows some of the bags of food. Sister

David Smith visited the camp and is standing with Bro. Patrick Simbo, the Ecclesial Secretary. The other picture is of a Bible Class. In refugee camps people come from many countries and ethnic backgrounds. They are in need of 20 Swahili Bibles, 5 French Bibles, 5 English Bibles, 3 Kirundi Bibles from Burindi, 25 Misingi ya Bibles. also English and French Bible Basics to meet present needs. One of the blessings of refugee camps is that many have the time and inclination to investigate the Truth, so even more literature is desirable.



COMMENT: *The Trust has just sent the French and English Bibles requested, plus some English and French Bible Basics.*





TRIANGLE

I received the disc you sent me, "The Real Devil". It is very interesting and it explains who the devil really is. I am glad to tell you that I have played it through several times to my friends, who also enjoyed it. Please send me more discs if possible and also Bible Basics so that I can teach my friends the Truth.

--Bro. Servious Makondo

I enjoyed the disc on the Real Devil a lot and would like more discs for preaching and about Jesus crucified on the cross.

--Bro. Clyford Dzidzo Chingwara

News from Europe / Eurasia

NEWS FROM AUSTRIA



I wish to give you my heartfelt thanks for your letter and the gift of the most beautiful Bible I have ever seen! I have a Thompson Reference Bible which my husband got for me through Germany via America many years ago, and which I read daily. But this in lovely green leather and in modern English - is a true jewel!

I am an ardent Bible reader, every day before breakfast, but I get involved in frustrating almost daily events, as so many questions arise, and there is not one single person here in my life with whom to discuss them, for although the majority are Catholic, they have never read their Bibles (or don't possess one) as it was never encouraged. Anyway, all I can say is a most heartfelt `thank you' for my new Bible.

Perhaps it has never been, but now it is certainly not a world in which to be happy. I see Sky News and CNN news each day, as current affairs interest me greatly (I studied history) and daily events are frightening, the brutality and cruelty of mankind to mankind, and to animals, is frightening. I have begun to wonder how our Lord, so pure and righteous, can bear to look on the humanity He has created, and not destroy us. Each daily news brings some horror previously never heard of, and brutal beyond our imagination.

And so life goes on. I am alone, but feel God's loving care with me, despite illness and problems. He has given me good friends.

--Sis. Mary Knechtl

News from the Americas

NEWS FROM GUYANA



I am writing to request a NEV pocket English Bible: I saw in the March-May Gospel News, (page 63) Bro. Mdludlu thanking you for his copy.

I really enjoy Gospel News, the first items I read are `News from Brethren and Sisters.' It strengthens me to see the faith of my Brethren and Sisters in their circumstances of life, and pray, `Thy Kingdom Come, O God,' as only then will all the evils of this present world be overcome.

--Sis. Janet Williams

News from Asia

NEWS FROM CHINA





Brothers John, Daniel and Guy travelled to China in January to help with a Bible teaching weekend with Bro Donald. There were no baptisms this time, but the precious faith of a few were strengthened. Pictured is Daniel providing a musical interlude on an Irish Tin Whistle. He also played saxophone to break up the power point lectures given on a range of Bible doctrines including: evidence for God and the Kingdom of God.

NEWS FROM KERALA INDIA



Thank you for your texts which open our eyes. In accordance with your letter Br. MA Joy Kutty from Thiruvalla ecclesia came to our home, conducted several full day (3 to 6 hours) classes in a month and taught us. We four, my wife and two children study the word of God together, unlearning our past religious knowledge and were baptized accordingly, and now we must be valiant for the truth.

We began a new life and ecclesia 45km away from

Thiruvalla. Our special Thanks to Br. Tim from Hyderabad, and Br. Dr Varghese Kurien of Kollam.

Bro Clery Varghese and Family





Thiruvalla Town

Resettlement Of Our Refugee Brethren

The question exercising my mind is how should we use this priceless blessing of life? Should our Lord return this year, what would he require of us? For what is he searching as he examines our thoughts, aspirations and activities daily in the life he gives us? This is revealed in Matthew 25: 31 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." The words in purple reveal the action followed by observation of the situation of others.

Many of us are aware of the suffering and hopeless situation of the occupants in the refugee camps, our brethren included. Jesus is seeing this also and feeling for them because he has gone through these experiences personally and witnessed them in the life of those around him, and in his great compassion for them, responded to their situation in feeding, healing, comforting and raising the dead. He is therefore observing the way we are reacting to the distressing position of our brethren, and will bring this matter to our attention on his return. Because we are so far removed from them and not personally witnessing their experiences, we find it difficult to address their problem. But we can use our imagination, by trying to put ourselves in their place to get an idea of what they are going through. Not too long ago we saw what happened during the storm, Sandy, in the USA the devastation, hopelessness of people losing their homes and belongings overnight necessitating accommodation in shelters although

these shelters would be far more comfortable than the refugee camps. When we retire in our comfortable beds at nights, let us think of the condition in which our Brethren. must sleep. After a satisfying meal, when we sometimes dump leftovers, let us remember that our brethren do not have enough to eat, as there is not enough food to satisfy everyone and they must make do with what is handed to them. When we are providing for our children's future, our Brethren. must sit and wonder what would become of their little ones, as there is nothing that they could do for them in their state of helplessness, and they have no idea of what their future would be.

We are aware that there are brethren who are doing what they can to give some relief, but this way, their situation would still remain indefinitely insecure and hopeless because they can see no way out. The only solution is to resettle them in stable areas, preferably close to established and settled ecclesias who could continue to assist them. This way they would have a sense of independence and control over their affairs.

The year is still ahead of us, God willing, and we could use a lot of the time he has given us to think of the action we could take to practically ease the suffering of our brethren, who are his children. This way we express our thankfulness for his love in his blessing of this precious time in the life he gives us each day, by loving him with all our heart, our soul, our mind and loving our neighbor as ourselves.



Hurricane Sandy Storm Damage USA.

Our Thoughts Concerning Them At This Time Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Searching For God

One thing for sure is that mankind is searching for peace and security in life. Non believer's seek to find this in ever exotic gadgetry without finding it. Regardless of where we live, it is more important than ever for us not to take our eyes off the Lord, not to be so nervous about our situations, but patiently wait for God to act and finally to send Jesus to establish His kingdom on earth. This is our only hope as a community. All nations may walk in the name of their gods but we will walk in the name of our LORD GOD forever and ever (Micah 4:5).

CAT as a team have shown love for our brothers and sisters worldwide who receive Gospel News and material and I am no exception.

The Jewish people scattered around the world in exile, used to say 'next year in Jerusalem'. They never gave up that hope and now they are there after nearly 2000 years. Do we have to wait until all of them return into Jerusalem before our God sends His son to establish the kingdom on earth? The answer is that God knows the exact time when His son will return to earth, but we are seeing prophecy concerning the signs of the times being fulfilled step by step.

Let us continue to live by faith in the son of God until he returns. May he bless each one of us regardless of where in the world we come from, who long for his appearing. We as a community keep saying it won't be long before Jesus returns to establish God's kingdom, let us belong to those who believe it and live accordingly.

Present Your Body As A

Living Sacrifice To The Lord

Bro. Stephen Ogenga (Kampala, Uganda)

"Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1) The Bible says, "Have you not yet known/learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit? Your own body does not belong to you, for you have been bought with a price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God because He owns it." (1Cor.6:19-20)

Our bodies are gifts of trust given to us by God to function here on earth, and He expects us to use them wisely, because every one of us will have to account for what we have done. This is the main reason why the Lord tells us to present our bodies as living sacrifices.

We all can remember what King David did when the ark of the Lord was being brought to the city of David. There was joyful shouting and David danced before the ark, showing his love to the Lord. Here he was offering his body as a sacrifice. The act did not please Michal, the daughter of Saul.

By presenting our body as a living sacrifice, it means we are giving ourselves to the work of God. In other words, you strive to make your body do only those things that the word of God says we should do. For example, the Bible says we should put to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13). So when your body starts to yearn for carnal deeds, you must deny it, saying, 'you are the temple of the Spirit.' We must remember that we have been healed of sin by Jesus' sacrifice.

Again the word of God says that 'sin shall not have dominion over you' (Rom.6:14) 'for you are not under law, but under grace.' So let God's word reign in us. When we present our bodies to the word of God, life will take on a whole new meaning.



Bro. Stephen Ogenga, mending shoes

Gideon Timothy Hankomone (Mazabuka, Zambia)

Forgiving Others

Forgiveness is like a Life Insurance policy. It is like a Medical Aid policy. If we pay our dues or subscriptions without ceasing, we continue to receive cover when we fall sick. Cover is stopped when we go for some time without paying our subscriptions when they are due, and we are quickly reminded to resume contributions, failure of which will lead to our being struck off the beneficiaries list.

Our souls are sick. Just like our human bodies which are prone to sickness and disease, our souls/lives are prone to sin and decay, hence the reason why we need Jesus in our everyday living. That is why he sacrificed his life and its unlimited privileges to save us from our sick souls. He says in Mark 2:17: 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

If you forgive the failure of others, our Heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your failures. See Matt.6:14-15. If you forgive those who have hurt you, you stay enrolled on our life/soul insurance policy. Peter asked how

often he had to forgive those who wronged him. "Seven times?" he asked. Jesus answered him, "not just seven times, but seventy times seven." Imagine, my brother and sister!!

That now reminds me of the story of the merciful King and the unmerciful servant. A King wanted to settle accounts with his servants. One servant begged not to be sold off with his family after failure to service his debt. The master who was merciful understood, and freed him; yet the same servant could not forgive someone who owed him a little money. He actually imprisoned him. For him there was assurance he would not be imprisoned. When the merciful King heard what the unmerciful servant had done to the one who owed him, he became exasperated and ordered that he be imprisoned also. He says, "Shouldn't you have treated the other servant as mercifully as I treated you?" That is how our Heavenly Father will treat us if we do not sincerely forgive others. Jesus forgave those who persecuted him and crucified him. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) So the lesson for us is to forgive others as we want God to forgive us.

Let us, in conclusion, look at the words of Matt.5:7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Bro. Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe.)

The Truth Versus Apostacy

A believer must believe "the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ," and be baptised into the name of Jesus Christ; and henceforth perfect our faith by works as Abraham did (Rom4:2). We will then be a lamp well-oiled and trimmed, and fit to shine forth as a glorious light at the marriage of the Lamb.

We must forsake the pulpits, and devote the time usually spent in pondering over their expositions, to the Berean scrutiny of the scriptures for ourselves. These alone are able to make us wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. When people abandon the truth and believe lies, God hides correct understanding from them in response to their not really wanting it. Thus He can even delude people to believe lies (2 Thess.2:11;1:8; 2:8).

Bro. Friday Enyiogu (Ikwueke, Oboro.)

We Must Give Our Lives More Meaning

Have you ever watched a bear begging for peanuts at the zoo? Have you observed the endless pacing back and forth of the caged tiger? Have you ever wondered what the monkeys think about as they see us crowded around their cage while they go through their antics? Surely we are impressed with the futility of their existence. How sad to all day long to wait for someone to throw a peanut. What a waste of good time to spend it pacing back and forth, or swinging from one trapeze bar to another. Some of the things the monkey does look like fun, but it would certainly become boring if we spent a lifetime doing it.

We wonder if God doesn't view the average man's existence much the same as we do the animals. How foolish our running to and fro must appear to Him. Our jammed freeways proceeding at snails pace look like tiny ants in our own eyes from an airplane. From God's vantage point we are small indeed, and many of our actions must appear like the fruitless pacing of the caged tiger. God's purpose is to fill this earth with His glory. Right now few people ever give Him a thought, much less glorify His Name.

We must give our lives more meaning. That is the difference between man and the animal. The animal is unable to rise above his mundane existence. He only thinks of satisfying his own needs. He is really no different whether he is in the wilds of Africa or at the city zoo. Food is always on his mind. He lives to eat. Many people are like that too. But the difference is, we can rise above the animal level. As we look around us we find that many, in fact most of the human race, are still operating at the animal level. Jesus plainly taught us saying, `Take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? Is not the life more than food and the body more than the garment? Look at the birds in the sky, they do not sow nor do they reap or gather crops into barns, yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow they neither toil nor spin.' (Matt.6:25-28)

The Gentiles haven't changed since Christ's day. Swanky restaurants, gourmet cookbooks, African fashions etc. all exist to cater to man's thoughts of eating, drinking and what he will wear. Paul tells us, `Set your affection on things above, not things on the earth.' He is saying the same thing Jesus declared: `So seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you' (Matt.6:33-34).

It is impossible to seek first the kingdom of God while thinking about food, clothing, sports, politics, money and such-like. Paul was a tent-maker, so was the man sitting next to him. Paul's head was in the clouds, for he was thinking about his Lord. The other man's head was in his stomach as he was thinking about what he was going to have for supper. Both men worked all day, both men ate supper: we should not have been able to tell the two men apart by just walking past their shop. One was a saint and one was an `animal.' One will be forever with Christ in the Kingdom, the other will sleep a perpetual sleep and not awake. Again, one is a saint and one is an animal. We are now deciding what we will be for eternity.

Bro. Moses Komanya (Kidatu, Tanzania.)

Old Ways Are Best

I recall one day, when I was still employed, we were on delivering duty with a van we travelled for about 200 Km and delivered our goods to their destination. At last we were going back home, deciding to use the shortcut route, which was a gravel road. We chose to do this because it was late and we wanted to reach home in time. While travelling on this road, we discovered that it was very rough, had potholes, corrugations and humps here and there. After travelling for about 30 Km at a very slow speed, we found out that there was no way we would reach home except by travelling overnight so we decided to return back to the previous road we had used, because it was tarred and good to travel at our own discretion.

This reminds me of the words in the prophet Jeremiah 6:16 (NEV) where it says: "Thus says Yahweh, stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls..." Verse 19 says, "Hear Earth! Behold, I will bring evil on this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not listened to My words, and as for My law, they have rejected it."

Yes, these words were sent to the nation of Israel because time and again they disobeyed God's laws and went their own way, hence God was warning them about the evil He would bring. These words are still fresh today, even as they were in Jeremiah's lifetime: they, too, apply to this day's generation. We are disobeying God's words and we are rejecting His laws. We have forgotten our old ways, Brethren and Sisters.

God says He will bring evil to today's people and we are witnessing some of this today. The world is in trouble, with wars, droughts, many different diseases, some of them incurable. It is high time to ask for our old ways, and start to walk in them, so that we will find our souls' rest in our Father's Kingdom. Let's reject our new ways (short cuts), which lead to destruction.



Standing: Left Sis Shamiso Tayidhinga and Bro. Fanuel Mawodzeka. Kneeling: Sis Sekai Zirira, wife of Bro. Fanuel.

Bro. Fanuel Mawodzeka (Guruve, Zimbabwe.)

Patience And Its Work

A "patient continuance in well-doing" is well-pleasing to God and will secure the blessing at last, even life for evermore. "To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life," (Romans 2:7). But like all courses that lead to good results, it is a course that is difficult, and implies something to endure. There would be no need for patience if all were sweet and refreshing; but there is need for patience, as all can testify who have laid hold of the hope set before us in the gospel. All is not sweet and refreshing, but much, and almost everything, the other way. We are in a dry and thirsty land wherein there is but an occasional streamlet (and that almost dry in its bed), to strengthen the weary traveller by the way.

It is written, "It is good that man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." Doubtless it is good, but still trying, and perhaps good because trying. Our faith and patience are exercised in the attitude of waiting, and exercise of this kind gives spiritual strength and hardihood. "Tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope" (Romans 5:3-4). "We are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope...but if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." (Rom.8:24) We "wait for the son of God from heaven" (1Thess.1:10). We are "looking for that blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) and our looking and waiting and hoping prepare us for taking part in the joy of those who are to say in that day, "Lo, this is our God: we have waited for Him....we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:9).

It is well to recognise this feature of our calling, that we "be not weary in well-doing." True it is that "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," but if we recognize the fact that a certain deferring of hope is part of our trial appointed of God, we shall be enabled to "endure as seeing him who is invisible." When we look back, we shall see that the same affliction was accomplished in all of whom God's approval is recorded. In no case is it more strikingly exemplified than in that of the man who is called "the friend of God," and who occupied the honourable position of father of the family whom God is begetting for Himself from among the sons of men.

Finally, let us look at a good example, as we keep on waiting in patience and well-doing. Abraham was called to leave the land of his nativity, and go to a country of which he was ignorant, with apparently no practical object. Obeying the command, he came to the land of Canaan and sojourned among the children of the land as a stranger. His sojourn was long and trying. He was promised the land for an inheritance, jointly with his seed, but had no information as to the time to which the promise referred, nor any indication for many years that he was to have a seed.

Christ was the seed promised to Abraham, though Isaac was born to him and Sarah in their old age, and they really waited with patience. My appeal to brothers and sisters is: let us emulate this kind of a spirit of waiting while doing good to each other. May God bless everyone across the globe.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi (Lusaka, Zambia.)

I'M TO BLAME

A friend of mine sent me the following list of statements made by motorists trying to excuse their accidents: · The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions. · A pedestrian hit me and went under my car. · Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with the tree I don't have. · I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment. These excuses show how prone we are to evade responsibility for our wrong actions, but weak attempts to justify mistakes will not absolve us of blame.

We also make excuses when we fail to do God's will. If we could view our rationalisation from this view, then we would see that they are as ridiculous as the statements of those motorists. Saul told God that the people would use the animals they had taken from the Amalekites as sacrifices, but he was merely covering up for disobeying God, who had told him to destroy everything.

"People who try to cover their sins will not prosper, but those who confess and forsake them find mercy." (Prov.28:13). Many people never realize that they become their own worst enemy by blaming others instead of facing up to their own faults.

Bro. Gift Lungu (Chinhoyi Zimbabwe.)

A Measure Of Faith

Though we have not seen God, we believe He exists and is everywhere present; that He hears our prayers and our petitions. Belief in things we have heard but not seen is what is called unconditional Faith. We should have this in good measure, but without wavering. We have to stick to our faith even if it means being persecuted for what we believe. If Jesus in Faith died for our sins, then we should be prepared to go through every hardship and obstacle put in our way for the Kingdom to come.

The Bible in James 1:6-8 says, "But when we ask God, we must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." So faith should have one direction, and that is forward. We should be what God wants us to be His obedient children. We should trust Jesus the way he called his followers to trust.

If we have faith that God's spirit word lives within us to comfort, teach and guide us, then nothing can separate us from the love of God. Rom.8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor principalities nor powers, neither the present nor the future, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God." God's plans for our future can be beyond understanding, and yet He reveals Himself and His will to us.

We do lose faith sometimes when problems seem to overwhelm us. Let us lay all our problems at his feet. We must believe God's word calls us to faith, to believe. He has answers to all our problems. We just have to call on him and cast all our anxieties upon him. The Bible says, "Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

After all is said and done, let us take heed of Psalm 119:28-30: "My soul is weary with sorrow, strengthen me according to your word. Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me through your law. I have chosen the way of the truth: I have set my heart on your laws." God loves us and wants the best for his children.

In conclusion, let us listen to the words of Psalm 27:13-14: "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."



Four is a family; Left to right, Sis. Esnath, Lyton, Lemmington, Bro Itai Tembo, while staying in Kadoma.

Bro. Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe.)

Eternal Security

These days we hear much spoken or written about financial crises and the dangers of failing economies, which may later affect our savings and earnings. But for our own lives and security, we need to trust in something more secure than money.

When we sin, we are rebelling against God, and at times we do it unknowingly, without noticing. Some sins we now even accept as normal, though God's standards have never changed: moreover, a sin is still a sin and needs to be punished. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Thankfully ` we are not redeemed with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ' (1 Peter 1:18-19). Because Jesus never sinned, he bears the burden of our sins before God. This is the simple formula of our prayers to God. We pray - through Jesus Christ - to God. Revelation 5:9 tells us, "Thou art worthy... for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation."

Financial security is much sought after in this world and it is often so hard to find. Money or precious materials are not acceptable to God. The precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only righteous basis upon which God forgives our sins.

Our eternal security depends on how much we value the sacrifice of Christ. For us to have the peace and security we desire, we will certainly find it in Jesus, and by reading the Bible every day

with a prayerful heart and keen mind. May God help us with a focused mind as we journey towards the Kingdom.

Bro. Gideon Hankomone (Mazabuka, Zambia.)

Spiritual Stalwarts

It is not enough for us to train our minds to be intellectuals, but this is the in-thing these days.

Most people are busy pursuing academic achievements and prowess, but lack the zeal and time for God's works. We toil and suffer in order to raise fees to send our children to school, with a hope to attain a better physical life. But what we need is not educational prowess, but rather spiritual stamina to conquer all evil schemes thrown at our feet.

The Bible implies that when the natural harvest is plentiful idolatry abounds, increasing in fervency and significance. This is rebellion towards God.

We should first 'seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.' (Matt.6:33) Greater attention must therefore be given to educating our spiritual life. The words of Prov.4:23: 'Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.' There are things we give too much attention to in our lives, but avoid giving such prominence to God.

Let us open our Bibles and read carefully and meditatively the words of Matt.6:25-34.

Bro. Itai Tembo (Chegutu, Zimbabwe.)

Mary Of Magdala

There are times when each of us is disappointed when things don't turn out the way we want them to be. We all love to control the events in our lives and inevitably time comes when we discover we can't. People talk nowadays about their 'comfort zone,' and when they find themselves out of it, they become agitated and anxious, not knowing what tomorrow might bring.

Mary of Magdala had had 'seven demons' cast out of her by Jesus (Mark 16:9), and her appreciation of what Jesus had done resulted in complete devotion to Him. Now when Jesus had been crucified and buried, we can imagine Mary's sorrow as she came to the tomb with aromatic spices, as was the custom in those days, to embalm the body of Jesus. This indeed is a great 'wake-up!' call for us - whether in life or death, we must continue ministering to the Lord just as Mary did (Luke 24:1), committing our lives to God and His Son Jesus Christ.

But God has a way of turning sorrow into joy in our lives. Like Mary, our sorrows can be changed into joy if we continue carrying out the great message of the gospel. Mary brought the news to the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that she heard Jesus telling her blessed words of wisdom for the disciples: "Go to my brethren and say to them 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (Luke 20:17-18).

Lessons for us:

- True devotion to the Lord Jesus always gains its reward.
- Whether we have much or little for God, let's hold what we have in our hearts for Him.
- When disappointments come in our lives, we should always focus on how the Lord endured to the end.
- We must always be near to Jesus and always recognise His voice and listen to what He is telling us.

I have often found assurance and joy in the words of Isaiah: "I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine" (Isa. 43:1). Assurance and joy were what Mary of Magdala needed as she approached the tomb of Jesus in that early morning, only to discover the stone was rolled away and the tomb empty.

Each of us has a name. His call to us is a personal one "I have called thee by thy name." He has rights over us, "thou art mine." For Jesus had already paid the price for us through his precious sacrifice

Do you know him as your personal, risen Saviour as Mary did? "He calls his own sheep by name, and they know his voice" (John 10:3-4). How about us?

Bro. Gideon Hankomone, (Mazabuka, Zambia.)

Rely Upon The Lord

In most of our readings, we sometimes find a word or a situation which stands out, to encourage us in our efforts to glorify God. In Chronicles, the word `rely' comes to mind as we perceive the help granted to the people of God almost 3,000 years ago. In times of trouble, they were greatly strengthened as they relied upon the Lord.

`Rely' means to lean upon, rest upon, to stay, to support. Let us look at some of the examples of those who did rely upon the Lord.

Abijah, the son of Rehoboam, became king of Judah: "... in the eighteenth year of king Jereboam began Abijah to reign over Judah ... and there was war between Abijah and Jereboam. And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men. Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour" (2Chron.13:1-3). Abijah's army was outnumbered by a ratio of two to one. But he spoke against Jereboam, reminding him that he and the ten tribes had forsaken God.

"We keep the charge of the Lord our God; but ye have forsaken him. And, behold, God himself is with us for our Captain, and his priests sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel (10 tribes), fight ye not against the Lord God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper ... But Jereboam caused an ambush to come about behind them, so they were before Judah and the ambush behind them. And when Judah looked back, behold the battle was before and behind; and they cried unto the Lord, and the priests sounded with the trumpets ... it came to

pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. And the children of Israel fled before Judah and God delivered them into their hand. Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the Lord of their fathers" (2Chron.13:11-18). Their fathers Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David and more all relied upon the Lord God according to his word. Because Abijah and Judah leaned upon the Almighty, they conquered Jeroboam and Israel.

"Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah and the Lord struck him and he died. But Abijah waxed mighty and married fourteen wives and begat twenty and two sons and sixteen daughters" (2Chron.13:20-21). Abijah put his trust in the hand of the Lord and prospered the rest of his life.

One of Abijah's sons, Asa "reigned in his stead; in his days the land was quiet ten years. And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God, and commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to keep the Law and the commandments" (2Chron. 14:1-2,4).

At the end of the ten years' peaceful reign of Asa, the Ethiopians came against him and Judah. "...Asa cried unto the Lord God and said, ` Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God, for we rest (rely) on thee and in thy Name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God. Let not man prevail against thee.' So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah and the Ethiopians fled" (2Chron.14:11-13).

As Asa returned from the destruction of the Ethiopians, Azariah, the son of the prophet Obed (2Chron 15v1-2), reminded him, "...Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin, the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake him he will forsake you. ...Now for a long season Israel had been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found of them. Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded" (2Chron.15:2-4,7).

The Almighty, knowing the weakness of the flesh, warned Asa to continue his reliance upon Him, for He must be sought in order to receive His help, so being rewarded as Asa had been. In response to God's word: "When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Obed the prophet ... he took courage and put away the abominable idols out of the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from Mount Ephraim and renewed the altar of the Lord that was before the porch of the Lord. And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath; for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with their whole desire, and He was found of them, and the Lord gave them rest round about" (2Chron.15:8,12,15,19).

The book of Chronicles is full of such examples of those who relied on the Lord and continued to do so, as well as those who failed to continue their reliance, occurring about 3,000 years ago. They are a real help for us today, Brethren and Sisters. They remind us to turn to the Almighty at all times, not just in trouble, knowing that God's eyes "run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him." Does not God know all our hearts? Do we rely on Him in our striving to glorify Him now, in our time of probation?

God hears those who seek and desire to serve him, as Solomon wrote in Proverbs: "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments. For length of days, and long life and peace shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck, write them upon the tablet of thine heart: so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean (rely) not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil (Proverbs 3:1-7).

Solomon sought understanding and wisdom from the Lord; God granted him these, and more. But in his old age he departed from God and his heart was turned away by his many wives and concubines. He became "an old and foolish King, who will no more be admonished" (Eccl.4:13).

In contrast we have the words of David a man after God's own heart. "I am continually with thee; thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel and afterwards receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever" (Psalm 73:23-26).

What blessing, what help, what mercy we know from our Father! He will guide us, holding us by His right hand - if we rely on Him in all our ways.

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Bro. Francis Odiko (Subri, Ghana.)

VITAMINS

We really appreciate readers' response to Cindy's request for vitamins to be sent over for distribution to everyone at our feeding schemes at the Riga Bible Center in Latvia. We now have plenty of vitamins, and they are distributed by gloved hands from a bowl to everyone as they receive their soup:



Christadelphian Ministries

LITHUANIA

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of DMITRY, a direct result of coming into contact with us through getting an NEV Bible with commentary. Our brother is very determined and has been persistent in his search for Bible Truth. He came out of drug addiction some time ago through deciding to devote himself to God, but was disappointed in how unBiblical many popular churches are. The final stage of the 12 step program is to be committed to helping others break their addiction, and Dmitry has done this, being a mentor for others still struggling to overcome. One of the men he worked with travelled in from another city to witness the baptism, and our brother is keen to distribute our Bibles with commentary to many of his contacts. We produced a brief video in Russian of him appealing to people to realize there is an alternative to addictions, through taking total responsibility rather than blaming things on Satan, and through devotion to the Bible and its message of a human, perfect Jesus and His Kingdom.



CARELINKS

Christadelphian Ministries

Deaf And Sick People

"To the poor the Gospel is preached", not only the materially poor, but those poor in spirit who perceive their urgent need for the Good News of the Kingdom and of the Lord Jesus who was our representative. For over 15 years we have occasionally reported on our work with a deaf family in Latvia, who are now all baptized. Sister Cindy is one of the few non- Latvians to have a certificate in Latvian deaf sign language, which she got to facilitate our work with them. We're now so pleased to tell you of the baptisms of another deaf married couple, ANDIS and RIMMA, he is Latvian and she is Russian, neither of them understand each others' language and so they have developed their own sign language in which they communicate with each other. They live with his parents, who are also deaf. Entering their home and to some extent their lives was rather like entering a secret garden and we felt honoured to have as it were been allowed just a little bit into their world. All prayers had to be written out in both Russian and Latvian. We have now had over 2000 views of our sign language movie outlining the basic doctrines of the Gospel. The internet has been a huge blessing for such folk.

Photo: Our new deaf brother and sister; their Bible Basics in both Latvian and Russian.



We have made a number of visits recently to a 'Pansionat', a kind of care home in the deep countryside, where folk are sent, often to die. Some have terminal cancer, others have had strokes, others have cerebral palsy etc. The break up of the family under the Soviet system means that most of them have nobody who visits them. We previously distributed Bible Basics and Bibles there. Over several visits we are now pleased to report the baptisms of brothers SERGEJ, VLADIMIR, EDUARDS, ILYA, RIKHARD and OLEG; and sisters ZOYA, ILZE, OLGA, INTA, NATASHA, TANJA, ILZE, DZILMA, NATALY, ANTONINA, IRA, VIJA, INGA and NATALIJA. Some will not live long, humanly speaking, and others live a very low quality of life. This particular facility is in a grand old building, and the brothers and sisters assemble in the library- you can see a Bible Basics on the table:



There is no spiritual care provided for them, as most churches are only interested in having members who will pay a tithe, and the place is quite remote. The staff were extremely helpful- without them we couldn't have done this. They are very touched that we bother with such people. There will be many challenges ahead of us in caring for these dear brothers and sisters. The backbone of much of our work is the distribution of literature and Bibles, and we are so grateful for those whose donations over the years have enabled us to print and distribute so much literature.

Brother Aivars came all the way from Liepaja to the Riga Bible Center to be baptized about a year ago. He also spends a lot of time in a care home out in the countryside in Western Latvia, and he too has spread the good news. He says he really feels Jesus present with him after his baptism, and he so wishes to spread the message of Hope to others there. It really is "that blessed hope". We recently visited the care home, and were deeply impressed by how our brother spreads the Gospel there. He has given a Bible with commentary to many of the patients there and has got them studying Bible Basics. We were pleased to baptize

VLADIMIR. Again, being brought low has brought him to Christ. Here is his testimony:

"My parents were Communist Party officials and my father especially very much believed in Communism. I grew up without God, and progressed through the Communist Youth League to Party status. Of course one had to avow atheism in order to be a Communist. With the collapse of the USSR and the end of Communism in Latvia, my father had a breakdown. He had totally given his life to the Party and to Marxist-Leninist doctrine. He went out one night in his overcoat pushing a wheelbarrow with heavy rocks in it, went to the Liepaja Canal, tied the stones to his arms and legs, and drowned himself in the Canal- the same Canal where many Jews were shot and pushed into in the 1940s. My mother was badly affected too by the collapse of Communism, collapsing with cancer and then dying. My wife left me, and so far as I know is now an alcoholic walking the streets looking for scrap metal to sell. I held on- somehow. But I have no family now, no relatives. I was very, very interested in God. Potentially, I would say, I was even very religious. Although I admit that to accept we had been wrong for so long, was very very hard. But the churches did not attract me. Like Lev Tolstoy I wanted Christ but not "the church". I was told by several that suicide was the unforgivable sin and my father would burn in hell for ever. Dad was not a believer at all, so it all seemed unfair to me, if he was not responsible to God. Then here in the care home, where fate and destiny and the hand of God put me, I met Aivar. He told me he had left the Pentecostal church and had been baptized by your people in Riga. I remember he went all the way to Riga to be baptized. He told me so much which made

sense and which was what I wanted and needed to hear. That hell is the grave, no eternal punishment, knowledge of God makes us responsible, and most of all about Jesus. Now I read the Bible and not novels, thrillers etc. , of which there is an entire library here in the care home. I feel that really I now have Jesus in my heart. I do admit that I prefer the New Testament. In my baptismal photograph I asked to be photographed with me holding the New Testament closely to my heart because really my heart is with Jesus. I shall eagerly look forward to any and every visit that can be made to me here to explain the Bible more".

In the photos you can see our brothers with more Bibles for distribution:





Truly the Good News is going in truth to the poor in spirit, and a people being prepared for the Lord. But so many of them need a lot of support... and as we have been mentioning lately, there are some major expenses to face up to at the moment.

Feeding Scheme & Winter Welfare Project In Latvia

FEEDING SCHEME

Br Mike & Si Vanessa Boler (Folkestone), Sis Mim Clark (France), Sis June Williams (Guildford), Br Jeremy Neate, Br Andy & Sis Mel Downton, Br Rob & Sis Debbie Clements (Horley) and Br Simon Kent (Ipswich) did a huge amount of work repairing the hall, delivering firewood and blankets, and preparing and serving over 2000 major meals and over 5000 mugs of coffee.

Here are some of their reports:

"Deb, Rob and I formed the third part of the tag team to support the Riga mid-winter study programme. Duncan and Vladimir taught the study sessions whilst we cooked and then served an evening meal. We have benefited greatly from the two earlier teams: Vanessa's organisation and recipes, Jeremy and Mike's painting and handiwork, Andy's plumbing and Mel, Mim and June's advice and helpful hints at the handover. We feel blessed to have been able to provide some help to the ecclesia. Cindy gave us a long list of deep cleaning and painting tasks whilst she managed two sick children and visits from Health, Hygiene, Fire Regs - all the necessary pre-requisites to building a church that lives to serve the community. The church expands, the hungry are fed, the gospel is preached. May God bless the church in Riga."

--Simon Kent

Here are a few pictures of their work- helping paint the new kitchen, taking clothes, blankets and firewood to those in need, cooking and dishing out hot food





"Michael, Vanessa and I have nearly finished our visit to Latvia and our stay at the Christadelphian Bible Center in Riga.

Although conditions here are tough, and from that point of view it will be a relief to be home, one's feelings are mixed. It is all too easy to hop on a plane and head back to home comforts, but that option is not available to the 100 or so lovely people who have come each day to the Centre, both to hear God's word and to enjoy a brief time of warmth, Christian love and much needed sustenance, before reluctantly going back out into the far below zero streets in hope of securing a place in one of the night shelters, or of finding means to heat their sub-standard accommodation enough to survive a few more days. I have been privileged to experience at first hand the desperate desire of the brothers and sisters here for the appearing of their and our Lord. And the thirst of the unbaptized for the security we have in Christ. I have been filled with joy to be present at two baptisms this past week and have witnessed the sincerity and eagerness of the two new brothers and their new family in Christ. Above all I have been impressed by the magnificent response of brothers and sisters in the Western world to the unexpected need to upgrade the kitchen facilities- well done everyone. But for your generosity and especially the contributions of those able to donate to Carelinks regularly, their work would simply grind to a halt. May your sacrifice and love be blessed and may our Lord soon appear to bring the peace we all long for"- Bro. Jeremy Neate (Horley, UK)

"It has once again been a privilege to be able to help the Riga ecclesia with their winter feeding program, the need here seems to be even greater than when I was here last year. Many thanks to all who contributed the funds to sustain it all. We were so glad to be back and to see many familiar faces from last year. It feels we are really beginning to bond as brothers and sisters. Our time here is so fleeting and the need so great that our leaving will be with much sadness. May our loving Lord continue to bless the amazing work being done at the *Bible Center*. Your prayers, help and support are really needed and are much appreciated!"- Br Mike & Sis Vanessa Boler (Folkestone, UK)

Our visitors were able to witness the baptism of ROMAN, who came to us after getting an NEV Bible and having passed through various churches in his search for the Truth.



Bible class has been well attended- it is quite common in the Riga ecclesia to get around 100 to Bible class:

There was a great spirit at the meetings and after one class we were pleased to baptize ANDREJ, son of sister Tatyana, into the Lord's Name. Both mother and son were clearly very moved and joyful. You can see the same mother and son [far left] being served their meal earlier at the feeding scheme, by Vanessa and Jeremy:



We really believe that this is exactly what social welfare schemes should be like- providing as it were the much needed and even essential bread and fish to the crowds who came to hear the word of the Lord Jesus.



Brother Jeremy wrote after returning from delivering firewood to two brothers living in really awful poverty:

We are a party of three who have left the comforts of the UK to spend 12 days in freezing Riga (temperature -12 and `feel like' temperature of -18 C as this report goes out). At home, a bit of snow and ice can be fun once in a while, but week after week of -15 or less when you live in a single unheated room is quite another matter. Add to that having nothing to eat because you've spent all your income on medicines for your dying mother, no light except for a single candle because you cannot pay the electricity... and the reality emerges of lives that are tougher than anything we normally think of as "Dickensian". Yet some of those enduring these grim conditions are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Hence the Carelinks Winter feeding program which is

about to roll into action with hot food and other support aimed at keeping our brothers and sisters from starving and freezing.

Photos: Jeremy and Mike delivering firewood to the brothers living by candlelight , huddled with all their clothes on in a literally freezing room, with the dying mother of one of them lying on a couch.



We are all very appreciative of all the support give to Carelinks and the Christadelphian Advancement Trust which enables this work to go ahead. God willing, next Winter [November 2013 - March 2014] we are looking to repeat and expand this scheme- if you would like to get involved with cooking for one or two weeks (the work involves quite long hours and hard work), please let us know now- info@carelinks.net

Chewing the Cud

Israel was commanded by Yahweh to eat animals which had split hoofs and chewed the cud: "Every animal that has a split hoof and chews the cud among the animals, you may eat" (Deut 14:6). In this way Israel was told in parable form to learn from these animals so that they should not forget Yahweh their God. All the time they were supposed to focus on Him, like an animal that chews the cud. Chewing the cud means bringing up, regurgitating, the food which had been eaten at the previous grazing, and chewing it properly. In like manner, Israel was reminded to remember their God every hour of every day.

To eat an animal with a split hoof told Israel to stand firm and not to slip or be swept away. "For you shall worship no other god, for Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous god"(Ex34;14). That is, they were not to copy any other type of worship but were to stand firm in their worship of the only true God. They were to be a house founded on solid ground. The split hoof animal descends steadily on sloping ground, and never falls when either ascending or descending; there is no skidding on its journey to its destination. In like manner Israel was urged to be steady when journeying in the wilderness to the promised land.

Fish with fins and scales

"These you may eat of all that are in the waters: whatever has fins and scales may you eat". Why fish with fins and scales? These fish are never found in dirty, polluted water, but only in clean

water and the fish themselves are clean, very clean. When the water is dirty, the fish swims away to where there is clean water. Its scales help the fish to be protected from danger, and fins help it to move fast, the fins being like a paddle. These fish detect danger and know where it can balance in heavy water currents. Thus Israel was to learn that in their goings they would meet other nations where they should not pollute themselves. They had to sense danger and move away. They were urged to lead a clean life.

Lessons for spiritual Israelites

Since "every scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, completely empowered for every good work" (2Timothy 3:16-17), then "every scripture", every phrase, is inspired of God, every word is God breathed. Natural Israel were told to obey the word of God and eat only the prescribed animals and fish. So we spiritual Israelites who are in the spiritual wilderness, heading towards the promised land, should chew the cud, that is we have to examine ourselves through daily Bible readings. We need to seriously focus our attention on the promises that our heavenly Father has laid bare for us, that the righteous will inherit the earth. We can only try to attain perfection by thoroughly 'chewing' the word of God every hour and every day.

And since our perfection is marred with imperfections like illness, unemployment, financial crisis, lack of shelter, bereavement of wife, husband or child, or poverty, we must close our eyes and start praying. Maybe our request is not granted, or maybe the ecclesia itself has problems which are not solved by prayer. And the situation is aggravated by the so-called "Prosperity Evangelists" who promise money, employment homes and happiness so beguiling when we are in great need.

It is then that we have to remember the split hoofs and chewing the cud, the fins and the scales, for we must stand firm in the faith and avoid uncleanness. We should not follow bad companions, and we should not go where the current is hard for a spiritual person to swim. We should not look at things which cause us to sin easily, neither should we go where we can stumble. Always we should do our best to sense danger and avoid bad assemblies or associations. Be clean. Let us feed on the word of God and that of Jesus Christ and stand firm (2Cor 6:14-17).

Bro Philip Chilambwe (Kitwe, Zambia)

God, the Author of the Bible

Whether one gazes into the expanse of the heavens or the world of microscopic life, the profound order, design and interdependence of creation is remarkable. On every side, the created world bears silent testimony to the existence of its Creator, yet apart from the Bible, man would forever remain ignorant of earth's origin and destiny.

The Bible is the revelation of God to man. It clearly sets forth the truth concerning God and man; it reveals the divine purpose in creation, the origin of sin and death, the destiny of the nations and the coming kingdom of God. But the Bible also has personal value. It provides young and

old with hope. It unfolds the real reason for living and it exposes the foolishness of following a world which has divorced God from His creation. In brief, it can change our lives.

The aim of this article is to show that there is but one supreme Creator who has inspired the scriptures which reveal His character and purpose. "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and of which you have become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:14-17). "So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the holy spirit spoke from God (2Peter 1:19-21).

The Bible: God's revelation to man

Though divided into sixty-six different sections, the Bible is one book, setting forth one consistent message. It claims to be the word of God; no less than 500 times in the first five books it asserts "The Lord said" or "The Lord spake". Again, some 300 times it repeats these phrases from Joshua to The Song of Solomon. The books of the prophets repeat the claim another 1,200 times.

The writers of the Bible were really fulfilling the role of scribes for God; He was the real author. He expressed His teachings through mortal men. They wrote by His inspiration (Heb 1:1-2; Neh 9:20). God guided them in what they should say, although the language they used was their own; for this purpose God selected men from every class of society: kings, statesmen, priests, scholars, shepherds and fishermen were among those He chose. They were divided from each other by social status, time and place. One wrote in Syria, another in Arabia, a third in Italy, a fourth in Greece, a fifth in Babylon, a sixth in Palestine, so they had little personal contact with each other.

Moses, the earliest writer, wrote the first five books of the Bible some 1,500 years before John recorded the last book, Revelation. Yet, despite these great differences, there is a wonderful and complete harmony in all that was written which unites the 66 books into one message, and makes the Bible unique in the literary world. God has placed this book in the hands of men to provide them with hope (Rom 15:4). It alone can reveal the way to salvation (2Tim 3:16); to refuse its message means death (Deut 30:17-20; Prov 14:12).

The Bible is commonly divided into two sections styled the Old Testament, 39 books, and the New Testament, 27 books. But the division is man-made, and the whole Bible should be treated as the one consistent revelation of God to each one of us. The OT was originally written in Hebrew and the NT in Greek. The King James Version of the Bible was first published in 1611, King James 1st of England initiated the translation. Since then many other translations have appeared, some helpful, some less so.

While the original manuscripts would have been without fault, only copies have come down to us. However, there is now general agreement that the texts we do have do not contain any significant errors, only trivial translation faults, so that we can be sure that God's word is truly available to us.

The Bible: inspired and true

Peter set it forth as a basic principle that the Bible is inspired (2Peter 1:20-21). He declares that we should know "this first that no prophecy of the scriptures is of any private interpretation; for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the holy spirit". The words "private interpretation" have been variously rendered: Robert Roberts gives them as "private prophet's interpretation", Weymouth as "prophet's own prompting", and Maenight as "prophet's own invention".

Every confidence, therefore, can be placed in what the Bible proclaims. No genuine critic can show it to be false in any of its historical details. Its worst opponents have been forced to admit that here, at least, it is true. But the remarkable witness of prophecy shows that it is not only factually true, but divine. It demonstrates that God is its author, for only He can so wonderfully foretell the future. The Bible's amazing prophecies have been remarkably fulfilled in every detail:

· Babylon is still in heaps (Isaiah 13:19-21; Jeremiah 51:37). · Nineveh still lies empty, void and waste (Nahum 2:10) · Egypt is among the basest of nations (Ezekiel 29:15) · Ancient Tyre is literally a place for the spreading of nets (Ezekiel 26:5) · Israel has been scattered among all nations (Deut 28:64) and is being regathered again (Jeremiah 30:11; Exekiel 37:21-22) · A northern power hostile to Israel, ie Russia, has developed (Ezekiel 38:2-7,15-16)

The God of the Bible

The Bible opens by concentrating attention upon one person: God (Gen 1:1). Its revelation concludes by showing how one person will be manifested in all creation, "that God may be all in all"(1Cor 15:28). It reveals that each of us can be involved in that glorious consummation. The gospel appeals to us to step aside from the endless procession of men and women who are making their way to an eternal abiding place in the grave. God is "taking out of the Gentiles a people for his name" (Acts 15:14).

A first essential is a correct understanding of who God is (John 17:3; Hebrews 11:6). We must acknowledge the unity of God, that is there is only one God, the Father of all. Consequently we must reject as unscriptural the commonly held idea that God is a trinity (1Tim 2:5; Deut 6:4; Is 45:5; 1Cor 8:6; 2Cor 1:3). In line with this, note that Jesus is set forward as subservient to his Father (John 12:28; 1Cor 15:24-28) and that the holy spirit is described as God's power (Luke 11:35; Acts 3:12).

The Father's Character

There are two sides to God's character and we are called upon to consider both, Paul exhorts: "Consider therefore the goodness and severity of God" (Rom 11:22). These two aspects of God's character were revealed to Moses at Mt Sinai (Ex 34: 6-7) and are revealed in all His dealings with men. Consider, for example, the occasion when God sent Moses to deliver His people from Egypt. He saved Israel at the Red Sea, but destroyed Pharaoh's hosts. Also, the Lord Jesus is coming to judge the world in righteousness. This will entail mercy and redemption for God's elect, but death and destruction for the wicked. The reason for this is man's rebellious attitude: "Let favour be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness" (Isa 26:10-11). God disciplines mankind for his good and his ultimate salvation.

The Bible teaches that God is unchangeable in His purpose (Malachi 3:6). He is all-knowing (omniscient) (Ps 139:1-6): everywhere present (omnipresent) (vv 7-12): all powerful (omnipotent) (vv 13-18). The fact that God knows all (Heb 4:13; Jer 23:24), and can enforce His

will shows how circumspect we should be in our conduct before Him. Nevertheless, He would rule by love and not fear. The purpose of His revelation is to change our characters that they may conform to His, so fitting us mentally and morally for the bestowal of eternal life (a physical change) at Christ's coming (Phil 3:20-21).

The Father's purpose

The divine purpose is expressed in its simplest form in Num 14:21: "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of Yahweh". What does this entail? Certainly the whole earth will display the majesty of God, but God's glory involves more than this: it also involves His character. When Moses asked God to show him His glory, God in reply revealed His character: "Merciful, gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 33:18; 34:6-7).

God's glory will be revealed in all the earth when it is peopled by men and women who reflect in their lives His character. In his life, Jesus revealed "the glory of the Father" in that He was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus was resurrected and is the firstborn of many brethren. We can be among those who will be redeemed if we follow his example (1Peter 2:21; Rom 8:29-30).

God is calling men and women now for this purpose. If we understand the divine purpose and show God's character in our lives now, when Christ returns we will be given divine nature (1Peter 1:4) and will display the divine character in the perfection of immortality. Let us apply ourselves, therefore, to our studies of the Bible so that we might be made "wise unto salvation" and be accounted worthy of an abundant entry into the kingdom when the Lord comes.

Lessons for us

· Only by reading the Bible can we know the ultimate destiny of the earth and mankind · God requires us to know the truth concerning Him · A study of the Bible can and should affect our lives: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to thy word" (Ps 119:9), "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh" (Heb 12:25), · "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good" (1Thes 5:21)

Bro Herbert Tigerebasi (Lusaka, Zambia)

Live Down False Accusations

Scripture encourages us to "Let not your good be evil spoken of" (Rom 14:16), yet we may be unjustly accused at times, whether such accusations are the result of misunderstandings or direct attempt to slander us. The believer's reaction should be non-resisting good works. There are times when we may speak a word of clarification to correct simple misunderstandings and false reports.

Let us notice Christ's example. No- one's life was more misrepresented and misinterpreted than Christ's. But he simply led such an upright and consistent life that there was no doubt about what was true or false about him. As he performed his ministry, he showed no signs of being overly disturbed by the slanders against him.

If someone twists your words, or by falsehood dishonours your name, take it patiently. Do not try to fight it down by fist or tongue. The best way to disprove an evil report will be to live a right life.

When there are evildoers against you, they may by your good works which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation (1Peter 2:12).

(1Peter 2:12; 3:16) Bro Henderson Sosola (Mtenthela, Malawi)

The Test of Discipleship

There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. When an erring sinner comes to God and becomes a partaker of God's pardoning grace, love springs up in the heart. Every burden becomes light: every sacrifice, a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness becomes bright with beams from the sun of righteousness.

The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in his followers. It was his delight to do the will of God. Zeal for His glory was the controlling power in our saviour's life. Love beautified and ennobled all his actions. Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character and governs the impulses which control the passions, subduing enmity and ennobling the affections. The love cherished in the soul sweetens life and sheds a refining influence on those around.

There are two errors against which the children of God need to guard, especially those who have just come to trust in His grace:

The law of God is an expression of His very nature, an embodiment of the great principle of love and hence, it is the foundation of the government in heaven and earth. If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in life? It is when the principle of love is implanted in the heart that man is renewed after the image of Him who brought in the new covenant: "I will put my laws into their hearts and in their minds I will write them" (Heb 10:16). And if the law of God is written in their hearts, will it not share the life? Obedience and manifesting love is the true sign of discipleship: "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. He that saith, 'I know him' and keepeth not his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him" (1 John 5:3). Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ which enables us to render obedience.

We do not earn salvation by obedience: salvation is the free gift of God to be received by faith. We know that Jesus was manifested to take away our sins: "In him there is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not. Whosoever sinneth hath not seen him neither knoweth him" (1 John 3:5-6). Here is the true test: if we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in our feelings, our thoughts, our purposes, our actions, we will be in harmony with the will of God as expressed in the precepts of His holy law. "Little children, let no man deceive you. He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous" (1 John 3:7).

Any so-called faith in Christ which professes to release men from obedience to God is not faith, but presumption. "By grace are you saved through faith," "but faith if it hath not works is dead" (Ephesians 2:8; James 2:17). Jesus said of himself, "I delight to do thy will, O my God. Yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8). Before he ascended to heaven, he declared: "I have kept

my Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10). "Hereby we know that we know him if we keep his commandments: he that saith he abideth in him doth himself also walk even as he walked" (1 John 2:6-8). "Christ has also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

Fibion Ngozi (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

In this letter to his Corinthian brethren Paul is communicating the excellency of the gospel message the gospel, or good news, of the Kingdom of God, through the name of Jesus Christ. Paul reminds them of the privilege they knew of the fulfilment of the gospel message through the spirit of Christ.

"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone but on fleshly tablets of the heart." (2 Cor. 3:3)

The members of the Corinthian body were both Jews and Gentiles, and as Paul brought the gospel message to that mixed group, it was important they understood the spirit of the law and not cling to the letter of the law from years of rote and practice. He emphasized this, reminding of those still under the law saying: "seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech. And not as Moses, who put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished. But their minds were blinded, for until this day remains the same veil unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament which veil is done away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their hearts." (2 Cor. 3:12-15)

There were some during the early days of Paul's ministry who were holding fast to the law's precepts unwilling to grasp the fulfilment made through Christ's death. Paul speaks of those as having a `veil' over their heart unwilling to see the truth. When they did perceive Christ as the fulfiller of the law, then that veil would be removed.

"Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Cor. 3:16-17). This word `liberty' means freedom, and Paul is speaking of the freedom granted through Christ from the curse of sin and death placed on all flesh after Adam's and Eve's fall in the garden of Eden. The word `spirit,' as used here, speaks of the divine Spirit of God's power, which guides and directs in an understanding of His word.

Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, writes further on liberty: "Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if you be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:1-4) The doing of the law bound them, but the spirit of Christ gave release and liberty, therefore Paul urged them not to backslide by taking up the old ways of the law. In his case some were demanding that all new members of the body be circumcised as was required

under the law. If those covered under Christ could not perceive the freedom he had provided with his death, then his sacrifice was meaningless.

"For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." (Gal.5:13) They were now free from the restraints of the law. Yet this freedom could be stretched and misapplied to give occasion for fleshly pursuits. With liberty there was now a greater responsibility to exercise the spirit of Christ in their living, serving one another in love.

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Gal.5:14) If we are covered by his death, then we are given liberty from the law of sin and death. With that freedom comes a duty to walk after his example in order to be known as his brethren and sisters. "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into his death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom.6:3-4)

In Jesus' day, many of the Jews felt a false assurance of salvation just because they were the seed of Abraham. Because they did not perceive the spirit within the law, they were unprepared to receive their Messiah when he appeared before them. Jesus admonished them in this regard, saying: "...if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, `we be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?' Jesus answered them, `verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committed sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever, but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:31-36).

Prophesying of the liberty which would be brought by the coming Messiah, Isaiah wrote in the spirit of Christ saying: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn." (Isa.61:1-2)

Jesus' sacrifice and death gave release to the flesh's curse upon man for those who could perceive with the eyes of faith. "Then said Jesus to those Jews who believed on him, `if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'" (John 8:31-32)

(2Corinthians 3:17) Bro. Francis Kotei (Odiko, Subri, Ghana.)

Jesus Heals

Jesus heals the people and lots of people come Jesus loves the people, and heals them one by one. Jairus sees healed people but his young girl is sick, so Jairus says to Jesus, "Please come, Jesus, quick! I need your help! Your healing power! My little girl is sick!" So Jesus goes to heal the girl, but on the way, she dies. Her Mummy's sad and Daddy's sad - her Daddy, Jairus, cries. But

Jesus says "Now please, don't cry, let's go to where she lies" He knows God's spirit, God's power, can open up her eyes. Jesus takes her by the hand, says, "Little girl, arise!" God's power goes out and heals the girl, she opens up her eyes. Look, now the girl can even stand, She's well, What a surprise! Her Daddy's glad and says "Hooray! Jesus healed my girl today!" God can help you every day, just be like Jairus, believe, then pray.

Sis Cindy Heaster