

The Gospel News



"To all nations"



EDITORIAL: Mission

All too easily, our life in Christ becomes reduced to the same old scene of religious habits and rituals- reading the same Bible chapters, saying more or less the same words in prayer, attending the same kind of meetings at the same times. All these things are good and wholesome of themselves, but unless we're very careful, put together they turn our wonderful relationship with the Lord into mere religion. We can make a religion out of our service of God, and turn it all into a kind of idol. And there is Biblical and archaeological evidence that Israel used their



idols as a form of Yahweh worship. They turned Him and His service into an idol. And in essence, we in this age can do the same, the outward form of our religion doesn't make us atheists, but it can lead to an effective eclipse of God. And all this means that we have missed something very fundamental: We were called to work. By accepting Jesus as Lord, we signed up to being His servants. And each servant has been given a task to do- "to every man his work" (Mk. 13:34). When James writes of not being forgetful hearers "but a doer of the work" (James 1:25) he surely alludes here - with the implication that we have each been given a specific work to do. In another parable, we are each given coins with which we are to trade and make some profit for the Lord; and those who do nothing with them shall not be in God's Kingdom (Mt. 25:25). The man didn't spend the money on himself; he carefully preserved / hid the coin (the same word is used later in the New Testament for holding / preserving the one Faith) and returned it to his Lord. And for this he was rejected. We were "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). Our "walk", our way of life, our 'occupation' (the original Greek is elsewhere translated like that) is to be doing the works which God set us up to do. So here is good news for the unemployed- and for those who feel they have no meaningful occupation.

"Not in vain"

Our focus upon Paul's teaching about grace and faith can lead us to overlook the fact he also wrote much about the significance of work. God is in need of man - in a sense. He need not be, but He chooses to work through humans as the mechanism through which He operates. On one pole we have Divine sovereignty, His sovereign ability to be and do as He wishes in this world; on the other, we have human responsibility, the fact that if we don't pray for some things then they will not happen, if we don't do some things then they will not be done. We can play a part in others' salvation - when the Lord saw the faith of the friends, He forgave the sick man. And we can cause others to stumble and shut up the Kingdom to others by our legalism. We balk at this- because we struggle to grasp our own significance in God's ultimate purpose. Surely He can get someone else to do it? Who am I? Can I as one in seven billion people have any hand in the destiny of others on this planet? And shaken by the possibilities, the potential prospect before us, we stick our heads down and get on with our secular education, work and living- kidding ourselves that that is serving God, and we can do nothing else. But such an attitude to secular work is actually glorifying the curse given in Eden. It is all in vain, as Ecclesiastes laments, and ends in the dust of death. But the good news is in 1 Cor. 15:58: Our labour, our toil, our weariness (so the Greek also means) is not in vain in the Lord. Only in Him does life and its

labour become meaningful. Here ends man's search for meaning, and all the depression and dysfunction that goes with sensing the insignificance of our lives and the inability to attach ultimate meaning to the stream of events that comprise human history. As believers, our decisions are meaningful and affect the course of history for others. God in that sense is open to many possible futures, even though they shall all come to term in the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. As members of His people, doing His will, the labour of our lives is not in vain, seeing it is done "in the Lord". Paul seems to be alluding to the spirit of Ecclesiastes, which laments that all achievement and labour "under the sun", not "in the Lord", is so tragically vain; there is no sense of final achievement, and this nagging fear about the ultimate validity of life's work must plague all who live outside the sphere of God (Ecc. 1:9-11; 2:18-23).

Paul speaks of being fellow-labourers with God and Jesus (Phil. 2:12), of labouring to bring forth fruit, of how he has worked more abundantly than any in response to his receipt of God's grace (1 Cor. 15:10). He felt his whole life was working to an end, and therefore he rarely expresses regret for anything after his baptism. That's a wonderful way to live life. Only true Christianity enables it. Life outside of Christ is 'unfruitful' (Rom. 6:21; Eph. 5:11), and Paul's concern is with being fruitful for God. He shares his concern that he will not labour "in vain" (Gal. 2:2; 4:11; 1 Thess. 3:5), that those who leave the faith will have laboured "in vain" (1 Cor. 15:2; 2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 3:4), asks for prayers for the success of his work (Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:3; 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1), and sounds relieved to write that his visit to Thessalonica was "no failure" (1 Thess. 2:1 Moffatt). His aim was to be able to say at the day of judgment that he had not laboured in vain (Phil. 2:16). All these references give the impression of a conscious effort to ensure that life is not lived in vain, that the labour of our lives is fruitful. This concern for achievement, to be fruitful and not live in vain, is pointedly relevant to our age, where life can be frittered away so easily in entertainment and endless social networking. The call of Christ is to be "fruitful", to concretely achieve, with all the associated mental effort that entails.

Salvation itself is a free gift, independent of works - Rom. 4:4; 6:21-23 draws the contrast between the free gift of God, and the wages paid by sin. We each receive the same penny a day. And yet there is a major emphasis in the New Testament upon works being judged and rewarded eternally (1 Cor. 4:4,5; 2 Cor. 5:10). There will be a 'payment' or reward for our works (1 Cor. 3:10-15; Rev. 22:12). There is a direct connection between our works in this life and the nature of our eternity. The nature of our eternity will be in accordance with the nature of our work. If, e.g., we laboured long and hard for the salvation and spiritual growth of an individual, then to live eternally with them will be an eternal reward. A bad builder will be saved at the last day but his work shown to be shoddy (1 Cor. 3:15). What this means is that our work within the body of Christ has real and eternal results. This alone should inspire us to be minimalists in our secular lives and focus on what will have eternal result.

In one sense, the Lord Jesus has given us His work to do and has gone away to the "far country", to return and assess our work. In another, according to Jn. 14-16, He is actively present with us. The resolution is that we are indeed left to make our own decisions and structure our lives as we think best in order to do our Lord's work, and yet He is also very much with us in Spirit- if we perceive it. In this sense, Christ works through our work for Him, as He did through Paul's (Rom. 15:18). For "we are God's fellow-workers" (1 Cor. 3:9 RV; 2 Cor. 6:1; 1 Thess. 3:2). Because of this, our labour is His, and thus becomes ultimately meaningful. Even our secular lives and labour become part of God's work, if it is done as unto Him and directed toward the final end of being His work rather than our own. Hence Paul reflects that if he is allowed to live a few more years, "If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me" (Phil. 1:22). Life in the flesh

can be fruitful labour. And that had huge significance for the slaves who became Christians. They were not to think that they could only serve their Heavenly Lord in the tiny amount of 'free time' they had. Nor are we to think that our service of God can only be 'after hours'. How grateful those slaves would have been for this amazing feature of the life in Christ. Ordinary daily tasks become absorbed in the grand idea of serving the Lord. Paul writes of slaves or free men each having 'a calling in which he was called' (1 Cor. 7:20)- and he uses this term elsewhere only about the calling to Christ we have received. Our 'calling' in secular life is our calling to serve Christ. But we are not to think this means we are to just pay no attention to trying to consciously serve the Lord as directly as possible - for in this context he writes that "If you may [Gk. 'have the possibility to'] be made free, then use it rather [also translated 'better', 'the more']" (1 Cor. 7:21). This is relevant to issues of career choice, early retirement, how far we get involved with our employment.

Life lived like this, the purpose driven life, therefore ultimately has no regrets at the end. Paul shows no regret for anything since his baptism. He also pays little attention to 'the problem of suffering'. Instead he saw every suffering as being to an end, part of the Divine program of which he was a part. Instead of writing about 'What I suffered for Christ', he more positively sees it all as 'What Christ has done in me'. So what does all this mean? For the African or Asian peasant farmer, the European middle aged man trapped by mortgage payments he can't really meet, the American divorcee without maintenance for her young children, the unemployed invalid in Eastern Europe, the blind man in an underfunded care home in Lithuania, the Syrian refugee living illegally in Greece, the Australian in midlife crisis, the believer stumbling through the mire of mediocrity? It means that you have a mission. A specific calling which you may yet have to pray to discover. Once you get the point, and resolve to bend every fiber of your conscious being to His service and the achievement of His work in this world- then, believe me, and believe the Scriptures- life will open up before you. Even in the face of final illness and death itself, we will see that we are still willing travellers on the journey intended for us, still part of His program for His glory. And until then, absolutely all things in life are to be done and to be used within the sense of mission and specific calling which, by grace, we have each received.

--Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM KENYA



BULIMBO



Bro. Jouma Sadique

BUNGOMA

We are grateful for the Bibles you have sent to us and are very happy to have received them. I also received the DVD about preaching the gospel but we do not have a laptop so that we can use it, so will have to find someone to play it for us.

We read in Luke 10:25-35 of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Who is the good Samaritan? We will see at the end of the lesson that it was Jesus. The man, a Jew, that was coming from Jerusalem to Jericho, encountered robbers who: left him with no clothes left him there to die left him bleeding.

The first person to come across this injured man was a priest who did not help him, the next person, a Levite also passed by on the other side. The third person who came along was "a certain Samaritan", who was moved with compassion and bound up his wounds, set him on his own beast, took him to an inn and paid for him to be looked after.

Remember that first person was a priest from the house of Levi and the second person was a Levite, but not a priest. They were representatives of the Law of Moses and they passed by and did nothing. They were poor leaders and carers of the sheep. The third person was from Samaria and the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans, treated them as enemies and would not even fetch them water from a spring.

The man that fell among thieves is a picture of sinners, he "went down" to Jericho (place of a curse). The Redeemer - a certain Samaritan despised, was his neighbour and represents Christ, whose blood was shed on the cross for our sins, (he paid the inn keeper) and if we accept and obey him, his remedy for us oil and wine: wine to cleanse conviction: oil to cure conversion. We are to follow that good shepherd of the sheep because he gives life (eternal life) to us through baptism, John 10:11- 15, and faithfully obeying his commands.

Bro. Boniface Juma



Bro. Boniface Juma

I have received a book "Wrested Scriptures" and have begun reading it. It is very interesting and I am getting more inspired by the works you always send to me.

I am 23 years old and I know I am at a stage when most youths go astray, especially in my country. We know very well that the Bible is very important in human life it speaks to people physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. The Bible speaks to the heart. It deals with the experiences of humanity like birth, marriage, love, parenthood and even death.

The Bible heals the deepest wound in human nature, it offers forgiveness of sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, promised in the Bible. The Bible is universal, it does not discriminate, whether we are sick or lonely, it speaks to us and all who are aged, orphans, widows, rich, poor, humble or even great, all of them. The Bible has a lesson to offer to them. Let us all believe in the Bible. (John 20:31).

The Bible strengthens us in weakness, cheers us in despondence, comforts us in sorrow, guides us in uncertainty and soothes us when weary. It shows us how to live courageously and to die without fear because our Lord Jesus Christ will come back and there will be the resurrection that will make those who lived according to His will to continue living in His Kingdom. (Psalm 90:17).

--Bro. Nasongo Haron

CHWELE

We wish to write to thank you profoundly for the good work you are doing to spread the Word of God. The Gospel News magazine has undergone several transformations as time has gone on and we pray that God will always uplift our brothers and sisters all over the world to work hard for the magazine to continue. The CD is really interesting, as we have watched it on a friend's machine. Many were puzzled at the teachings of "The Real Devil" CD so we had to explain it to

them clearly. May the Lord who watches from above bless you as we wait for Our Master's return.

--Bro. David and Sis. Jacklyn Wanjala.

ELDORET

Kindly accept my good wishes to your family and ecclesia plus the entire brotherhood in Christ. Our country is at a cross-road. Kindly remember us in your prayers. May our good God, full of mercy, remember the work of the Truth, helping others to come to the Kingdom.

Our gospel magazine has reached its expectation it is vivid indeed. We assure you that we will continue giving any necessary support for the Gospel News. Bible Basics is a book worthy of its salt in terms of the gospel of the day. Please send me some of them in the English version. As you always express our real life in this part of the country, remain being so kind to us as you have been doing.

Peter stressed that, regardless of their circumstances, believers have been given a hope that cannot be taken away and they have the resources to continue living holy lives. "WHAT IMPACT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?"

Peter wrote to Christians about their need for hope and holiness. Christians are pilgrims of faith on the earth as it is now but their hope is to be in the Kingdom on this earth in the future. Peter's readers were being persecuted but they needed to have hope and assurance of their inheritance. Peter urges them to rejoice even in times of trouble. Note that Peter was a mere fisherman's son and that was where Jesus first found him.

--Bro. Jacob Okoth

KITALE

I thank you for the books, pamphlets and all materials from CAT. Keep on doing the sterling work and in the will of God you will be rewarded soon in Christ's presence. It is a sacrifice for you and others and without you we should not have reached where we are now. You supply us with material and ours is to proclaim the Truth in "Christendom Astray".

The pioneers opinion stated that in the last days of human affairs (just before the coming of Christ), America would co-operate with Britain in her efforts against the world in arms. The friendly feeling that now prevails between the two countries and the rumours of political alliance between them, certainly looks as if this prognostication will to be fulfilled. Such an alliance would secure Britain's food supply in the direst emergency. It is wonderful how many of Bro. Thomas's political anticipations, based upon the indications of prophecy, have been realised. America would certainly, as you observe, make a fine strong lion, to roar in support of the young lions who will presently raise a chorus of growls against the northern bear when she comes down to assail the old mother. God bless all the overseers and the watchmen on this matter.

--Bro. Martin W.Barasa



Bro. Martin Barasa (left) with a friend on the right, Isaya Wanjala, after Bible Study in his home with others

MAKHONGE

Warmest greetings of love and peace we share together in Christ. Thanks for the noble work CAT are doing in God's vineyard. It is clear that it's endeavour is seen worldwide and we prayerfully ask God to give you good health, long life and pour out abundant blessings for this important work of salvation to continue while Jesus remains away. We are so thrilled for the parcel we have just received and we find your letter very informative.

Our sons Jim and Oscar are both in class 6 and one would like to become an engineer and the other a doctor. Millicent is in class 3 and would like to become a preacher when she grows up. Jim is 13, Oscar is 11 and Millicent is 8 years. We are just peasant farmers but hope that God will bless us with abundant resources to educate them so that these dreams may come true.

The NEV Bible has been given to one of our contacts and he is very interested in knowing things concerning God's Kingdom and His Son, Jesus Christ. We pray for him to remain steadfast in the last days. We have so many bad things taking place everywhere. Please keep on sending more spiritual literature.

--Bro. Manasseh and Sis. Doricus Wamamili

Thanks very much for your endeavour in supplying the spiritual literature to God's people worldwide. We are now members in Christadelphian fellowship and we are happy and wish to join together in faith and studying God's Word, especially in these hectic periods. A few days ago we came across your good NEV Bible version sent to Bro. Manasseh and Sis. Doricus. It is a great help in our daily studies of God's Word and has also proved to be a good version for

students who have joined the secondary school this year. We use it at home and at the same time our sons like it in studying Christian religious education in school.

--Bro. Jacob and Sis. Phoebe Buyela

NAKURU

Kindly send my name and address to the publishers of Gospel Publicity League of Australia. I have been writing to them but still do not receive the pamphlets. My new box number is P.O.Box 14879 though the other one still operates.

I have enclosed the translation of the book "What's the Gospel?" in Luo language. The Luos are the second largest tribe in Kenya after the Kikuyus. Many would like to know the Truth but are not good at understanding and reading English or Swahili and as labourers in the Lord's vineyard it is our responsibility to accomplish the missionary obligations etc.

Laptops have been promised for all pupils of std.1, those beginning primary education. I was impressed that our ecclesias, especially in Africa, are baptising members every now and then; in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Nigeria, just to mention a few.

Bro. Joshua Kisuya of Kenya is doing all he can to have brethren and sisters in Ethiopia as we are living in the last days. I am also glad that Bro. Agyeman of Ghana is still in the Truth waiting for the Lord Jesus. Bro.

Innocent Baruom of Kiberia Ecclesia, Nairobi, who is originally from D.R.Congo, is also tirelessly labouring in the vineyard, visiting and baptising people, especially in refugee camps, which is a commendable work.

Kenya is fine despite the Al Shabab threats and attacks. Please help us to pray. When will you visit Kenya? I always wish that one day we meet if Christ is still away, but we know that he is about to come as the events taking place now on earth show clearly that it is near. Do you have Bible Basics in Kiswahili, Luo, Luhyia or Kikuyu as some contacts would like these, or Bibles in those languages. The purpose of the gospel was to unite man again with God. The gospel is glad tidings, which means good news, but what is the good news?

--Bro. Samuel Wanga



Bro. Samuel Wanga teaching the young Yvonne the Word of God,



Bro. Samuel Wanga stressing a point from the Bible for some youths and Sunday School children.

COMMENT: *Sorry the languages you mention are now out of stock and it does not alas look as if we will have the resources to reprint them soon.*

NDHIWA

"Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come devote yourself to public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Don't neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you." 1 Timothy 4:11-14

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed. Be shepherds of God's flock.

That is, under your care serving as overseers, not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be. Not greedy for money, but eager to serve, not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being an example to the flock. And when Christ, the chief shepherd appears you will receive the crown of glory that ill never fade away."

1 Peter 5:1-4 --Sis Dorine Mboya, Ndhiwa

NDHIWA

Thank you very much for the Bibles and Gospel News. Here we are fine in the Lord. God has kept us going well despite the hardship of life. My two children in secondary school are actually my concern as it is hard to raise their school fees. It is our prayer for some well-wishers and good Samaritans to come out to support them.

I am thankful that the book of James is clear when describing true religion or true faith, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (ch. 1:27). That is refreshing. True religion genuine faith- is an expression of how we relate to God. One evidence of our new identity in Christ is the way we care for one another reaching to the most frail and vulnerable among us, to those in most need of help.

True religion is not a garment to be taken on and off. It is a lofty challenge about how we live before a holy God and others, it is to know the love that Christ imparts and to show his love to burdened hearts.

You don't advertise your religion or true faith by wearing a label you do it by living a Christian life.

--Bro. Jacktone Ukiru



Bro. Jacktone doing his personal Bible study in his garden.

SINDO

I was pleased to receive the Gospel News for your Bible study disc. The purpose of the Gospel News is to fully preach the true gospel and to encourage brethren and sisters to grow spiritually and maintain a high standard of doctrine and practice to the end that they may attain the Kingdom.

I started reading the magazine in 1999, 14 years ago and am one of the brethren who has benefitted from the service of this magazine. I was baptised on 21 August 1976 by Bro. David Rowley from England, so have been in the Truth for 37 years. We are warned by Paul to preach the true gospel of Christ, Gal. 1:6-10. Also Jesus gave the great commission to preach the gospel to the whole creation. We have three steps to salvation, belief, baptism and obedience.

Jesus of Nazareth was King of the Jews. Matt.27:37, Mark 15:26, Luke 23:38, John 19:19. Today the world we live in needs Jesus to take over as a world President because unfaithful corrupt leader, instead of peace and love, turn the world into a place of torment and suffering with no peace of heart. Only the coming of Christ will bring peace on earth.

Many people forget that the kingdom of Israel, was the Kingdom of God on earth. It was destroyed and Jesus of Nazareth is coming to be the King, not only of the Jews but of the whole earth for 1000 years and then hand the power to the Heavenly Father, 1 Cor. 16:24, Rev. 20:4, Rev. 5:10.

After the resurrection Jesus was asked in Acts 1:6, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" The reply, v.7 "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority."

Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, the God of Israel wants us to repent, seek him daily, glorify Him and listen to his voice and obey the true gospel because He has fixed a day that he will send His Son, Jesus of Nazareth to reign on earth. Acts 17:31, "He hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

I have tried to make use of the opportunity to follow the Bible Companion and accept that I have weakness/strength. I was able through contact with you from 1999 to 2013, about 14 years,

improved my spiritual growth in the Truth. You have made me go an extra mile in the Truth through the Gospel News by accepting my articles in the magazine. I do accept that I am weak/strong in the Truth so please give me the best you can.

--Bro. John Owalo Onani.

SUNA MIGORI

Here in Kenya we are praising God's grace for keeping us in peace. In 2007 we had an election.

Many people demised and some were injured due to post-election violence. This year we held our election on 4th March. It is written in the book of Timothy that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We must be thankful for God's peace in Kenya. Even now there are difficulties in finding food and we are suffering a lot. I don't lose hope because Jesus will come back soon to take control.

--Bro. Kim Rolif Ochuodho

I received the parcel you sent me with a Bible and a very interesting book called "Women in the Church", thank you very much. The book is a very inspiring debate and I have learned a lot from it. Also the European Bible is very educational and the notes underneath or below are very useful to me. In fact, the notes assist me in preaching when I am doing mission work. I have also received 2 DVDs, "The Real Devil" and one for basic studies. I have watched the one for Bible studies which I have found very helpful in my life as the lessons are deep and detailed and have reinforced my Biblical knowledge. I am planning to watch the DVD "The Real Devil" on Sunday at my friend's house as he will be at home at the weekend and he has a DVD player. I plan to buy my own machine soon, if the Lord wills.

I would like to inform you that I have written to "Agape in Action" in Canada for University sponsorship for my son Raymond Kyato Munygo who did form 4 last year. He has been called to Mount Kenya University. Since I am a low paid worker I hope I will get a positive response from them.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the one who will save us from our sins.

Christ: The anointed. There were three official roles for which people were anointed by God:-

That of a King That of a prophet That of a priest.

Jesus Christ filled all these roles. We have to believe in Jesus the King, the Prophet and the Priest who taught us about redemption and salvation, thus we come to call him the Lord Jesus Christ. He also taught us that we are washed from our sins through his shed blood and our baptism into him. He did all these works for us sinners. If we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ our destiny is eternal life.

--Bro. Benjamin Mwatu



Bro. Benjamin Munyao Mwatu and others at Bible Fraternal meeting at Kababu Ecclesia. We were queuing up for breakfast in the morning. N.B. Children were made to sit on grass to be served tea.

NEWS FROM LESOTHO



This is to assure you that I am still doing very well indeed currently, by the mercy of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I hereby inform and notify you that I previously received a DVD which contained the movie title 'The Real Devil.' I am very grateful for this DVD which was given to me by you free of charge, and I hope and believe that it will be useful to me and also to the people who used to visit me to share the Word of God with me.

Concerning the terrible and horrible things that are taking place or happening in my country done by people who have been 'created' in the image of God really I am afraid, but not so very much because the Book of books, the Holy Bible which we have from God, has stated long ago that in the last days people will be selfish, insulting, boastful and merciless.

So what I myself should do, is I must keep away from such people and not mix or associate with them because they are irreligious and hate to do good things that please God our Creator. For example, here, a man killed his by hacking her to death. So you can just see how ungodly the people of my beloved country are. These things show and indicate that the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to rule this entire world is just around the corner, as has been prophesied in the Bible.

Kindly send me some more 'Bible Basics,' which is currently available on-line or by mail, which will help me in my preaching activities to give others a true appreciation of the future He has in store for this chaotic world, for all those who trust in and obey Him.

--Bro. Tsepo Bernard Lintsa

NEWS FROM MALAWI



CHIROMO

With me here in Malawi at Bangula and around Nsanje District, we are well, but not so much because of a great problem we faced this year of flood. It started raining from December 2012 up to March 2013 without stopping, so that many houses fell down even in our gardens the crops we had planted were taken away by water.

Although it is like that we don't forget what the book of Psalms spoken by David says in Psalm 16:8: 'I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.' And the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:19: 'And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' I used to recall these verses because it strengthens me to know the true God.

Brother Austin Nyirenda visited us on the Easter Convention here at Bangula Church Centre, and many of our number came on this occasion. Bro. Austin stayed two days and we benefited from more new teachings. The first lesson he taught was about 'Knowing God.' The second lesson taught was 'The Spirit of God.' The third one was 'The Promises of

God.' These three subjects he taught were a great blessing to all of us believers, and we would like him to come again to continue with more lessons. But he said that he came from far away. Indeed, from Salima to Nsanje District he crosses five Districts.

He brought five Chichewa Bibles and one carton of 20 books of Chichewa entitled Mfundo, Zoonadi, Zeni Zeni Za, Bukhu, Lopatuwk. Alas, many were complaining that these Chichewa Bibles and books were too few to be shared amongst us all.

We have many people who have just received Christ as their personal Saviour very recently, but need to be baptised.

--*Bro. John Phiri*

KASUNGU

Thanks a lot for the great job you are doing around the world. Let God through His mercy provide you everything to make it possible for the Gospel to reach every corner of the world.

I am making preparations for the Malawi School Certificate of Education (M.S.C.E.). I ask for your prayers that I may pass, in all subjects I need to pass Bible knowledge with a credit. As 'God gives to those who knock', please assist me in prayers that it may be done. The books we are studying from the Bible are Acts of the Apostles, Luke and the book of Isaiah.

--*Sis. Bertha Khonje*

MALENGA CHANZI

I have been preaching to 25 Muslims for sometime here and am pleased to report that another Ecclesia has been established and some Muslims have also been baptised and we have built a grass shelter. I and my wife Cathy did some further preaching in the area and some open air preaching in which I used the Chichewa Bible Basics, which many of them like and find easy to understand. There are many Muslims in this area as it was once a centre of the slave trade, they do not believe in the Trinity which is a problem we have to overcome with orthodox Christians.

--*Bro Leonard Changa*

MTENTHELA

When Christ commissioned his disciples to the serious work of evangelizing, spreading the gospel of the Kingdom, he told them, 'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be you therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.' (Matt.10:16) He also promised, 'Lo, I am with you always.' (Matt.28:20).

It is apparent that the wolf-like and hawk-like society around us is not a friend to grace. We are in enemy territory and can expect rejection and hatred from the sinful world around us. The power of sin seeks to overwhelm us, but John writes, 'He that is in you is greater than he who is in the world.' (1John 4:4) By the grace of God we can be lamb-like and dove-like. Although the brother or sister is defenceless standing alone, he is well defended as God protects and preserves him. (Matt.10:17-31).

--Bro Henderson Sosola

SALIMA

I should go again to Bangula in Nsanje District, as soon as possible, Set backs are that, travelling and postage costs are so exorbitant and prohibitive due to devaluation and floatation of our local currency. However, this will not stop me from travelling, because I know these are the last days, And the Gospel of the Kingdom, needs to be spread everywhere before the end of this world.[Math 24 v 19].

--Bro Austin Nyirenda

NEWS FROM NIGERIA



ABA

It is always on my mind to write, but one thing or other takes my mind away from doing that.

Aba Ecclesia is progressing well in their propagation of the Truth. For some years now we have been conducting a 30-minute Radio broadcasting programme of the Truth every Saturday. It is financially a co-sponsored programme with C.B.M. The Evangelical group on the other side is taking the Truth around the former Eastern Region, with some baptisms that have taken place, and among them was a local district chief. Arrangement is already going on with the baptised chief on how to start an ecclesia in his area, in Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia State.

Bro. Duncan's work is bringing good results. Therefore I have been asked to appeal to you to help us with more copies (as many as you can send) of the English Edition of Bible Basics. They are meeting many people with this, and it is yielding positive results. Even my reserved copy has been used. It is always a good agreement and testimony that unites us.

--Bro. James E. Ogbah

BENIN

Thank you brother for the enclosed CD on the devil...its really very interesting. I wish to continue receiving a regular copy of the Gospel News, and may our good LORD continue to bless you richly in all your efforts.

--Sis. Lydia Ojike Endurance

ENUGU

Our All Nigeria CYC took place at Lagos-State Ecclesia. It started on 28.4.13. and ended on 1.5.13. Only my family in Enugu Ecclesia attended three of us myself, my wife and my daughter. Things went smoothly: we were about two hundred people from different Ecclesias. With the grace of God, ten people were baptised, which was the highest number baptised since we started the gathering. The names of those baptised were Bro. David Alaribe, Bro. Christopher Offor, Bro. Chukwu Eke, Sis. Uluoma Francis, Sis. Grace Goddey, Sis. Chizoba Alloy, Bro. Monday Samuel Chimaobi, Bro. Chika Earnest, Sis. Lois Lebechi and Bro. Dickson Obioha.

--Bro. Goddy Nwosu

EZINITITTE

I received some copies of helpful Christadelphian Expositor, and the passages' teachings on tithing and other important issues which I had asked for, and they are very helpful.

Please will you endeavour to help us by sending us some New Testament Bibles, say three? because of the new people studying, and they will soon be baptised. These new converts need Bibles.

Brother, is there any way you are able to assist me to have, in effect, a mini library of books on all sorts of subjects in order to help our studies of Scripture? People in this part of the country who had never come across Christadelphian teachings are very eager to have some literature to study. God willing, a lot of them are coming to a realization of the Truth, and we feel the need to do something to help them.

--Bro. Adolphe Effiong

IBADAN

Thank you so much for all your real fatherly concern and huge support of my faith and medical studies. I can never forget your help in alleviating my burdens with all your prayers and support, with helpful Bible-based resources and encouraging emails. Your significant support is ever in my heart: your spiritual counsel and advice is greatly appreciated.

I am still in Ibadan trying to sort out my internship placement and official registration with the Nigerian Medical Association and the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council and other essential university and library clearance fees. Kindly continue to pray for me and do not forget my interest in further helpful Christadelphian literature, e.g. the Gospel News, Carelinks messages and other available Bible teaching resources.

Happenings in Egypt, Syria and much of the Middle East have some implications on recorded prophetic words of the Holy Scriptures about the time of the end which we are in already and the return of the Lord draws near.

--Bro Timothy Temilola

MBAISE

Thank you for the books, Bibles, Bible Basics and study leaflets, Introducing Bible Basics books, The Real Christ, James and other studies. I am going to start to read them tomorrow, then on Wednesday I will send some to our Ecclesia for library reading and storing.

Our preaching will continue after we return from our CYC gathering, by next month. For the small leaflets you advise me to reproduce myself, adding my name and address on 'Basic Bible Truths,' which is on both sides of an A4 piece of paper I will try to produce these.

We have been moving our preaching area all around since April till this time, but we don't have materials to give to others. Please, I need more Bibles, Old and New Testaments, to give to my brethren and sisters who don't have them.

--Bro. Blessing Nwigwe

OBORO

Thank you very much for your hope-raising letter to me which I received recently.

It is my belief that as our expectation for Jesus' return increases rapidly because of the unlimited signs of the times, the office of the Christadelphian Advancement Trust is being inundated with requests for material about salvation from the time of trouble encompassing the world.

I will be 83 on 30th September and I am becoming weaker and weaker every day.

--Bro. Johnson Uwasomba

It might interest you to know that the only way to salvation is when we are working together for good in this life. If only we would trust God, we would live to see it so. All things are ours if we are Christ's. All things serve us.

Even those things which are most difficult and trying, are really moving our best interest forward! If we knew as much about them as God knows, we would go down on our bended knees and thank Him with streaming eyes for the most difficult of circumstances. Even if some of these may cut us to the bone, if we believe that the infinite love of God is working in them, and through them, we may sing like Paul and Silas in the prison (Acts 16), even though our feet are fast in the stocks! Let us grow the habit of looking at the bright side of things. If there are dangers looming in our way, don't complain that it is all cast over with danger. We really must be sure that God has a purpose in all our sorrows.

--Bro. F. E. Enyiogu.

OWERRINTA

The news of the successful treatment of your cancer kept me very happy. I am full of thanks to God Almighty for helping you to recover from such a deadly disease that is tormenting humanity.

I lack words with which to express my heart's feeling about the books you have sent to me the Bible Basics and this very beautiful one I received yesterday The Real Christ are pointers to full understanding of God and His Son Jesus Christ.

The introduction to The Real Christ X-rays the position of the modern world. It is more- so nagging in Africa, where extreme neglect and insensibility to the plight of the majority poor has left everyone exasperated. However, for the Brethren in Christ it is a sure warning that the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is at hand. My reading through the direction of "Brethren in Christ" has opened my inner eye to strive to look towards Christ.

The Personality of God, which you included in the opening chapter of The Real Christ, for me emphasises the importance of understanding the personality of God.

Bible reading, following the Bible Reading Planner is very rewarding spiritually. I request that I be remembered in your daily prayers, to give me the Divine wisdom to understand and ACT as required by God. I thank God for His divine guidance towards the Word.

Thanks for feeding my mind with appropriate books that refresh my mind with spiritual water.

--Bro. Iheanacho Ihejirika

NEWS FROM RWANDA



I apologize for the delay to inform and congratulate you on the Gospel News, the DVD on the devil and another about Bible Studies. To tell the truth, your materials are very stirring and uplifting. To my surprise, the head teacher of our school promised to project the DVD on the devil for students and teachers. I believe this will hopefully have an impact on the viewers' lives. May God continue to increase your knowledge.

--Bro Omar Ndamutsa

NEWS FROM TANZANIA





Bro. Patrick Samba and his wife Emerance

KASULU

I have received the French Bible Basics, which the two Nyarugusu ecclesias have enjoyed. At the moment neither of us are in very good health. We were at hospital this morning with my boy Gomez, age two and a half and I am expecting to have a serious operation. However ill-health doesn't stop me in the work of declaring the gospel, Jesus didn't stop in this loving work until the moment he died and neither should I.

The government of Tanzania is now ready to shut down the Camp. Think about some of our brothers and sisters. For security reasons they cannot return to our homeland. We have 46 members, meaning 26 members of Nyarugusu 1 and 20 members of Nyarugusu 2 Ecclesia. The only real and permanent solution is the return of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

--Bro. Daniel Sabuni

KIDODI

Many years have passed since one pastor said, "The most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do when it ought to be done, whether you want to do it or not." Using this as a true evaluation, it would seem reasonable then that educated people would be religious. Unfortunately the contrary is true. There are exceptions to every rule but it seems that the more highly educated have less time for God than the humble folk.

This proves Paul's point when he said, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Cor. 1:25-27. With the increase of knowledge that is prevalent today we can be so absorbed in our own wisdom and our own petty problems that we completely fail to do what ought to be done when it ought to be done. Some educated people have applied this to business and have risen to great heights. How much more important it is for us to apply it to serving God. In the final analysis the only education worth having is in God's Law and the only worthwhile wisdom is Godly wisdom.

--Sis. Tumaini Komanga



Sis Tumani Konanga

KIGOMA

Thank you for sending 8 Bible Basics in French, which were gladly shared by the members of the ecclesia and friends interested in the Truth.

--Bro. Isidore Mwibeleca

Brethren and sisters thank CAT for sending them Swahili Bible Basics. May God bless CAT; your work is not only appreciated by them but by all brothers and sisters in different countries.

I thank God more that I am still alive in spite of living in adverse circumstances of this world. Last month unknown people attempted to arrest me during the night, but fortunately I managed to run away. That same night two people were murdered and their family taken by police.

Thank you very much for helping us with English Bibles, but unfortunately they were less than we need. We would ask you to send us some Bible Basics in Swahili, at least 16 or 20, because many brethren and sisters speak Swahili. James 2:14-18.

--Bro. Iyendja Amsini



Bro. Iyendja Amsini

RUTALE

We would like to inform you that the books you sent were not available due to new and high postage rates for receiving parcels. Could you please arrange for us to receive a sound parcel when a missionary visits our country again otherwise we will continue failing to face the rising postage costs. These books encourage us so much and help us to understand the Bible. We cry out for them and do appreciate your daily work which deserves a rich reward.

--Bro. Mukandama Jerome Simalenge

TONGAREN REFUGEE CAMP



Showing our brethren and Sisters having received their food allowance.

NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



CHINSALI

I want to thank you because of the things you have done for us, e.g. sending Bibles and Gospel News, and encouraging us to be faithful and to believe in the Son of God. In my ecclesia most people like to have a Bemba Bible only five members like English Bibles. We like preaching the Word of God by using the Bible but my brethren and sisters here need more Bemba Bibles.

--Bro. Mutale Choko

KAFUE

"The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phillipians 4:5-7.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16.

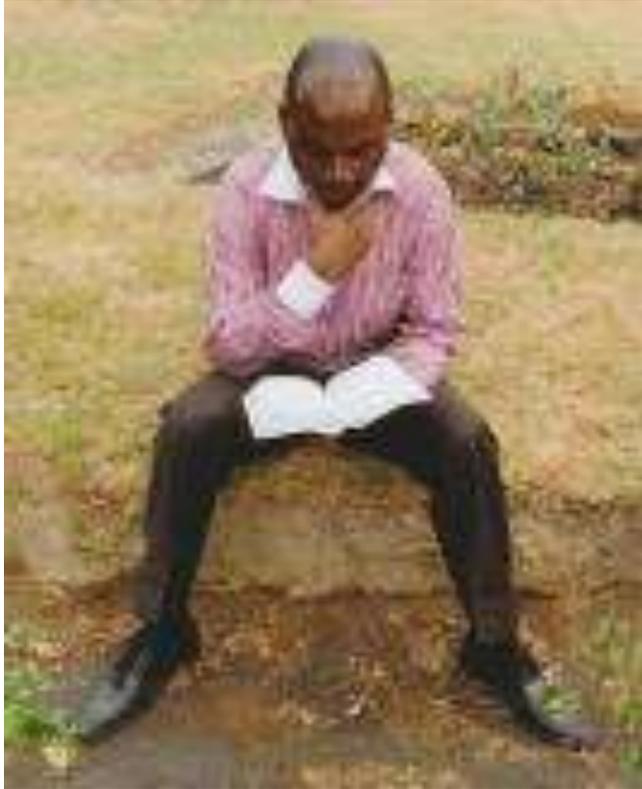
"Be faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12.

--Bro. Lotson Kayuni

KITWE

I thank God for CAT's tireless efforts in remembering me by feeding me with Gospel News, which revives my spirit. I sometimes think of copying the editorial on the front page of every Gospel News, but again there it would need much stationery. The editorial comments that you make really build me up, including the current one you wrote about FRAGILE. Before I could read the last magazine I found that my son had taken it to his house without asking for it, and his wife was reading it and my son was just smiling over it. I thank God because he likes our Bible literature very much. I would like to request 10 Bibles and 12 x 40 lesson books and a DVD disc, which you said was a higher quality version, and please continue to send me the Gospel News.

--Bro. Philip Chilambwe



Bro. Philip studying his Bible.

LUSAKA

Greetings to you in the wonderful and healing Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.. Thank you so very much for the support you have rendered me since we knew each other, and it is strengthening me more and more whenever I receive your lovely and inspiring letters and spiritual materials, which enable me to attain increased knowledge each moment when I read it.

Finally I am wishing you the best and the continual support for those all over the world in changing many lives which have no hope, through CAT's support and guidance.

--Bro. Stephen Siamabi

MAZABUKA

Recently the Zambia the government increased the price of fuel and this will mean the fees of transport will increase as well, for example a price of short distance for a taxi has been increased from K10 to K15, a local bus to and from our meeting place has been hiked from K2 To K3, this will mean we will have to cut the cost and go on foot to save money, nothing in this world is perfect. Our government are saying they will look into that but am seeing nothing happening to control the situation, this is a reason why we dont vote or take part in politics because as far we are concerned politics means faith in men, men promise us a better life but later fail to do what they promise the people, we can not have much faith in man but only in God whom we can trust.

--Bro Gideon Hankomone,

SERENJE

Thank you for the two Bibles you sent me and the Gospel News with the DVD entitled "Bible Studies". I would tell you that you have done a very good work in my area, because we have improved in the way we are studying the Bible. Please send me 6 more Bibles if possible because we live a distance from one another in a rural area, so we need each student or brother or sister to have a copy in his house. In addition to the Bibles please send me as many books as you can.

--Bro. Cephass Kalungah

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



BANKET

We were visited by our linkman from U.K., Bro. David Smith, on 22nd April 2013, accompanied by a local Brother from Bulawayo, Bro. Archbold Mhule. Bro. David taught and explained very well about God's Kingdom of the past, and present when Jesus will return. He articulated these to the people who were present at our meetingplace. We still have an encouraging number of interested visitors to our ecclesia.

Bro. David asked me about that trickster, Elvis Dumba, who deceived us, pretending to be a member of CBM around Banket area. We discussed the issue at length. We pray that God will keep you strong until that day, so we can be united in love in the Kingdom to come.

--Bro. David Banda Yelulani

CHIVI

Brother, things are hard and difficult: I am no longer digging chrome as this job is not paying well and is unhealthy.

I have just moved myself into another unhealthy and dangerous job I am sinking a well for underground water. My brother, we use explosives and drilling, sometimes manual, and sometimes mechanical. Within the group no-one is trained; so this is another dangerous job I am doing. We can go down to a depth of 45 meters into the earth using a rope, depending on conditions. What makes me happy is that God provides me with a sense of caution in my life; I thank Him for the things He does for me.

--Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

MABELREIGN

I was so pleased to receive the CD on 'The Real Devil,' it is so interesting to listen to. I will be pleased to receive more. The Gospel News also helps, reading of other people's views of the Bible message.

Keep on loving one another as Christian brothers and sisters. Hebrews 13:1 'Let brotherly love continue.' If we love one another, God will be pleased. Hebrews 13:5 warns all believers not to love money, but be satisfied with what we have. This is so interesting because these days people are putting most of their efforts into searching for wealth, rather than to search the Word of God the Bible.

`Do not let all kinds of strange teachings lead you from the right way. It is good to receive inner strength from God's grace, not obeying rules about foods; those who obey these rules have not been helped by them.' Heb. 13:9 So by loving money too much leads to destruction. Hebrews 13:14 says, `For there is no permanent city for us here on earth; we are looking for the city which is to come! So brothers and sisters, we should put our trust in the city which is coming, not in the cities of the present world. The world we are now in is under the power of money and wealth.

--Bro. Israel Mutunduwe

MATHABISA

I have enclosed two photos of our students and Sunday School children; some of them were not with us when the photos were taken three students, Josphat Dube, Themba Khumalo and Annlysis Mathe altogether six students and six Sunday School children. Three brothers are in South Africa, I am now alone.

I pray God that He may give me power for preaching the Word of God in our district (Lupane Matebel and North Province) to build up Mathabisa Ecclesia.

--Bro. David Nywenya



Back row: Vivid Nywenya, Margneth Gama, Msolina Khumalo; Seated: Bro. David Nywenya



Sunday School: Front row: Simelinkosi Ncube, Brander Phiri, Mthandazo Mathe, Ayand Mathe, Rebecca Moyo and Nomthandzo Mathe.

RUWA

Thank you a lot for every effort of love you have given me. I am very sorry in my last letter it seemed it was untrue about my first CD of 'The Real Devil' being faulty. After posting that letter, I found out the real problem. I do not own a TV or DVD machine, not even a radio, so I felt very foolish. People who I asked to test my CD are not used to MP3s and were just expecting to watch it as a video, and thought it faulty: others could not use their DVD's buttons properly and stupidly I did not watch with them. After a few days in my worries, my son-in-law came and took me to his home near my house; he wanted me to spend a day with him and his wife. There we talked of other things, and then came to the CD problems and both my son-in-law and daughter questioned me. 'Dad, is the CD 'The Real Devil' really not working?' 'I am not sure of it, as I only watched it for a few minutes, and don't know what it contains,' I said. So they suggested we tried it again. My son-in-law pressed the buttons in order and the readings started happily I had nothing to say for 15 minutes, then my daughter said, 'There you are, Dad, so what did you think about it?' I said to her, 'Then why did you let me post the letter before we kept on checking our mistakes?' Their answer was for us to just apologise in a good manner, as we had temptations. Afterwards in just a few days the three discs arrived two Bible studies and one 'The Real Devil,' and how ashamed we all felt. We are very sorry about this.

Now my friends are all Anglican Christians, but they are very interested to listen to Bible study together, taking notes every time they have spare time to listen to the CD. My son-in-law comes to collect me and we sometimes spend 3 to 5 hours listening together and exchanging questions on whatever is being studied.

--Bro. Maxwell Mlakah



Bro. Mlakah with his nieces Rutendo and Tanatswa Kasiya

Assisted by an international consultative group of experienced brethren. It should be noted that the views expressed in Gospel News do not necessarily reflect the views of the compilers or consultative group.

News from the Americas

NEWS FROM BARBADOS



These are some of the members of the Bank Hall Ecclesia. The picture was taken on a Sunday morning after church: at the time we had two visitors from the U.S., Bro. Jason and Sis. Jen Dineen. The Ecclesia is currently commemorating 40 years at its present location, and 124 years since the first Christadelphian came to the island, that was Bro. John Blenman, an expatriate who learned the Truth when he went to England, and brought it back to his native land. He was then instrumental in taking it to other Caribbean islands as well. We are having a year of special events, including special lectures, sharing leaflets, youth activities, etc.

--Bro Joel Caine



The New Heaven And The New Earth

Towards the end of Isaiah's prophecy, God declares, "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: ... be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying." Isaiah 65 v.17-19.

The expression `New Heaven' is a figurative one and refers to the rulers of the world in which we are involved.

The First Heaven And Earth

God began his creative work for this fair earth with one human pair who multiplied down the ages and now number after six thousand years many billions. This population was generally disobedient to God's laws hence God's decision to create a new constitution in which his laws will be obeyed. This will be accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ, God's son, who will reign on earth as King in Jerusalem for 1,000 years. His reign on earth will complete a prophetic week of 7,000 years of human history overruled by God and his son the Lord Jesus. The great change in the religious character of the reign of the Lord Jesus is likened to a Sabbath by the apostle Paul when he wrote, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Hebrews 4 v.9.

This is also referred to in the Book of Revelation, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Rev.20 v.4. This verse describes in symbolic language the rule of Jesus and his immortal saints for one thousand years over the whole world.

This rulership constitutes in brief terms what is meant by the term, `The New Heavens'. Jesus and the saints are to be the new rulers in the age to come.

New Principles for Rulers

From the experience of the last six thousand years of human history it is necessary for these new rulers to be guided by divine principles. This is bound to follow since all will have been made immortal. For instance it is testified of both the Lord Jesus and the Saints that they shall rule with a rod of iron. God has appointed His son, the Lord Jesus, to be the great king for the new age as described in Psalm 2.v.6 "Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion. Thou art my son this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Psalm 2v. 6-9). And in Revelation we read, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers; even as I received of my Father" (Rev. 2 v.26-27).

Provision has already been made prophetically for Jesus to be guided by God's Holy Spirit as described in Isaiah chapter 11, "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD... but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked". Isaiah 11 v.2-4.

The New Earth

Having rulers fully guided by the spirit of God it is understandable that those who are ruled over will reflect the righteousness exhibited by the rulers. This can be seen in Isaiah chapter 2, "And shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us



of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of

the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more". (Isaiah 2 v.2-4)

Wild Animals To Become Tame

Another wonderful change is that all wild animals will become tame: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

Jesus, during the thousand years of his reign, will fulfil the wonderful purposes of God for this fair earth when everyone will be happy.

To use the words of scripture, "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Rev.19 v.6-9)

Bro. Ralph Green (Devon, UK.)

THE BIBLE CONTAINS...

The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are unchangeable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practise its teachings to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. The Kingdom will be restored on earth, Christ will be its grand Ruler, good its design, and the glory of God its end.

The Bible should fill the memory and rule the heart: read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the Judgement, and will be remembered for ever.

It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labour, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents. For courage for your task: Joshua 1:8.

Bro. Henderson M. Sosola, (Mtenthela Ecclesia, Malawi.)

The Way Ye Know

In the gospel according to the apostle John, we read of the Lord Jesus' careful preparation of his disciples to take on the work of preaching the gospel after his departure. From his words we too can be guided as we endeavour to witness to this same gospel.

At the time of Passover, shortly before his death, Jesus spoke at length to the disciples of events which would come to pass in the next few days: "Now before the feast of Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

Supper being ended, the Lord Jesus rose from the table to leave them with a practical example of his love: "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel which he girded" (John 13:4-5). By doing this, he taught them an essential truth upon which their ministry was to be based - humility of mind and spirit to keep them in remembrance that this was not their work, but the doing of God's will. "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garment, and was sat down again, he said unto them, ` Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me master and Lord, and ye say well for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily,

I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:12-17).

Throughout his life, he had humbled himself before God, and through this act of washing their feet, was leaving them an example that they were to do the same. This would remind them of the danger of fleshly pride, especially since they were to be granted power in order to perform healings and miracles in his name. It was just after this event that Judas left their gathering to betray his Master, causing Jesus to say: "Now is the son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me, and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come, so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another" John 13:31-35).

This was to be the basis of their discipleship - to be grounded in love one to another. They had witnessed his love for them and now must grow in that same love for one another. "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest my love to him" (John 14:21). Their demeanour was to stand out by displaying love in a singleness of purpose to serve the Father. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Continue ye in my love" (John 15:9). To comfort them before his departure, he said: "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (John 14:1-4).

With these words, he emphasized the hope he had endeavoured to impart during his 3½ years of ministry. Even so, we know Thomas's faith was not as strong as it could have been: "Thomas saith unto him, ` Lord, we know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way?" (John 14:5). Thus some of the disciples did not realise that the "way" was in their midst, and had been close to them for the past 3½ years. Being Jews, they had been taught since childhood from the Law, of the coming of the Messiah to establish God's kingdom on earth. They no doubt expected that to happen while Jesus was with them, since they believed he was the Saviour sent from God.. He had to prepare them for his death and resurrection, but encouraged them not to fear, for he would be with them in spirit. They were not to be left without knowing; they would be helped, by the spirit, to come to a further understanding. "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:25-26).

On the day of Pentecost, the spirit of God did visit them as promised, expanding their knowledge and bringing to them a fuller understanding of the word of truth. We are blessed today because of the spirit's visitation upon these disciples, giving them the remembrance and recollection of Jesus' words so that they could record these events for our help. Those who live in his name through belief in him are privileged to know his closeness and care in spirit to help and nurture those that are his, so that they may know that they are not alone. If we are known as his, we know the "Way" through the love of God.



Bro Francis Kotei Odiko (Subri, Ghana)

Reconstruction Of The Ecclesial Hall At Kakuma Refugee Camp

Early this year, we got a report from the Kakuma Refugee Camp ecclesia informing us that, following a dispute that had been brewing between a group of Muslims of Somali origin and our brethren, the ecclesial hall was pulled down. Bro. Katembo, the elder, told me that on the morninh of Feb 4th 2013, when they went to where the hall used to stand they found slashed iron sheets and vandalized properties. This happened after threats were repeatedly issued to them from the time the construction had been underway. The group was opposed to the construction of a "Christian" meeting hall at the very site allocated by the Camp administration, citing that it was "their" area. Upon inquiring with the Refugee Affairs Office in Nairobi, I gathered that there's no part of the camp assigned to either a particular religious community nor people of a particular nationality.

To avoid any further friction, it was considered wiser to relocate to another site as the Bible advises: "And if any man will... take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." (Matt. 5v40)

Reconstruction Efforts

Brethren and sisters of the Kakuma ecclesia did not back down on their resolve to put up a meeting place. On that backdrop, some funds were provided for the reconstruction thus; I had to travel to Kakuma Camp, early April, to help brethren on the way forward.

After a tedious 27-hour journey, from Nairobi to Kakuma, I arrived in the wee hours of the morning, 3am, and was later met at the bus station by Bre. John Katembo and Assumani; that very morning we went to seek the approval of the Camp Manager to our new proposed site in order to avoid any further dispute with those in the neighborhood. Our request was gracefully granted. The Manager expressed even his regret for what happened (himself being a Muslim), thereafter, we proceeded to the office of the NCKK, the NGO in charge of the allocation of plots in the camp, to get the endorsement of putting up our ecclesial hall as required. The Field Officer of the said organization also gave us the go-ahead and, so the construction work was started without delay.

General Situation Of The Ecclesia

Brethren and sisters of the Kakuma Camp ecclesia are spiritually sound and firm in their faith despite the daily difficult living conditions they have to endure. The five brethren and two sisters were not deterred by the challenge which came their way but were determined to surmount it.

The Kakuma Ecclesia has eight friends who are taking Bible lessons and as a result, on our next trip, we will be expecting to conduct some interviews and possibly baptisms. There is also a Sunday School with 17 children aged between 3 and 12 years.

On the other hand, we have had three heavy downpours pounding the area, creating a favourable environment for the proliferation of mosquitoes; consequently, cases of malaria have become widespread throughout the camp affecting up to 50% of all patients admitted to the main Kakuma Camp Hospital. Among the casualties was one of the brethren, Byaombe Lumona, who was bedridden throughout my 5-day stay there. He went to the hospital to seek treatment but, to his surprise, was given a mere prescription and told to go and buy the medicines from a chemist since the hospital was running out of anti-malaria drugs; this was indeed a tall order to our brother as most of the camp residents cannot afford them.

It is our prayer that our Heavenly Father may continue blessing His work at Kakuma and may He strengthen our brethren and sisters to stand firm amidst the various challenges they are facing,

till the return of our Master who will bring to an end all the tribulations undergone by those who are eagerly awaiting his peaceful rule.



Construction works going on



The newly constructed Kakuma Refugee Camp ecclesial hall

Kakuma Refugee Camp

Learning To Hear God's Voice

Learning to hear God's voice seems to come so easily for some people, while others struggle to hear a single word. There was a time when Samuel struggled to recognise the Lord's voice, too. The first time God spoke to him we read about in 1Samuel 3:4-8. Many of us hear the voice of the Lord but don't recognise it as His.

Learning to recognise the Lord's voice comes with practice. If we slow down and take time to listen, while also listening as others share Godly wisdom with us (as Samuel heeded Eli's advice), we will grow in our ability to hear and recognise God's voice. The important thing to remember is that God wants to communicate with us.

From Genesis to Revelation we see Him talking with His people. He wants us all to 'tune in'. It is a vital part of the way we grow in our relationship with Him, and move on towards our destiny. This we should do as we wait in faith for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, to establish God's Kingdom.

Bro. John Kasanda, (Kasumpa Ecclesia, Zambia.)

Carelinks: July 2013 Impressions of Latvia and Russia

July 2013 Impressions of Latvia and Russia

Brother John & Sister Erica Galbraith of the Castle Hill, Australia, ecclesia visited Latvia and Russia in July, where brother John gave studies at the Moscow Bible School. Here is their report and news from the field there:

LATVIA

On our way to the Moscow Bible School we were able to spend a few days in Riga. Being the middle of summer the weather was actually warm (certainly not hot) and Riga looked at its beautiful best, hiding the fact that in winter temperatures may get down to minus 20 degrees C and those without heating may freeze to death.

We spent some time with Bro Duncan and Sis Cindy Heaster and their two delightful little children. Then on Sunday we were able to participate in the activities and break bread with over 70 brothers and sisters in the Ecclesial hall. As we went through the three readings and partook of the emblems we pray that all were encouraged as we were, as we considered the great things God has done for us in Jesus Christ. After the meeting we were able to help a little (very little) in providing hot soup to all who came. Many were Russians with no job and no social security entitlements and so struggle to feed themselves and find shelter. They greatly appreciate the nourishing soup Cindy and Duncan provide. On Sunday afternoon we drove to the beach on the Baltic Sea and were delighted to witness the baptism of ANDRE and his mother EMMA. Emma is very sick with advanced cancer and Andre's care and love for his mother is apparent to all and very touching to witness. They have both been regular attendees at Riga meetings for 2-3 years. We drove them home to their one room containing a double bed and all their possessions. There is power but not enough for winter heating, no hot water or bathroom and only a shared outside toilet. Surviving winter will be a problem so as Duncan said "We will have to monitor their situation". On Monday we tripped around beautiful Riga before lunch at Duncan and Cindy's place. Erica and Cindy then headed off to peel potatoes and prepare the soup for bible class attendees in the afternoon/ evening. We are not sure what is called evening here in June as it is only dark for about 4 hours in 24. After consideration of Matthew 8, over 60 enjoyed Erica's and Cindy's beautiful thick soup and I enjoyed communicating with the few brothers and sisters that spoke a little English. Our reaction to what we see here in Riga? We thank God for the spiritual and physical food that He is providing for the poor here in Riga and urge Him to send His Son back to bring in the time when all those who hunger and thirst for physical and spiritual food will be filled.



Photos: (top) Sister Emma's baptism; John & Erica serving soup at the feeding scheme.

RUSSIAN BIBLE SCHOOL

Erica and I have just finished lunch on the fourth day of the Moscow Bible school. We have been privileged to join nearly 80 of our Christadelphian brothers and sisters and friends from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Latvia and Moldova for a period of bible study and fellowship. Those from Moldavia spent 30 hours on a train to get to Moscow before a bus trip to the bible school venue from Moscow. We are at a large hotel/conference centre approximately 60 kilometers from Moscow situated in lush natural woodlands. We had always thought of Moscow as cold and snowy but here in July it is hot and humid so that most of the talks and activities are held out in the open in an amphitheatre. Lighting is no problem as it is light from 4:00 am to 11:00 pm.

After breakfast, the activities commence at 10am with the three readings. Following each reading a talk and what is becoming very lively discussion ensues. This discussion has to be terminated at midday to allow a bible talk before lunch which up to now has been on the letter to the Colossians led by myself. We would love to understand Russian and so follow the discussion and other talks by Bro Duncan and other Russian brothers but can sometimes pick up the gist of it from the broken English of brothers or sisters sitting near us or some comments in English by brother Duncan. In the question session questions included, the origin of the Israeli priests mentioned in Exodus before God ordained any, and why Abraham was asked to offer up Isaac. It is great to see so many of the brothers and sisters contributing to the discussion.

I found talking, with a brother interpreting, a challenge but I am sure the brethren doing the interpreting found me a greater challenge and I thank brothers Alexei, Igor and Duncan for their efforts.

As the Bible school has progressed the talking and discussion has become more lively and the enjoyment and fellowship between everyone here greater. I know leaving will be a "sweet sorrow" as we "commend all here to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified"

--Bro. John Galbraith

We're pleased to report the baptism of nine brothers and sisters: ALEXEI, a man who has studied Bible Basics from Kostroma, Russia; IRINA, mother of bro Zhenya who was baptized 20 years ago, one of the first we baptized in Russia; NATALYA, from Krasnodar in southern Russia; DIMA, ALEXEI and VLADIMIR from the Pavlograd ecclesia in Ukraine; PETYA, son of sis. Tamara from Poltava; OLYA, mother of bro

Alexei from Ukraine; and OLGA, sister in law of sis. Luba from Moldova. There was great rejoicing afterwards. In most bedrooms at the conference center, discussion about the Bible continued late into every night. There is really a great love of God's word and His Son in these dear brothers and sisters. Deep appreciation was expressed for all the donations which make these schools possible.







Photos: One of the nine baptized; enthusiastic Bible discussion in the evenings; John speaking with Bro Alexei translating; sister Luba sharing her joy in Christ

RIGA

Sister Sarma

There are times when people respond to the Gospel initially as a result of a `carrot'- maybe the opportunity to study English, to participate in a Bible quiz and so forth. Carelinks don't need to offer many such carrots because we seem to have people all over the world coming direct to us online and in other ways, simply asking to be taught Biblical Christianity. One very small 'carrot' at our **Riga Bible Center** is the opportunity to play chess before and after our meetings. A while ago, Carelinks` readers responded magnificently to an appeal for chess sets. We have a wonderful collection, from South Africa, Holland, England, America and elsewhere. And they are well used. Sister SARMA was the former chess grandmaster of Latvia- unusual for a Soviet woman. And she is an unusual woman. She was an electrical engineer who rose to a senior management position and still found time to play chess with her workers. She was pensioned out of the workforce and lived quite well on her invalidity pension- until the collapse of the USSR. Now she has a tiny pension, and at 74 years old has various health issues which mean she speaks in a whisper. Lamenting the collapse of morality in society and what she calls `a spirit of anti-intellectualism', she was fascinated to hear that a group of men play serious chess

at a center where the Bible is taught and free meals are provided. So she came along- initially for some company and to play chess. Here she is playing with some of our brethren:



She stayed for the Bible talks, read Bible Basics, and we're pleased to say she was baptized this week. The social time after her baptism service featured her playing a nailbiting game of chess with Duncan, which she won. She left the Bible Center rejoicing and very, very happy all round. And we rejoice that the Gospel continues to spread to those whom society has no place for.

Brother Erik

Amazing Example

Cindy's medical skills have been useful again with the work we are doing with many forgotten folk in care facilities in rural areas in the Baltic states. We're pleased to report this week the baptisms of YURI, LAILA, NORMUND, IVO, FRANCINKA, RIMMA, ILZE, EGILS and ILYA as a result of this work this week. We mentioned before the case of our brother Erik, who was baptized a

couple of months ago. Erik has cerebral palsy and with no wheelchair or frame, drags himself around to get to the meetings, often losing his balance, falling and bruising himself. We have previously resisted taking a video clip of our brother struggling to and from the meetingplace, but really he is such an example that we forced ourselves and took 90 seconds of his coming and going from the meeting hall. Our Brother really he should become an international inspiration to those who can't be bothered to make a bit of effort to get out to meetings, and to all of us to keep on keeping on. So the brief clips are at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr-vRqLGIU4>

Those of you with Facebook could consider sharing this with others.



Bro Erik struggling to get to the meeting

Winter Heating Scheme / Special Challenge

We have decided to try to operate daily feeding at the **Riga Bible Center** over our coldest months--January, February and March, 2014. During those three months we are looking forward to the presence of some brothers and sisters from England who will help co-ordinate things; but we are also looking for volunteers to come over for one or two weeks to do the work of cooking and serving food.

If you would like more info or would like to come and help please get in touch with Bro Mike & Sis Vanessa <vanessaboler@yahoo.co.uk> or Bro Andy and Sis Mel Downton: <meldownton@btopenworld.com> <andydownton@btopenworld.com>

Which leads us to seriously remind you all of the absolutely huge amount of work and potential there is in the Lord's work at this time in Riga, Latvia. There is a large, established ecclesia, regular baptisms, and much potential for both pastoral as well as preaching work, as well as humanitarian work. Knowledge of local languages is not absolutely necessary. We wonder if anyone would consider committing to coming over for a year or more? That help is really, really needed. And without doubt it will be a fruitful experience. Please pray about it and think who you could encourage to respond to this Macedonian call- if you really can't yourself.

Bro. John & Sister Erica Galbraith

True Relationships

Relationships are exciting they are the most important aspect of our lives; our relationship with our parents, friends, spouse, children, grandchildren and so on. Christianity is first and foremost about relationships, not rules. It is about a person, rather than a philosophy; it is about the most important relationship of all our relationship with the God who made us.

Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to love God. But the second is to love our neighbour, so it is about our relationship with other people. You and I were created to live in a relationship with YAHWEH until we find that relationship, something will always be missing in our lives. As a result, we are often aware of a gap: one man described it by saying 'I've got an emptiness deep inside.' Another young girl spoke of a 'chunk' missing in her life. People try to fill this emptiness in various ways: some try to close the gap with money, but that does not satisfy. Aristotle Onassis, who was one of the richest men in the world, said something like this at the end of his life: 'millions of dollars or people are not what a man needs out of life.' Others try drugs, alcohol, or sexual promiscuity. These things provide instant gratification, but they leave you feeling hollow afterwards. Still others try hard work, music, or sports, or they seek success. Maybe nothing is wrong with the latter four of these in themselves, but they do not satisfy that hunger deep inside every human being.

Nothing will fill this gap except the relationship with God who made us. According to the New Testament, the reason for this emptiness is that men and women have turned their backs on God. Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35). He is the only one who can satisfy our deepest hunger, because He is the one who made it possible for us to be restored to a relationship with God and bring us close to Him.

Bro. Uka Egwu, (Ohafia Ecclesia, Nigeria.)

Total Desolation (Mk 15:34)

Many people know spiritual desolation at some time or another in their spiritual journey. It usually comes as a result of some bad event a tragedy, a death, a grief, a disappointment, loss of employment, or a relationship breakdown. You feel that God has totally abandoned you. You wonder why he is punishing you when you haven't done anything bad. You feel all alone, forgotten, lost and defeated.

Jesus knew it too. In his most desperate hour on the cross he quoted Psalm 22:1, "My God, my God....." In that cry of dereliction Jesus enters into your loneliness, emptiness and pain. However low you may sink, however lonely you may seem, however desperate and desolate you may feel, Jesus is there in it with you. You may not see him, you won't hear him, you won't be able to get through to him, but he is there. You cannot sink below his grasp. You cannot wander away from his care. You cannot drift out of his sight. Jesus knows exactly how you feel. He has felt that way himself, he has been right there where you are now. He has known the midnight. And he knows that the Father held him even in his darkest hour. You can too. If you cannot hold on to God, let Jesus hold on to you. He can. He will.

Bro. David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe.)

What Is The Purpose In Living? (John 4:34)

Everyone has asked this question at some time or another. Has life a purpose, or is it a meaningless struggle between birth and death? Is it necessary to have a goal? These and many similar questions haunt the minds of ordinary people.

Many set themselves goals that demand all their energy and concentration. They look forward to the time when they will be successful and hold positions of prestige and authority. Others, who are perhaps more farsighted, see success not in worldly terms, but in the service and caring for others. Everyone seeks their own purpose in living, and inevitably they seek to please themselves believing that in so doing they can have a purpose that will bring satisfaction.

As a committed Christian you should no longer live to please yourself but God. This may sound very prosaic to the uninitiated, but it is the key to a purposeful and satisfying way of life. There can be no greater purpose in life than to do the will of God. To this end you were born and to deviate from this purpose is to accept the second best that produces frustration and dissatisfaction.

To live to do God's will is a way of life that demands a high standard of dedication, but it is not a grievous burden that robs life of its joy. It is rather to live at the source of true joy, and experience the riches that only He can give to those who love and serve Him.

Bro. David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe.)

A VISIT TO PANAMA

Our Heavenly Father blessed me with the privilege of visiting Panama situated in Central America. I spent two months there as I was trying to escape from the winter in Canada, and was the guest of my niece, Sis. June Neblett, who really made me very comfortable during the entire period. The weather was perfect at that time of the year, not too hot, and so I just settled in there comfortably, more so on hearing of the terrible cold weather that was being experienced in the colder regions.

The highlight of my visit was of course attending the meetings and meeting with the brethren and sisters there. I spent most of my time in Colon, where there is a small ecclesia of very closely knit brothers and sisters, very warm and hospitable. Thankfully most of them were bilingual, and so I was able to communicate with them easily. Not so in the stores when shopping, where I resorted to all kinds of strange body language and a bit of miming with the few Spanish words I knew and which I am sure I mispronounced, to make myself understood.

The meetings are conducted partly in English and Spanish. They use both English and Spanish hymn books, and I was able to sing from the Spanish books as the tunes were familiar, but sitting close to and listening to a Spanish person made it easier for me to fit the words in, as we sang. The talks are sometimes given in English, but when done in Spanish, we would sit with someone who would interpret. There is a youth circle program in progress, and there are a few young people who attend the Sunday meetings. I was also able to attend a Breaking of Bread meeting in the ecclesia in the city itself of Panama, following which we were entertained to a very tasteful and filling luncheon, ending the day with an interesting and lively Bible Discussion Class in which everyone participated.

As in Colon, the brothers and sisters were very warm, friendly and hospitable, so that I felt really at home in the meeting. I find it so fascinating and comforting that we can meet brethren in this way in any part of the world, embracing the same hope and with that simple togetherness, looking forward to the same glorious destiny. What an exciting and exhilarating experience when we all, by God's grace, can come together like this in his Kingdom - an event we all need to constantly remind ourselves of which He and his Son are right now putting into place!

Both meetings are planning a Bible Campaign in August, God willing, involving brethren from Canada and the USA, an event to which they are eagerly looking forward. Wish I could be there! One sister disclosed to me that these campaigns do not only serve to preach to others outside of the ecclesia, but also greatly stimulate and encourage the brethren themselves too, as the planning activities are spiritually lively and uplifting.

One of our brothers, who works with the Panama Canal Company, invited us to experience the interesting journey guiding a ship through the canal, up the three water levels that made it possible for huge ships to sail through the narrow passage to the area where they could proceed to their destination. That was quite absorbing. I was also able to see the new updated Canal now in process of construction a very advanced complex showing engineering achievement that boggles my feeble mind.



Sis Esther Worrell (standing) thanking Brothers and Sisters for a lovely gift they'd given her and for their generosity and hospitality.



The Ecclesia at Colon Panama

Sis. Esther Worrell, (Canada)

The Value Of Water Baptism

My heart rejoices when I see new believers being baptised, for this was a momentous time in my life when I was water-baptised so many years ago. You see, I had been steeped in my denomination's doctrine: some of the teachings I had received were not truth according to the Word of God, and I was greatly hindered as a new believer. But, when I went down into the water of baptism I came up free of those false teachings. I could see clearly what the Word was saying. I felt like many strings had been clipped from me and I was free!

A famous Bible teacher who has since gone, taught us through 1 Corinthians 10:1-2: "You should understand, my brothers, that our ancestors were all under the pillar of cloud, and all of them passed through the Red Sea, and so they all received baptism into the fellowship of Moses in Cloud and Sea." These were symbols, types and pictures of what we have in the New Testament. · Egypt was a type of the world, slavery, bondage. · God's Passover was a type of salvation, through the blood of the lamb. · Then they escaped the bondage of Pharaoh (a type of evil). · When they passed through the Red Sea (a type of water baptism) evil's control and slavery in Egypt, (the world) was cut off. · The old life was cut off and a new life began. They never returned to Egypt again. Some longed to return to Egypt and because of their ungrateful, unbelieving attitude (Numbers 13 & 14), they wandered and did not enjoy the Promised Land (a type of the good life that Jesus spoke of). · You know the Old Testament Promised Land is not a type of heaven, it is a type of abundant life that Jesus promised in John 10:10. Joshua and Caleb entered the Promised Land because they believed God. Moses did not enter, but saw it from afar (Deut. 34:4) because he was angry and struck the rock twice. This was a spiritual symbol of Christ, according to 1 Cor.10:4. · We know that Moses is gone: we see him in the New Testament on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus (Luke 9:28-36; Matt.17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8). · The cloud is a type of the Holy Spirit which stayed with them, leading them day and night, even as they wandered in the wilderness (Exodus 40:36-38; John 14:15-16). Here is what we learn : God saves you by grace, through the blood of the Lamb, and gives you eternal life, but you can miss the abundant life here on earth by unbelief, by following worldly thinking and by not knowing the Word of the Kingdom of God on this earth. According to Ephesians 1:2-9, you have been given every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. If you don't understand what is yours by studying God's Word, you may not experience those blessings in this life. Therefore you may miss out on much of the abundant life here on earth. However, there are things of the world, doctrines, habits and ways of thinking which are just cut off in the waters of baptism. It was true with me, and I am so grateful to this day for this freedom. Water baptism is not just a form it has great power.

The Lord Jesus gave us the great commission: "Full authority has been committed to me. Go forth therefore and make all nations my disciples; baptise men everywhere in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. And be assured, I am with you always, to the end of time" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Remember: Water baptism does not save you from eternal condemnation, Jesus does. Salvation/the new birth comes first (Acts 8:34- 38), then comes water baptism where the old you that dies with Christ is buried under the water. Water baptism is a burial service for the "old man" as it says in Romans 6:6. "We know that the man we once were has been crucified with Christ, for the destruction of the sinful self, so that we may no longer be the slaves of sin..." "Yield your bodies to Him as implements for doing right; for sin shall no longer be your master, because you are no longer under law, but under the grace of God."

Our old life was buried with Him in baptism and we are raised to newness of life abundant life eternal life.



The Turbo Ecclesia, including Bro. Emmanuel Milimo (left) and Elder Sister Beatrice Naliaka (right) with friends and grand-children after the opening of the parcel containing the New European Version Bibles.

Bro. Emmanuel Milimo(Turbo, Kenya)

Our Journey Towards the Kingdom (Eph 6:10-19)

The journey towards the Kingdom has ups and downs, but we need to stand firm and be strong in the Lord. There is a need for us to be fully committed to God to get the reward at Jesus' coming. The journey needs brothers and sisters who are willing, and have committed themselves to the teachings of God, not of man. It is hard to walk the journey and to follow the path, as it is narrow and very demanding. We need to fight the demands of the world and overcome evil and be glad in the Lord. Ephesians 6:13: "Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." A great challenge to us all who long for the Lord's coming to see our true standing before God.

Truth must always rally behind us, for the world to give glory to God, and let others also want to start the journey and enter the narrow road. Our words must be words of God, help to the Brotherhood and the world at large. Our main aim is to win the lost souls, and together journey towards the Kingdom. We must reflect the joyfulness of the journey, so that many will follow and at last enjoy peace. We need to relax our attitude and deeds in the family of God and outside. Always we need to walk in truth for all the world to see that we are the true children of God. V.15: "having your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

The peace of the world should come from us, the children of peace. The journey to peace must be walked - started and ended and achieved - in peace. We all need to pray for the journey to be enjoyable v.18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Finally, the journey needs those who are strong spiritually and overcome the difficulties of the way.

Bro. Farai Phiri (Chegututu, Zimbabwe)

12th Sisters Seminar Mocha, Guyana



Mocha Arcadia Christadelphian Hall.



Pleight Anker Christadelphian Church and Youth Centre bus that transported the Berbician members to Mocha Arcadia.



Mocha Sisters the hosts of the seminar.

God Speaks To The Nations

The prophets of Israel explained the relationship of the nations in regard to their attitude toward Israel. God promised Abram in Genesis ch 12, speaking of Israel, "I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed". Whereas the world sees Israel as a threat to world peace, God declares Abram and Israel as the medium of bringing peace to all nations Jeremiah ch 30 verses 22-24 states "that in the latter days ye will consider it". Prior to this the "fury of the Lord will fall on the head of the wicked". In verse 18 is the promise of God to bring Israel back into the land, and his judgments will be upon the nations who are His & Israel's enemies The book of Revelation ch 16 :16 informs the readers where the final end time judgments upon the nations will take place, where many nations of the earth are gathered for the great day of God Almighty. It is a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon, and this NT message has its roots in the OT Prophets who spoke about it in detail.

Consider Zechariah 14:2. "I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle", and in Ezekiel ch 12:9 God says "in that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem to battle", and in Zechariah 14:3 God declares He will fight against all those nations. In v.12 Zechariah describes His judgments upon Israel's enemies, judgments horrible to behold. The end result of all this is that those who are left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem, shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

God Speaks To People

The Bible message is for all people of all nations. The instructions given to the 12 apostles was "to go into the all world and preach, he that believes (the gospel) and is baptised shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be condemned". 2000 years later nothing has changed and still the opportunity is open to as many who will hearken, even in these last days. So what does the Bible tell us about "the gospel of Jesus Christ". From a personal viewpoint we repeat the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after Christ was taken into heaven, `repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins'. Paul the apostle states that God is calling out from the gentiles (nations) "a people for his name".. The instruction to preach Jesus Christ and him crucified to all, both Jew and Greek, turned the world upside down. To the Jews it was a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness. Opposition to the gospel message mounted the more it was preached. So great was the hatred that the religious leaders put to death Stephen by stoning and persecuted the followers of Christ causing them to be spread abroad. In the gentile community the worship of a multitude of idols was the common feature of religious life. Belief in the immortal soul and field of bliss or torment was a common feature of all the differing religions. The gospel message was that "Christ had risen from the dead to die no more"

To Greek philosophy this was impossible and in the words of Paul "foolishness" The gospel message was that . "We are saved by faith through grace; not of works lest any man should boast". To the Jewish religious leaders this was a reversal of all that they held as sacred and was a stumbling block . To them strict observance to the laws of Moses was the basis of salvation. To the Greeks it was foolishness because they believed that from a man's own reasoning he could find out all truths. As rising from the dead was not an observable fact, it `cannot happen'. God says the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. When people turn to God they do it for many reasons. Many are genuine at first, but as time goes by the natural human instincts come to the fore and men seek glory for themselves and depart from purity of the faith.

The gospel to the people is summed up in these words, "the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ". The gospel is not Jesus Christ alone, nor is it the Kingdom of God alone, but the salvation of people by God through faith and endurance to the end. When Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, He delivers Israel from their enemies and gathers together both the living and dead of all ages who have understood the gospel and judges every man according to his works. The righteous will be rewarded with eternal life, the wicked to destruction. So when God speaks to people it is an offer of hope. How do we respond?

God Speaks To You And I

The Bible speaks in very broad terms, addressing nations, peoples, tribes and the believers. When reading the Bible we sometimes detach ourselves from the message to us personally and think only about how it should affect others. The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God will affect you in some way or another. Either we accept that the message of the Bible is true and take positive steps to address the issues of our life and measure ourselves against its demands, or we can ignore it and face a very insecure future when Christ returns to establish God's kingdom.

The parable of the `sower` in Matthew ch 12 speaks of 4 different classes of people to whom the word of God is preached. The seed sown is the good news of the kingdom of God. The first ground it fell upon was the pathway and the birds fed on the seed. These are they who hear and it goes in one ear and out the other and its never acted upon. The next three grounds all receive the word and produce different results. The second fell on stony soil, it grew for a while but lacking moisture it withered and died. This speaks of those who lack the staying power and find it all too hard when the trials of this life come on them; it is easier to give in than continue . The third class is the seed in ground that also has weeds. Both grow together but the weeds choke the seed and it yields no result. The Bible says these are they which receive the word with gladness but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the full development. The importance of this life and its pleasures are a very strong attraction even today and to many, living for the present is more important than our service to God. The fourth class are those who hear the word and act upon it and yield fruit back to the sower in abundance. Today each of us who hear the word will fall into one of these four classes. Where will you stand when Christ returns?

--Bro B. Stretton

Gospel Publicity League

The Need For A Redeemer

Men and women who try to follow the voice of their own conscience to seek to do better, also find a force in themselves that brings defeat. They need a Redeemer.

God provided our Redeemer by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. God foresaw the need for a Redeemer even before He created the cosmos and all its biological diversity and placed man in it. Jesus was slain (in the plan of God) from the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:18- 20). Jesus came in the fullness of time and was `born of a woman': Gal.4:4.

Until that time in the midst of history, an approach for man to God was found in the Old Testament through his obedience to ordinances and sacrificial work. A Hymn-writer wrote: 'Not all the blood of beasts, on Jewish altars slain, could give the guilty conscience peace, or take away the stain.' But Christ, the heavenly Lamb, takes away our sin by opening up a way of salvation.

It is up to you and me to choose to think, live and work in harmony with God's purpose for our lives, that we should be to the praise of His glory. Eph.1:11-12: 'In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.'

Bro. Henderson M. Sosola, (Mtenthela Ecclesia, Malawi.)

Can We Love Anyone Else?

If all our love goes to God, then it cannot be divided. Does this mean that we should not love anyone else? What about loving one's own husband or wife, or children?

What about loving other people? Jesus reminded his listeners - and us - of the second most important commandment, which is: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mark 12:31, quoting Leviticus 19:18.)

The Christian husband should love his wife (Eph. 5:25). Neither Moses nor Jesus thought that this kind of love took love away from God: why? - because it is God's will that we so love others. The true way to show love for God is to obey Him. 'This is love for God: to obey His commandments' (1 John 5:3).

If God is truly "Lord" He deserves our full obedience. We cannot claim to love Him while forgetting who He is and what He deserves. Real love treats Him as the real God He is. So when we love others, as He commanded, that fits perfectly into true love and devotion to Him.

Bro. Henderson M. Sosola, (Lilongwe, Malawi.)

FAITH

We read in the book of Hebrews, chapter 11:1-6, that faith is to have a confidence in the things which cannot be seen, and are invisible. You and I know with certainty that Jesus was born, died, rose to heaven and soon will come back, according to the Scripture. Really we didn't see Jesus; even those who led us to the Truth, have faith and baptised us, didn't see Jesus. But we have a great hope in Jesus, that he is going to come back and establish God's Kingdom on this earth as the angel of God told Mary in Luke 1:30-33.

Why do we have this confidence in the person we haven't seen? It is through faith, because 'without faith it is impossible to please God,' Heb.11:6. Reading the Word of God gives us faith, and hope in ourselves that God is the author of our faith through knowledge of His word:

Romans 10:17 a) ` Faith comes by hearing.' Hearing what? b) ` the word of God.' So we build our faith.

When we see the universe and everything in it, we know and have faith that there is One who made it. So we have our understanding through the word of God, which is the Bible, that we need to have faith, so that the Word penetrates our minds and hearts, for faith to grow in us.

We learn from our father Abraham who left his birth-place to go to a place he didn't know, and by faith he went and by faith he lived his life. So faith produces hope and we become the children of God in Christ, when we also become ` the seed of Abraham, and heirs according to the promise.' (Gal.3:26-29) Through our faith in God as the Bible says, by believing, God gave us power to become His children (John 1:12).

The writer of the Hebrews letter pleases me saying, ` For yet a little while, and he who is going to come will come, and shall not delay further.' We as His righteous ones will live by faith. God has no pleasure in those who shrink back, but ` we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.' (Heb.10:37-39)

Bro. Tom Mulunda (Bungoma, Kenya.)

NEW WORLD ORDER

God, the Creator of the universe, has a plan for a new world order to rebuild and refresh the world that man has ruined. This is the main theme of the gospel, which is the ` good news concerning the Kingdom of God' and the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:12)

This is the very plan that was revealed in outline 4,000 years ago to Abraham, the forefather of the Jewish people. God promised this faithful man:- a) a personal promise ` I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing.' (Gen.12:2) b) the promise of a family, when he had no child. ` I will make you a great nation.' This was a promise about the Jewish people, whose true greatness is yet to come (Gen.12:2) c) the promise of a land for him and his family for ever. ` I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which are a stranger.' (Gen.17:8) d) the promise of bringing a world-wide blessing: ` In your seed (Jesus Christ) all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.' (Gen.22:18; Galatians 3:8,16).

The True Gospel these divine promises constituted ` the gospel' which was preached to Abraham (Gal.3:8) and this is the very hope of a King (Jesus) reigning for God which the apostle Paul called ` the hope of Israel.' (Acts 28:20) For God's eternal purpose, in spite of man's folly, has always been as he declared to Moses, that ` as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.' (Numbers 14:21). Abraham did not live to see God's precious promises come to pass, but he looked forward in faith to the time when he would see them all fulfilled (Heb.11:13). Mary, the mother of Jesus, anticipated her son's part in fulfilling God's promises to Abraham when she said that ` He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever.' (Luke 1:54,55.)

Jesus, descended from Abraham, was fully aware of the implications of God's promises to his ancestor. His message of good news the gospel was to urge his hearers to prepare for the time when God's promises to Abraham will be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Ernest Lavuna, (Givungi, Kenya.)

The Kingdom Of God On Earth

The Kingdom of God has been preached for ages here on earth. Even in the Lord's prayer it is mentioned. 'Thy Kingdom come,' which means the Kingdom is to be here on earth, but not heaven, as many think. The Kingdom of God has not been established but will be at Christ's return to earth. (Acts 19:8,20)

There are so many things taking place, or have happened, which confirm that the Kingdom of God is about to be established here on earth. Life in the Kingdom will be enjoyable and totally different from the present life we have today. For the saints there will be no death, no diseases, no famine or wars, and many good things that we don't experience now, for we are all still mortal by nature. (Matt.5:6)

The aim of the gospel of God is to let all people enter the Kingdom of God, but this will not happen only a few chosen will enter, for the road that leads there is narrow and many people choose the broad way which leads to eternal death. People love money, love, sex, fame, alcohol and many more things which are sources of evil deeds that lead to the grave. Jesus said that 'we should first seek the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, then the rest will be added to us.' (Matt.6:30-34)

People continue to insist that when one dies, his or her world has come to an end, that Jesus will never come back to earth, because it has been said for a long time that he is about to come, yet he doesn't turn up. But we should always just be ready and be wise, like the five girls who were wiser than the five foolish ones: the wise filled their lamps with oil and even carried some spare, in case the bridegroom delayed.

Let's always be on the watch Jesus can come at any time, for he will come just like a thief unexpectedly. Nobody knows the hour. The present Governments of the world will be brought to an end when Christ comes back; there will be resurrection of the responsible dead and judgement, then the righteous will be rewarded with the gift of eternal life, to live for ever in the Kingdom of God, here on earth.



Seated: Benson Wambugu. Squatting: Alloise Otieno. Standing (l-r): Thomas Oyaró, Joseph Onyango & Bro. Samuel Wanga at the Woolmatt Supermarket West Branch, Nakuru.

Bro. Samuel Wanga Watako, (Nakuru, Kenya.)

A WORD OF THOUGHT

Computers are usually quick at doing work, that often take our time, files are transferred and calculation done within a shortest period of time, our expectations of computers performance is high and we sometimes get frustrated when the network is poor and we are delivering an important message, but delays tends to be in seconds or minute and we feel glad when a clear date is done and sent.

If we look at the beautiful handy work of God in creation, His intention was for man to worship and praise His name daily but we see man choosing his own way and disobeying Him, henceforth though one man death and sin came into the world, Romans 5:12-14.

Why then did God provide a saviour? so that our sins can be forgiven through His sons sacrifice on the cross, if we continue following Christ's example we too will be saved and be part of God kingdom on earth when He returns.

The Gospel is full of good news concerning God, His son Jesus and concerning the kingdom to come. Apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans, Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up, for Christ did not please himself... For whatever was written was

written for our instructions so that through endurance and encouragements of the scriptures we might have hope, Romans 15:2-4.

Christ is our example and our only hope of salvation that God provided for our own benefits and good. we should try to do our best to be Christ like in our dealings with other people, so that we show others that we truly belong to Christ and they learn something from us in the clean lives we try to live. When we are baptised, we put on Christ, Peter told us, since we have been born not of perishable seed of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God, 1 Peter 1:23.

Let us live and show others by our faith which we have attained in Christ our Lord, The bible tells us that the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, 1 Peter 3:12.

Our duty is to teach the world with boldness without fear because the time of the end is near. The world is a wicked place to live because of mans evil intentions. we are warned by John that we must not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see if it comes from God for many false prophets have gone into the world 1 John 4:1.

When a farmer is planning his crops, he makes sure that he uses correct tools, seed fertilizers and chemicals. He must make sure that at the end of the day he gets a good harvest from his labour, we should make sure that those whom we teach must get a good message out of us to make them stand in awe and repent and be baptised, let our work please the lord so that through his mercies we may be part of the kingdom.

Our discipleship is a journey which we must undertake for us to reach our destination safely, Paul told the Galatians not to grow weary at doing good, for in due course they would reap a reward if they do not give up, its applicable to us as well, Galatians 6:9-10.

As we journey towards the kingdom, lets us pray for one another as if we lived side by side, let us encourage one another to preach the word with complete patience knowing that the coming of the lord is near. Revelation 3:20 our lord tells us behold am standing at the door and knock, this to us means his return is near, may he find us worth of the kingdom when he returns.

Jesus told his followers in John 16:16 a little while and you will see me no more and then a little while you will see me, it does not matter how many years have gone of the lord been absent to us, to God a thousand years is the same as one day and we should put to mind that he will return one day to establish God kingdom. May God bless us all as we journey towards the kingdom.

Bro Gideon Timothy Hankomone, (Mazabuka, Zambia)

Extracts From the South African News Letter



Bro. Ramazinni & Sis Sangani Emena & their lovely family of eight children emigrated to USA, the "land of the free and the brave", on May 20th. We see this as God's answer to prayer as they have been living in appalling conditions here in SA. Only those who have travelled away from Africa for good, will appreciate their excitement of this new adventure, which is probably coupled with the fear of the unknown. They will be comforted knowing that our Lord and Saviour watches over us all the time.



Congolese ecclesia continues steadfastly and there are always one or two students attending the Sunday Morning classes.

News from Poland. Sis Krystyna Włodarczyk sends greetings to us all "We in Poland, settled here & doing things, step by step, which we were planning to do here before leaving SA. We are fine here, but at the same time missing family, brethren & sisters in Christ, friends and the weather. June is the month which should be warm & nice here. But we have had, instead, cold & miserable weather most of the time this year.

SOWETO

As anticipated, we greatly benefited from the visit of Bro Anthony & Sis Pat Oosthuizen at the beginning of June. Bro Anthony started our seminar series on "Society in Crisis" with two seemingly unrelated topics: Marriage & Drug Abuse. However, being temples of the living God we are to honor God in all our relationships and behavior. We were treated to further ministrations by Bro Anthony in the exhortation and Bible study. We thank them both for their visit and encouragement especially as they are now well known to most of our members.

Apart from the outreach on the home-front in the form of the Saturday seminars, the topics of which ranged from How to combat Immorality, presented by Bro David White, Homosexuality, Gambling and Prosperity Theology, this month saw much activity and excitement on a new outreach venture. Bre Daniel Makhado and Templeton Mdludlu organized for six brothers and sisters and four from Yeoville to trek to the Eastern Cape for a study weekend at the Candu ecclesia. From all accounts it was a wonderful weekend of study and fellowship as Bro Gary's report attests. The party greatly appreciated the warm hospitality extended to them; Candu ecclesia pulled out all the stops, even slaughtering the "fatted calf" in the form of a sheep! We pray the new relationships formed will live on into eternity.

Bro Paul & Sis Leonie Verster with Bro Emmanuel Mphambo went to Bloemfontein as planned to baptize Bre Phakiso Mophete and Simon Mofele on Sunday 8 June. That day dawned a chilly winter's day & to prove it we had a dusting of snow! However, undaunted Phakiso & Simon braved the water of the pool at the guest house to put on the saving Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Bro Emmanuel stoically standing in the pool through the proceedings! They were warmly welcomed into fellowship by the Bloemfontein ecclesia that were there to witness the great step they had taken. Both are from Kroonstad and are keen to preach there so we pray they keep strong and active on the road to the kingdom. A seminar is planned, God willing for mid-July.

A seminar was held on the Saturday afternoon presented by Bro Emmanuel this time on Demons: so much discussion ensued,

We have welcomed Bro Stewart Gomeza with Sis Simanga & the children. Stewart exhorted us and the children joined our Sunday school for a lively lesson on the role of fathers in the family, as the world focused on fathers' day. Louis Botha is now a regular visitor, transported by the Versters.

Cando

Members from Johannesburg and Soweto met for the Seminar after long journeys to Cando where "they joined the already large and excited contingent that had gathered for the day's proceedings. --- Bro. Daniel Makhado presided & Bro. Harrison got the ball rolling as the first speaker of the day. He spoke on the difference between Soul & Spirit. There was a short break, immediately followed by Bro. Gary who spoke on "Rewards in Heaven or on Earth". After lunch Bro Daniel covered devils & demons which then wrapped up a resoundingly successful seminar

day. Of course all this was followed by a question and answer session, before we called it a day. Needless to say, some very interesting questions were posed, and the team led by the experienced Bro. Daniel answered all, convincingly.



In Bro. Templeton's words the talks were 'excellent and well received' by the sizeable audience, among whom were local villagers who had responded to the invitations. While the local residents retreated to their homes for the night, the travelers used the evening to interact and get to know one another better, before retiring to bed. The memorial Service began at 09:00, presided over by Bro. Eddie Ngebeza and Bro. Obed Mafifi gave a deep, powerfully moving & sterling exhortation on that had everybody on the edge of their seats. Quoting from the scriptures he convinced and encouraged us, on what it means to have faith with works and humility, which our Lord Jesus Christ personified. After the service we broke up into two groups. The sisters covered family life and had to talk to teenage girls about dating, fornication and unfaithfulness, led by Sis Synthia from Soweto. The brethren talked about family life, and a question and answer segment about the spirit and soul.

PRETORIA CENTRAL

"Why Are They Then Baptised for the Dead?" (1 Cor 15:29)

This question was raised by Paul as he preached the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to his brethren and sisters in Corinth. He preached the gospel, and the mystery of godliness: "Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Timothy 3:16).

As Paul preached to his brethren, he asked some who questioned whether the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead: "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ, whom he raised not up; if so be that the dead rise not, for if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we hope in Christ, we are of all men the most miserable (pitiable)" (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

All men are sentenced to death because of Adam and Eve's disobedience in eating the forbidden tree in the garden of Eden. Jesus was born not only the son of God but also the son of man, hence was under the sentence of death as are all men. However, he is the only man who never sinned yet being flesh, even he was sentenced to die. However, he conquered his fleshly nature and fulfilled all righteousness in being baptised by John the Baptist. He was then to begin

his ministry and preach the gospel for 3½ years. As he died on the cross, he cried out: "'It is finished' and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit" (John 19:30). What was finished? He had spoken: "I have glorified thee on earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O father, glorify me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me and they have kept thy word" (John 17:4-6).

Jesus rose after three days and taught his disciples for forty days. He then ascended to heaven to the right hand of his Father, as a means of redemption for all those who have believed in Him, denied self, and taken up their cross and followed him. Such will be found faithful at Jesus' judgement, and will be established as kings and priests in God's kingdom. How can they be brought to such a position if they have died or are subject to death? Jesus spoke to Nicodemus: "'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'. Nicodemus saith unto him, `How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?' Jesus answered, `Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God'" (John 3:3-5).

How can one be born of water and of spirit? When one is baptised, as Jesus was by John the Baptist, he is baptised into Jesus by immersion in water, and rises from the waters of death as a new man of spirit. Paul further helps us: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that as many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into 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 (united) in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man (flesh) is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:1-6). By burial of baptism, the old man of sin is crucified, dead to sin, and rises from the water as the new man of the spirit.

Paul also wrote to his brethren in Colosse concerning those who are: "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses, blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossians 2:12-14).

If Jesus had not risen from the dead, how could we be "born of water and of the spirit", or raised up a new man, a new spirit, with the hope of hearing the words of Jesus? How could "the son of man come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then reward every man according to his works?" (Matthew 16:27). Jesus could not be in his Father's presence if he had not been resurrected, with the man of flesh conquered, when he cried out: "It is finished!"

Bro Francis Kotei Odiko (Subri, Ghana)