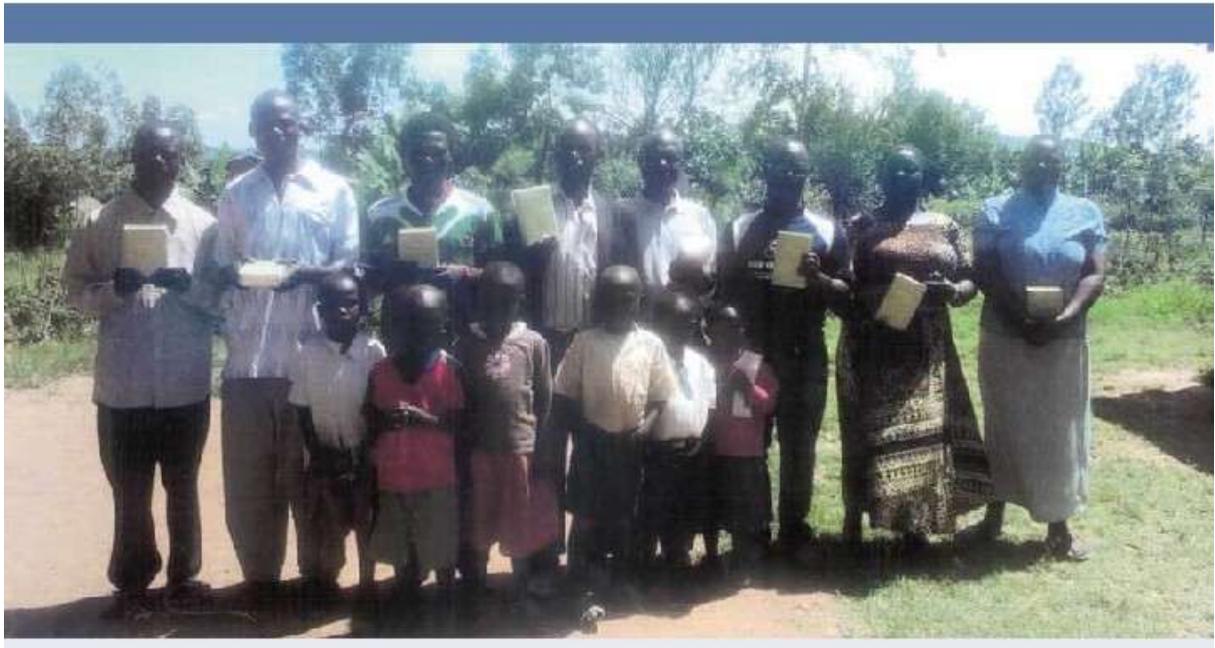


The Gospel News



"To all nations"



Editorial | Reading the Bible again for the first time

There are times when surely, like me, you have caught yourself doing or thinking so deeply wrongly - when just minutes before, you were reading Holy Scripture. And of course, we've seen this happen so often in others - that's always so much easier to see. There's a split between Bible study, and the real issues of life. And it's that split I'd like to explore, and suggest why it exists, and what we might practically do about it.

This split between Bible study and practice is often observable in the way that speakers or pastoral figures will give expositions of Scripture which leave it to the audience to draw the practical lessons. The speaker or leader somehow balks at that crucial point of overflow between the theoretical and the practical. This has bred the fair enough observation by the cynical that I get nothing out of church, it's all just academic, mere ideas, nothing practical. One reaction against this has been the talk on a purely practical, life level, which has no Biblical underpinning. One man's ideas about what we ought to be doing can be as good as any other man's. It matters what Biblical texts mean, but we need to be asking the right questions in order to connect them to life in practice. Unless we do, we enter into the crisis of so many believers - whereby the Bible becomes sterile and remote from them; the shining path of the new life becomes a rut. And yet we rightly proclaim the Bible as God's word to be the basis of our lives, and to be a living word.

Left Brain, Right Brain

This basic division between theory and practice is actually perfectly natural. It's how we are structured. The human brain is divided into two parts- the right and left hemispheres, connected by a bunch of fibres. In cases of severe trauma to the head, the brain can flood with blood and death then follows. Brain surgeons began separating the two hemispheres in cases of such trauma in order to preserve life. As the patient learnt to function again afterwards, it became clear that the left hemisphere controls the right side of the body [and vice versa]. The left hemisphere was found to control speech, naming things, grammar, abstract thinking, the intellect. The right hemisphere was observed to be controlling meaning-incontext, emotion, perception of size, colour etc. The split between right and left hemispheres is in fact very similar to the split we observe between our Bible study on the one hand, and our practical application and feeling of it on the other. So my first point is not to despair at the existence of the split. It's part of our being. The challenge of being a whole person in Christ is to synthesize the two sides. It therefore shouldn't surprise us at all that in spiritually immature individuals and systems, the most profound, gripping exposition of Scripture can be listened to with riveted attention and every approval and yet produce absolutely no practical outcome in the lives of the listeners.

The integration of the Biblical text with human life in practice thus becomes one of the keys in spiritual life, and is a technique which needs to be acquired as soon as possible on our spiritual journey. The problem is that if we fail in this, as the actual text of Scripture becomes more familiar to us over years of reading and hearing it discussed, it becomes the harder to find a second naivete, to really come to God's word and His Son again; to be as it were a born again virgin. All human creativity likely arises from the process of the left hand analyzing data, and the right interpreting it and reordering it into a coherent whole. If the right hand doesn't do this, then the data as it stands can be seen as contradictory - and those cynics who revel in supposed Bible contradictions have simply failed to come to the text with a mature mind and both parts of their brain. If left and right work together, we see synthesis and not mere words of text; both form and content at the same time. I wonder if this idea of left and

right hemispheres is alluded to in Scripture. There are some verses which certainly seem possibly relevant - e.g. the left hand is not to know what the right hand does (Mt. 6:3). "I will pray with the spirit [right hemisphere?] and I will pray also with the mind [the left?]" (1 Cor. 14:15).

Terra Incognita

How practically, then, can we come to the Bible in a holistic manner, as the whole person? How can we engage more meaningfully and practically with the text we read? We often find answers in things we are so familiar with that we have ceased to give them their true weight. If we accept that the Bible really is Divinely inspired, then we are called to attention by its every word. This is no mere textbook, novel or history book. These words are God speaking to us personally. Seeing this is God speaking to us as mere men, let us not assume that we understand the text before reading it.

We need to pray for the ability to come to God's word fresh. To meet Jesus again for the first time, as it were. If we sense more deeply the Divine inspiration of the words and our own desperate frailty and limitation of understanding the Divine, we will approach the text as terra incognita, unknown and even frightening in its possible demands upon us. For who dare assume that they fully understand the words of God in every dimension? If I were to feel that more deeply, then I would not start reading Luke 15 with the attitude that "Ah Luke 15, yeah I know all about this".

Openness to Change

One reason the text doesn't change us may simply be because we don't want to be changed. One could be forgiven for thinking that a lot of people go to church exactly because they don't like the change they see around them- their own ageing process, the change of society further and further away from the safe environment [as they perceive it] which they recall from their childhood. And institutionalized religion is very often a safe place, with an atmosphere and smell which is at least 20 years behind the present. And we who are in some way involved with such organizations lament our personal lack of change in response to the dynamism of God's word? Could the fault not be within us? One form this takes is our way of assuming we understand the text. Because we consider we "have the Truth" in terms of having a valid relationship with the Lord Jesus and hope of eternity, we can too easily assume that therefore we fully understand every word in the Bible. But that doesn't follow. And yet that impression is probably behind a phrase I hear too often in Biblical discussion, when someone asks a question about the meaning of a verse: "Ah but doesn't it simply mean that?", and then some moral platitude or well agreed doctrinal truth is stated. This is reductionism, bringing the text down to a simplistic interpretation of what it "simply means". The same left brain approach can be seen in a desire to interpret the elements of the tabernacle or parables in a simplistic "this equals that" approach. The idea is very much "Now write that interpretation in your margin next to that verse, and go on to the next verse - and do the same". And so the live, wild tiger dynamism of God's Spirit as it is in His word is tamed down to some simplistic and trite form of words - human words.

Read the Text for Yourself

That might sound obvious. But increasingly, people are reading not so much the Bible text, but about the Bible, ever enthusing about the latest "absolutely awesome" book they read. The ultimately awesome book is the Bible, not some nicely wordsmithed book about the Bible. If you "get nothing out of" the Bible text, re-read it, pray for understanding, re-read it and the most

amazing things will come out of it to you. And as Harry Tennant used to say about Bible study, no jewel shines so brightly as the one you find yourself. One of those "finds" can last a lifetime; whereas what you read in those "awesome" books will likely be forgotten by you next week, and surely by next month. God forbid that our relationship with Him should boil down to reading one of those "awesome" books about spirituality or about His word whilst His own word remains unopened, our engagement with whatever we read about it dependent upon our dimming memories of the Bible text we read years ago. You may like to read the text in another language, if you know another one. Or in other versions. Or copy it out, making a summary of it. Read it out loud, mime it. Ask questions of the text. These are all things I have tried and can commend, but mere technique alone will not compensate for the correct attitudes to God's word.

Asking Questions

Asking the right questions is perhaps the most important thing in practice. Our pre-understanding can stop us asking them because we fear going out of our comfort zone, we fear new interpretations, and the whole idea of asking questions suggests that we do not in fact know the absolute truth about all of God's word. We know the truth of Christ, and by grace have sure hope of the Kingdom. But that isn't the same as holding the definitive interpretation of every Bible verse. Indeed, Bible verses may have several equally valid interpretations. Psalm 2 is quoted multiple times in the New Testament, each time with a different interpretation. Or take the parables. Left brain thinking wants to assign a direct, clear meaning to each element of the story. Right brain thinking takes them in wider context. We could say that parables have many hooks on them, which engage with



us in different ways at different times. We may see elements of ourselves, e.g., in each of the various types of ground in the sower parable. And each time we read them, we see something new and are challenged in new areas. Somehow we need to defamiliarize ourselves with the story line of the parables, and come to them afresh each time. And this, it seems to me, is the key to reading all the Bible.

| Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM CAMEROON



BUEA | Bro Bua Moses Nehia

The Buea-Tole ecclesia sends greetings and much thanks to you and others who have contributed enormously all the time to sending us gospel literature. The disc we are now using is creating many contacts, some having Bibles and many in need of them. What we will need, to meet up with the situation now prevailing, is more Bibles.

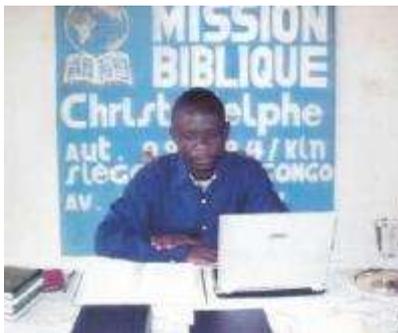
The ecclesia now has 40 active members with an adolescent age group of 12. I am caring for this age group on the first principle subjects. We would like you to help us with Bibles that have chain references, even second hand ones will do. If we can have about six King James versions and 14 other versions we will be very grateful and Bible Companions will help some to do our readings properly. We also need 10 Bible Basics for some contacts who want to begin studies. The disc method seems to be one of the quickest ways that will get the gospel message across.

NEWS FROM CONGO



I have been to Kwilungongo 258km from Kinshasa and spent three days there with the four brethren, one sister and three friends keen to learn the gospel and be baptised.

I went through with them and felt they needed some more instruction before they could be baptised. It was very nice for me to share the good news with them.



Bro Kims teaching the group Bro Nzila Mosi, his wife Sis Adele, Bro Kims, Bro Nyamwisi and



friend Francois

Bro Kims with our friend Francois

NEWS FROM KENYA



BUNGOMA | Bre Dan and Hannington

We got the Bibles you gave us and we are so grateful. We also thank you for the advice you gave us. We have already communicated with the other Christadelphians and for this we know we will grow in the Lord.

CHWELE | Bro Jacob and Sis Phoebe

Buyela and children

Thank you for the study books which you have sent to me. The book about James has good lessons, information and advice and at the same time gives references to other scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Therefore I read and am satisfied and am thankful for your advice. The family also appreciate the good Bibles and books.

Whatever the case, God-fearing ones need not carry their burdens alone. In his prayer Solomon has in mind the individual worship and approaching God in heartfelt prayer. Perhaps Solomon recalls that his father David when greatly distressed, said *“Throw your burdens upon God.”* Psalm 55:4,22.

CHWELE | Bro James Waliaula

I would like to thank you for the great work in the Lord’s vineyard. This is really encouraging as it continues to build our faith.



Wendy Waliaula

This is my daughter’s photo. She is five years old and her basic need which comes first is medicine. She goes to school four kilometres away and her attendance is very irregular just because of her weakness. We work hard through our prayers to see that she is living in good conditions and every single shilling we make is budgeted first for medication and medical check-ups and fare.

ELDORET | Bro Jacob Okoth

It is with great pleasure that we take the opportunity to exalt our Lord Jesus Christ. His honour and love is full of grace to humankind. It has taken time to respond to your letter due to ill health of my family and my children, and you know their mother sleeps in the Lord.

I would appreciate your effort of service in the Lord's vineyard. I really need booklets dealing with horticultural crops or fish, rabbit and chicken farming and also Bible Basics and NEV Bibles.

May our Lord guide you in knowing how much I am hit by terrorism, hard life and power economy here in our country.



Bro Jacob Okoth



KAMUKUYWA | Bro Patrick Wekese

Loving greetings to you in the wonderful hope we share in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your letter and much more for the work you are doing. May the Almighty Father bless you abundantly in your work. My prayers are that the Bible project extended and succeed in order to enable many more to come to a better understanding of the message of the Scripture.

If possible, please send me a Holy Bible, New European Version with commentary. Just one copy of that English version will be of great help to me in daily reading as we wait for our Lord's return.

KIMUKUYA | Agape in Action

One of the results of the extensive work of Agape in Action at Kimukuya has been the baptism of 16 young people from Kimbilio and surrounding areas. Above are the young people that were baptised that day. Many of these young people live at Kimbilio under the care of Justus and Annette.

They have been in the sponsorship program for several years now so it was a THRILL to be able to share in this special day. Also, Elia Lloyd, daughter of Brian and Christina Lloyd who have been labouring at the school for a year with their family. Just look at the faces - they say it all!

MADIANY | Bro Gordon Ochieng

We are gladly waiting and watching to see that day when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will vanquish all things political, replacing the kingdoms of men with God's Kingdom. May His Kingdom come soon.

I want to thank CAT for the good work they are doing. I am a brother, having been in the faith since 1987 when I was baptised. I am the ecclesial elder in my area and we are standing steadfast, holding tight that which we have received from God through His Holy Word, the Bible.

I am requesting your office to send me, 1) some old copies of Gospel News, 2) Bibles in English, 3) the Testimony magazine and any relevant publication that can help our brothers and sisters learn more about God's work at home and abroad. We have an ecclesial library but we still lack books or pamphlets that can inspire even our friends to read further and some to know the Truth. Also I am asking if you can get a copy of the works of our pioneer brothers Robert Roberts and John Thomas, kindly send me any, but the one I need most is Elpis Israel. It is true that Christendom has gone astray from the sound doctrines. Now, when the foundations are shaken what should the righteous do? Remain steadfast and vigilant while appreciating the benefit of fellowshiping together by sharing the Lord's table.

We are just experiencing short rains after a long spell of drought and are busy preparing the kitchen garden for planting.

NAITIRI | Bro Nasongo Haron

Recently I received a book entitled *"A World Waiting to be Won"* by Bro Duncan Heaster. We have begun reading it in a group of three. It is very interesting and has inspiring ideas to build the foundation for strong Christians, not only a Christadelphian but any person who comes across this book, for motivating, building and strengthening their Christian life. Pictured here is Bro Nasongo Haron.



SINDO | Bro. John Owalo Onani

I am happy that what God requires from us is not money but being faithful, obedient to the Truth, listening to God's voice, to have a good relationship with the Heavenly Father, to love Him with all our mind and heart and to love our fellow human beings, walking with the Lord every day. Micah 6:8, Deut 10:12,13, Eccl 12:13-14.

God wants us to fear Him and keep His commandments because whatever good or bad we do is written in the book of life. Why are we weak to respond to what our Father in heaven wants? The Bible reveals that our mind, thought and heart is evil, corrupt and deceitful. Jer 17:9.

I therefore exhort my brothers and sisters in the world to be strong and courageous and read the Word of God daily for spiritual growth (Joshua 1:8). Every minute, hour, second, day, week, year, whatever you do is in the book. If you sit down and think of murder like Cain you will be a murderer, but if you think of lovely thoughts like Abel you will be righteous and God will accept you in the Kingdom. (Gen 4, John 3:11,12).

SHIMO LA TEWA | Bro Anthony Wafula

A really big thank you for the Bibles and other literature which are a real treasure and we always look forward to Gospel News.

We have recently baptised another six brothers and three Sisters and they all need Bibles, as it's not always convenient to share a Bible, so please do your utmost to help us with these Bibles. We have learnt a lot through the comments in the Bibles and your literature which have helped us very much in making further converts to Jesus. We are certainly living in the last days and at any time Jesus will come, but as we do not know the day or the hour we have to strive to always be ready for Him. We struggle to convert people from various churches, Catholics, S.D.A., Salvation Army etc and try to help them to repent and be saved before it is too late. The photos show us using the precious Bibles.



Pictured top: Sunday School at Shimo La Tewa



Brethren at Shimo La Tewa with NEV Bibles



Sisters at Shimo La Tewa

NEWS FROM MALAWI



CHIRINGA | Bro Kennedy Ndaweza

I am happy to announce that we have baptised six brothers and sisters here at Phalombe, Manyamba Ecclesia, and we have 36 brothers and sisters who are baptised. I was very glad to receive from you the Holy Bible and Bible Basics. As you heard we now have other brothers and sisters so the newcomers need three English Bibles and three Chichewa Bibles.

DZALEKA | Bro Shadrack Ngambi

Job said that he knew that his redeemer lived and at the end he would stand upon the earth. A redeemer is one who can rescue you from a dangerous situation or even from death. Job lost all his treasures, his children died, his body was covered with boils, and even his wife told him to curse God and die. I believe I can imagine the situation that Job was facing at that time was worse than death, but with that big problem, a very bad situation, Job spoke a word of faith and said: "I know that my redeemer lives", and at the end God will remember Job. My brothers and my sisters, even if you face problems, bad situations and people break your heart, don't worry, know that your Redeemer lives. If He remembered Job, he will remember you, if he rescued Job he shall rescue your life. My Redeemer lives. Be blessed in Jesus.

KADEWERE | Bro Kenneth Maganger

Thank you for the two CDs which contain the Gospel information; the two books you enclosed are also helpful. The DVDs are useful to listen to and I would like you to send a higher quality version as you mentioned. I find the message interesting in listening about the gospel from the discs, so please keep it up! The postal charges have increased and it is difficult for me to send letters to you due to financial problems, but I will try to do so.



Bro Kennedy Ndaweza and Bro Willison Macheso

I get interested when reading your literature and encouraged in my daily life so please try to send me more. Here in Malawi heavy rain caused floods in some parts. Due to the floods crops were swept away, such as maize, rice and many more. Also houses collapsed and some domestic animals were also swept away. My house also collapsed and I am planning to build another one. I have got some bricks for the house and am planning to make a strong foundation so that the house may be strong.

In Colossians 3:17 we read, *"And whatever you do in word or in action, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"*. In chapter 4:2 we read, *"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."*

KASUNGU | Sis Bertha Khonje

I am concerned that I have taken so long without writing to you, this was because of the pressure I had from the postal services. We were told that there will be no more services through Bua, which we have used for many years. I have now arranged to use Box 190 at Kasungu, but it is a long way from where I live. May God bless you and the Trust for all the good work you provide to all nations with the truth about salvation.

LILONGWE | Bro Samson Makina

I am pleased to report the baptism of brothers Dziwanani Mphero and Botcha Sosola, both from Mtenthera ecclesia and Sisters Danjana Bayson from Kadase ecclesia and Veronica

Mwawa from Falls ecclesia. God bless them all and us as we walk patiently towards the Kingdom of God, coming very soon.

SALIMA | Bro George E Mayimba

Thank you very much for your concern, I was operated at Nkhoma Mission Hospital and was discharged ten days later and am now, waiting for the healing of the wound.

I just thank God for His loving care that He has enabled me to go through this difficult time.

NEWS FROM MAURITIUS



Since 1968 I have been able to read the Bible. My first contact was with the Jehovah's Witnesses and I followed them for about four years. I did not agree with them on some points and in 1979 I met an old Jehovah's Witness who had become a Christadelphian member and who explained to me some principal points in the Bible.

After a good study of the Bible I was able to be baptised in 1983 by Bre. Philip Taunton and Michael Floyd. Last month Bro. Michael Floyd and his sister wife came to Mauritius.

I pray that the Lord will help you in your task and bless you and all of us on our walk to the Kingdom, which we pray will come soon.

Bro Guy Jhureea is pictured right.



Note: Somehow I mislaid the photo of Bro. Guy that should have been printed with his account published last year. For two years he was unable to read his Bible as one eye had an extensive cataract and the other severe tension which meant that he could not read. He has now, in the mercy of the Lord, had a cataract operation enabling him, with special spectacles and medication, to read again and wishes to publicly thank the Lord for enabling him to do so. We too thank the Lord for his kindness to our brother. **MH**

Bro Guy Jhureea

NEWS FROM NIGERIA



ENUGU | Bro Goddy Nwosu

Three people were recently baptised: Bro.U. D. Goddy Nwosu, Sis. Nneka Uzoigive and Sis. Patience Ezeala. We pray for God's guidance and protection as they journey to His Kingdom.

We have two more candidates ahead this week by the grace of God. My son was among those who were baptised. Please thank God for me as two of my children have been baptised in my life. Please try to send us Bible Reading Planners which we lack and many are demanding from me, also pamphlets for work.

Pray for us as we do for you. Time is short and if things continue as they are, in this way, we may leave here and go to a remote part of the country. Thank those who love our Faith with all their hearts. Christ is coming soon.

IMO STATE | Bro Blessing Nwigwe

We have returned from our Bible campaigns on the theme: *The Race for Eternal Life*.

Thursday morning topic ☞ *Precepts, Principles and the Person* by Bro Peter Djike.

Evening topic ☞ *The Tree of Life* by Bro Gab. Alaribe.

Friday morning topic ☞ *The Ten Virgins* by Bro Ibeka Thomas.

Evening topic ☞ *The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ* by Bro Peter Kalu.

Saturday topic ☞ *New Heaven and New Earth* by Bro Thomas K Ndukwe

We also had a quiz, drama, singing competition by Bro Thankgod Ezidinina Adusdu.

OHAFIA | Bro Uka Egwu

I have made two new friends and they are studying with me. By God's grace both will be baptised soon and one of them has just given us his apartment to use as an Ecclesial hall. Thanks be to God who has touched the heart of one of the new friends in giving us his house for fellowship.

We had another happy day as brethren from ecclesias visited us alongside the two new friends of mine and one new baptised brother from Atani Abam and we broke bread and drank wine together. I don't have access to a computer of my own but had a very good result when I watched my DVD, *The Real Devil*, with a friend's equipment. Many people watched it and some asked to listen to it the next day. Thank you so much for sending more Bible studies. I have embarked on house caring fellowship. The aim is to meet friends and study with them at their home every Sunday evening.

Many people in this area have not heard the Truth and if God permit by the end of October I will embark on another programme to cover the 26 villages, so I very much need support such as booklets and CD/DVDs which will go a long way in helping me to carry out the work and if I have equipment like a film projector that would be a great help. Please send Sunday School and Bible story books for children and Bibles.

I have heard that over the 160 years that Christadelphians have been in existence not many in this land have heard of them, so the Truth has not reached many here where the false prophets are waxing hardy. Please come over into Ohafia and help us.

OWERWRINTE | Bro Ihenacho Ihejirika

I am extremely happy for the nice book which you sent to me recently. It came at a good time when my Bible readings included James and it has added much to my understanding of James.

May the good Lord aid you abundantly in your efforts to spread the Word and to make people fully understand the Word of God. My desire is to keep my mind on the things of God. There are distractions around the man who strives to uphold the directives of God.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



SOWETO | Bro and Sis Verster

October was an unsettled month but at the same time an exciting one.

At the beginning of the month we had to finally vacate our premises at the Megatong School. The school was reopened after a fashion. We moved into Bro Ollie Mahopo's double garage as an interim venue and were extremely grateful to him for making this available to us. The words on everyone's lips were how wonderfully God had provided for our immediate needs through one of our brothers... how often this is true. We continued with our seminars while investigating other possible venues. By God's grace a very understanding headmaster - friend of Bro Ollie secured another venue for us, this time in Zone 1 of Meadowlands. We have the use of two classrooms in the Tswelelang Higher Primary School. The classroom we'll be using as the Bible Education Centre needs painting and a few minor repairs to the ceiling. Next week will be all hands on deck to get the room ready. We are excited about the prospect of preaching and reaching out with the gospel of peace to a completely new area in Soweto. We ask for your prayers that we find many thirsty souls and that the preaching is blessed. It will be a good test for our students from Megatong to see how serious they are and we trust many will continue with us.

The Megatong school served us wonderfully well for four years and we have very happy memories of our time and growth as an ecclesia with sixteen of our members having been baptised there. The cloud and pillar of fire have directed the move and we are ready to follow!

The sad news is that Bro Eric and Sis Rendani's room they rent was burnt down - thankfully no one was hurt but a lot of their clothes and possessions were destroyed.

Bro Paul and Sis Leonie with Bro Emmanuel visited Blomfontein and had the joy of witnessing the baptism of Bro Xolili and Sis Elizabeth. We were able to pick up Bre Phakiso, Samson and Japie from Kroonstad who joined us for the weekend. Bro Emmanuel gave a seminar on the hot topic of Church Leadership and whether there are prophets today, and if that wasn't enough - the role of women as pastors! There are a number of very promising students and so we pray that the growth may continue to God's glory.

NEWS FROM TANZANIA



KASULU | Bro Alexandre W. Lukye

Warmest greetings to you all in the wonderful hope we share in Christ. I apologise for the delay in writing and congratulate you on the Gospel News, DVD and CD on the devil and other Bible studies.

Just to say thank you for the wonderful work CAT are doing. It is very good and interesting work that the Word is being preached worldwide and all have access to it. As we have opportunity let us do good to everyone and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Recently the Tanzanian government and UN agency were making an exercise of verification in Nyarugusu Camp. Kindly keep on praying for all our brothers and sisters here who wait for this exercise. May the God of Grace provide a way to alleviate their present suffering.

KIDATU | Sister Shikalite

I am in my 18th year in a Christadelphian family. My Dad and Mum, two brothers and two sisters are all in the hope of Israel. I started with Sunday School at the age of 5, I learnt to say my prayers before eating, bedtime and in the morning. No doubt this made me choose the very correct faith. My life changed last year when Bro. Michael Owen from U.K. visited our ecclesia. He waited to hear from me about my choice and said he was happy with the answers I gave so from that time I was waiting for my baptism.

My message to all brethren worldwide, *“Where are we heading?”* Our Heavenly Father has chosen us to walk towards His Kingdom. So our destination is in no doubt. We have a guidebook better than any the world can offer us. How does this make us feel? This is the walk of a lifetime. When Israel left Egypt they could have made a journey similar to Abraham’s but it took them 40 years to arrive. We know that we, just like them, will find difficulties on the road and at times we catch sight of our destination but we hope that like them we will learn the appropriate lessons as we are tested. *“Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way, but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”* Hebrews 12:12-14.

I am a Secondary School student, 3rd year and I need your prayers and letters from young girls and boys in Christ in order to encourage each other if Jesus remains away. God bless you all.

MBEYA | Edwaldi Mushi

Receive many greetings from me, my family and six friends of my Bible Class who are enjoying the studies sent to me.

Here in Equatorial Africa, we are now cultivating and planting as many food and cash crops as possible.

Our farming tools are simple, just a hoe, a few people use a plough pulled by a pair of oxen.



Sister Shikalite at School



An unequally yoked plough

NEWS FROM UGANDA



KABERAMAIDO | Bro Opio Bosco on behalf of the Awiri Ecclesia

Thank you for the CDs on the Devil and Bible Studies which are very interesting and practical to us. We have a gadget on sale in Uganda markets which is three hundred thousand Uganda shillings only. We have now raised 100,000 Uganda shillings and are remaining with a balance of 200,000 shillings (£50) to buy the gadget. Pray for us to get the amount. We have problems borrowing the gadget as the owner needs to use it at the same time.

The NEV Bible project has helped a lot because of the easier translation enabling many students to do their Bible study very well and we have ten of them with tutors in other countries.



Pictured: Bro and Sis Bosco and their four children

KAMPARLA | Sis Annet Namagga

Very many thanks for the beautiful HOLY BIBLE (New European Version) and Gospel News, which I received today. Thank you too for the great work you do to preach God's word through the literature you send all over the world, and assisting various brothers and sisters in one way or another worldwide as always stated in the Gospel News. May God bless you.

Some time back I received the CDs of the Real Devil (has no background noise) and Bible Studies; they are good CDs. Here we are fine, I completed studies at the University in June and now I have enough time to read my Bible and other books.

KASESE | Bro Samuel Watako

Brother Samuel Watako of Kenya has recently visited Kasese which is a strenuous eighteen hour bus ride from Kenya. The Ecclesia at Kasese gave him a red carpet reception and he stayed at the same hotel the CBM visitors use. They met together in the hotel, the enthusiastic Ecclesia of eight Brethren six Sisters and some interested contacts.

They have recently lost some members to other churches and lack resources such as Bibles, Bible Basics and literature and alas, also have some welfare problems and lack a place to meet; however, they are holding on to the Truth and have several keen contacts they are instructing. It

was great to be able to supply them with the NEV Bibles you sent for them. It was recommended that the youth should visit other Ecclesial Youth Groups to help them bond together with others.

I was deeply touched by Brother Stephen Ogenga who, alas, has lost his voice and has to use a gadget to communicate, but is very zealous for the Truth. Above: Bro Samuel with some of the youth at Nakuru Ecclesia Some members of the Kasese Ecclesia



MBALE | Bro Robert Shibita

Many thanks for your efforts and those of your fellow brethren in the tasks of producing Gospel News which have helped us to grow spiritually for so many years. In September last we were very happy to meet new friends and fellow brethren and sisters in Siroreo district at Budadiri Town Council where we held Bible preaching work. We shared many things from the Scriptures and took part in Memorial Services. This was a true reflection of our meeting together in the Kingdom of Christ which we believe will be established soon as we see the day approaching. We are still making preaching efforts in this area of ours and would like you to send us more English Bible Basics, a CD of the Real Devil and NEV Bibles.

NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



CHINSALI | Bro Edward Choko

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes. He helps us in all our troubles so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings so also through Christ we share in God's great help. If we suffer it is for your help and salvation, if we are helped then you too are helped and given the strength to endure with patience the same sufferings that we also endure. So our hope in you is never shaken; we know that just as you share in our sufferings, you also share in the help we receive.

Thank you for Gospel News as we can read articles from different brothers and sisters from all over the world. The economic situation has caused an increase in food prices which is causing a lot of pain to common people in Zambia. We pray for Jesus' return to establish his everlasting Kingdom. I have received Bible Basics and the Holy Bible, New European Version with commentary. These books are improving my spiritual growth in Christ Jesus which is helping me to teach other fellow students.



Bro Edward Choko and his sister

KAFUE | Bro Kelly Simayumbula

The NEV Bible Project is a success in that many brothers and sisters have benefitted in understanding the Holy Oracles better than before; during the Bible study you can tell the way that brethren explain various Scriptures so perfectly.

Most of our students are still on the 40 lesson correspondence course. I am confident we are on the right path brother. In Western Province of Zambia we opened our preaching recently and we have over 50 very interested Bible students and we have only two baptised brothers. You can be impressed to see how the truth is spreading in this area. If available we need 30 copies of the NEV.

The other request my brother is that I have run out of Bible Basics. The copies you sent me are worn out or have not been returned to the library. I will be pleased to receive extra copies, say 10 of them.

KAFUE | Bro Wilfred Chibomba

Prayers can bring a blessing to our work, and programmes like the NEV Bible project stands out as an excellent idea. I want to assure you that this has not only resulted in many more baptisms but to some extent an access to the Gospel. You can agree with me therefore that a continued effort is needed despite drawbacks and cost-related issues.

I personally have been receiving mails late, as they are censored then given to me perhaps a month later.

KALOMO | Bro Bargley Mulzya

We desperately need a new world! For weeks I have been thinking on this subject and making notes and marking scripture references. My mind has lived again through some of these wonderful teachings of the Bible which tell us of a day that is coming when there will be a new world order!

This world can never be a new world as long as we are all together in it - those who love God and those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ. Not all the world's peoples can share in the wonderful blessings ahead which are promised to those who love the Lord.

Therefore I want to encourage brethren to show love to one another. We, Kalomo town ecclesia, have introduced inter-ecclesial Bible studies where we look at, among the topics, [Love](#). [John 3:16](#). As we are looking forward to the soon-coming of Christ let us share and show love.



Bro Bargley Mulzya

KAFUE | Bro Lotson Kayuni

He who is referred to as Immanuel, which means *“God with us”*, was to be born. At the time of Jesus’ birth the Jewish nation was under bondage to the Romans. Following the prophecy the whole Jewish nation longed for a time when the *“Son”* was to be born in order to deliver them from Roman bondage. Hawthorne states: *“And the birth of the young woman’s son at that time was to be a sign to Judah that God was with the royal line of David to deliver them from their enemy.”* Religious rites of the Jews were not meeting the needs of the people at the time that Jesus was about to be born. They had become formal. This was one of the reasons why the Jews were looking forward to a deliverer.

KITWE | Bro Philip Chilambwe

I thank God for CAT’s tireless efforts in remembering me by feeding me with Gospel News. You revive my spirit spiritually. I sometimes think of copying the editorial on the front page of every Gospel News but there again it would need much stationery. The editorial comments that you make really build me up. The current one you wrote about FRAGILE I really enjoyed, even though before I could read it my son stole it. Yes, he never asked for it, only I found it at his home with his wife reading it and the guy was just smiling over it and that’s how I lost that, but I thank the Lord because he likes our Bible literature very much.

I would like to request 10 Bible Basics and 12 of the 40 lesson books and a DVD disc which you said is of a higher quality version and don’t stop sending me Gospel News.

KITWE | Bro Robert Miwele

It is a pleasure to write to you to tell you that surely the NEV has made people understand the Bible better and hopefully it will bring many people to seek faithfully to know what the Kingdom of God is about.

Many preachers who brought the Bible to Africa brought a wrong message, contrary to the true message of salvation. Please continue the right work of bringing people to the Kingdom of God. I would like to request 15 copies of the Bible in English, 10 French copies and 10 Chinese if possible.

MAZABUKA | Bro Gideon Hankomone

On Christ’s return we are told that He will destroy all those who destroy the earth, (Rev.11) and this threat encompasses all the terrorist organisations and the people who support them. There are countless thousands of terrorists around the world and all of them must fall into the category of those who destroy the earth. We are also told that the slain of the Lord will be from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth, so the future of some millions looks very grim.

But we have to put on the saving Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and have no fear of the Lord's judgement provided we have lived a life acceptable to Him, we accept the Gospel of Christ and our baptism shows our belief and our faith in the Father and His Son.



Bro Gideon Hankomone

LUSAKA | Bro Francis Mukabe

I am pleased to say I am beaming with delight because of the new discoveries in the spiritual dimensions I have made, especially in the area of grace. I had a lot of difficulties in this aspect but with the help of so many religious materials, I read from time to time the eternal journey is kept very lively.

I am requesting that you continue sending me the religious materials; the Gospel News and other literature.

MAZABUKA | Bro Chrivious Joseph

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, (Romans 1:16). Slavery is not just being an unpaid labourer working beyond normal. It is true that if you give yourself too much to something / someone such that you can't do without it, you become a slave to that.

For example, smoking. Some people are slaves of smoking / drugs because they cannot perform without them. Without that they don't feel themselves, which does not help (Romans 6:21). Before repentance people live under the rule of sin (bondage), they live life which bears the fruit of death. (Romans 7:5).

SERENJE | Bro Cephas Kalungah

I would like to thank God for the work the Christadelphian Advancement Trust are doing. They are spreading the true - very true - Gospel. I say this because in this area there are so many pastors claiming to be men of God, but their messages are not of God.

I have come to realise that not all men or women claiming to speak in the name of God are servants of God.

I would like to encourage brothers and sisters not to pay attention to fake messages but to stick to what we are learning from the Bible.



Bro Cephass Kalungah

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



BANKET | Bro Cullen Yelulani

Dad distributed all the Bibles he had to his Bible students and Sunday School scholars. We had Sister Ruth and Brother Steve Moore at our ecclesia and we enjoyed the talk about the Devil and Satan, the real meaning of these words.

Thank you very much for the parcel of Bibles and literature. I and my young brother are so grateful for this as we are now equipped for our preaching and Bible studies.

Dad is now fully recovered from T.B. and is feeling better except for minor ailments. Here on farms people are busy growing various crops but with sporadic rainfalls at the moment.

BULAWAYO| Bro Ambrose Janyepana

I was pleased to receive the book [The Real Christ](#) and the leaflets. I am reading the book slowly so as to get the full meaning of the subject. I pray that its contents, through God's grace, may increase my understanding of His Son. I have managed to buy a new machine to use the discs. Brother, I reached 60 years this year.

CHIREDZI



Bro Tayaremba Mugova and his daughter

GURUVE | Bro Mawodzeka Fanuel

I want to thank the CAT for placing me back on the mailing list. I am so happy to receive the magazine. We feel that the NEV Bibles have helped our ecclesia to a better understanding of the Scriptures and in our area we need a further five Bibles.

HARARE | Bro Maradzika Sheq

I would like to thank you for the Bible disc and the Gospel News that you sent me. I lead a small group and the disc has done wonders for me in preaching and explaining the Word of God to the other members. I have shared the good news with my wife and kids. Every day before we go to sleep we do some Bible studies and then pray for various issues from family, the church and other areas, that require God's hand.

Our church is still very small in number but we are doing a lot to fulfil God's wish of making as many disciples as we can (Matt. 28:19): *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.* God wants all people to be saved through believing in Jesus Christ. The effort that you put into trying to make sure the Gospel reaches every corner of the world is great. May the Lord continue to give you guidance and wisdom.

MUSHUMBI POOLS | Bro Nice Yotamu

I hope you are well in health as we are here. So far two families from our ecclesia have left for greener pastures as life has become so hard and difficult in terms of cost of living. As farmers they cannot cope with the situation such as poor rains and poor harvests and now they are in isolation. Another three families may do the same, which would be a big blow to our ecclesia.

Anyway we are trying our best in preaching the gospel. Our ecclesia is now know as Mushumbi Pools ecclesia not Guruve.

TONGOGARA



Bro Ali Kakozi is pictured right with Bro Mtambala Nondo on his left

MAGUNJE | Bro Lamiel Mazvaramhaka



Pictured above: two brothers and two sisters were baptised on 4th December 2013, from left of photo, Sisters Faith and Sabina, Bro. Trymore Chawora and Bro. Lamiel Mazvaramhaka and Bro. Weston Kamota was the baptiser. May you greet all Christadelphians in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel News



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.

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Please remember our work in your prayers and, if appropriate, in your legacy. Our aim 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 they may attain the Kingdom.

News from the Americas

NEWS FROM JAMAICA



MORANT | Sis Joan Samuels

I am still a member of the Christadelphians in White Horses and am living in the Parish of St. Thomas. I am a Sunday School teacher and we are still small in numbers. I have five children to teach on Sunday mornings.

I was baptised in July 1979 in Portland. I am asking you if you could please send me the Gospel News magazine. We are still praying for you that the Gospel should be preached all over the world.

News from Oceania

NEWS FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS



| Bro Reuben Limah

Thank you very much for your letter and the Gospel News and the books [the New Testament \(NEV\)](#) and the Real Christ, which I had received a year ago. It is so helpful in our ecclesial group - readings and studies for a talk.

In the letter a DVD containing the movie [The Real Devil](#) should have been enclosed. I would like a copy of it as this is one of the difficult subjects to get over to those in the Solomon Islands. Let us be ready and watching with love as we patiently wait for our Lord.

Resettlement of our Refugee Brethren

How actively are we addressing this issue ?

[As we look around at our present situation, generally our: THOUGHTS are that we pray to be helped from the undesirable conditions of the camp to a place away from this environment - FEARS are that we do not know how long we will get over with this distressing refugee life?](#)

I am repeating the thoughts and fears of our brethren living in the refugee camps. Recently I saw some scenes of refugee life on the television – the insanitary condition to which babies and young children are exposed and the look of helplessness on their parents' faces.

Many of our brethren and sisters are in this very distressing situation. Each day as they look at their children, we can imagine those fears about how long this will last. They are praying for relief. We are praying for this too, but then what action are we taking? It is true, that many are already involved in trying to ease their burdens; some are also engaged in other ecclesial activities. However, there may be others who possess the ability to make a further move - to remove them to an improved condition, and I would urge them to use the talent given them by Our Heavenly Father to work towards making a difference in our brethren's lives. How shall we start, what should we do? may be the query.

Again following Nehemiah's example –

Chapter 1:3 and they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

1:4: So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."

1:10: "Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. (Just as our refugee brethren are.)

1:11: O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man"

These words clearly reveal how touched Nehemiah was on hearing of the distressing situation of his brethren, which moved him to action, despite his problematic job situation – "For I was the king's cupbearer." This comparatively luxurious position did not cloud his vision of the suffering of his brethren, hence his grief was clearly visible to the King who, on hearing of his distress, asked, 2:4: "What do you request?" "So I prayed to the God of heaven. (The beginning of his mission.) 2:5: And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." From what follows, Nehemiah had already made plans for action, and he only needed to get past this great obstacle of getting the King's approval, and God, seeing his earnestness, took care of this.

We will only be moved to earnest action if, like Nehemiah, we can feel for what our brethren are going through. Let us again read above their thoughts and fears and strive to approach our Heavenly Father for His help to move us to the action of resettling our them. This case is His, as Nehemiah states at verse 10 above, and God will similarly prosper us, as he did Nehemiah, who nevertheless pursued it, but we must go to him for His Support.



I am appealing to those who are in charge of our publications, to the Brethren worldwide, to assist this effort by including these appeals in their publication, thereby informing and giving as many as possible the privilege and opportunity of getting involved in this rewarding project.

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Signs of His Coming

I am writing on the above topic in view of what happened in the city of Nairobi at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in September. Nobody expected that fire could happen in such a place, which should be safer than most other places anywhere in the country. *Upon the earth, distress of nations with perplexity* (Luke 21:25). We cannot help but take notice of these words of Jesus as he answers the question put to him: *What signs will there be when these things shall come to pass?* after he spoke of the day coming when not one stone of the temple would be left standing.

The Lord Jesus spoke of many signs which will foreshadow his return in the last days, but perhaps never so obvious than today is the *perplexity* in which the present world finds itself.

The world is overwhelmed with problems which even the greatest minds are unable to solve. Attempts to correct them often result in additional problems which, in turn, prompt even more. One has only to examine the dilemmas in the world today to realise the perplexing situations which exist. Here is just a sample list of the most perplexing of these problems in no particular order: World overpopulation; global poverty, national debt, homelessness. Environmental issues: illegal drug use, AIDS/HIV, refugees, alcoholism, nuclear uncertainty, natural disasters, deforestation. Global warming, clean water, alternative energy; morality, terrorism, corruption, gangs, prison overload, health and social issues. Malnutrition, world unrest, arms trade and there are many, many more.

If this doesn't describe our present world as being in *distress of nations with perplexity* (Luke 21:25), your comprehension is seriously flawed in not being able to see the forest for the trees. These world problems are so obvious today and will only get worse, with no human solutions as the next verse (v26) says: *Men's hearts failing them for fear, and looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken*.

Yet there is a solution which God has provided in His mercy through His word, as the words of the Lord Jesus tell us: *And then shall they see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory: And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads for*

your redemption draweth nigh (v27). We can count on God's word to fulfil all that he has spoken: *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Luke 21:33).

Bro John Muyala (Bungoma, Kenya)

Being Fervent in Prayer

There is no question of the importance of fervour in prayer; it is spoken of time and again in the pages of scripture in such a way that we are left in no doubt that without it prayer will not be heard. Fervour is the centre of sincerity and distinguishes between real desire for godliness and mere Christian etiquette. There are, however, many things which pass for fervour which are roundly condemned by God and which must be strictly avoided if we would not join the ranks of the hypocrites. Prayer is the heart's expression of something that is already known to God in much more detail than we can ever hope to describe or know ourselves. Fervour is stirring of the heart and often stilling the tongue. This was used in heathen prayer (Matthew 6:7; 1 Kings 18:26) with a mistaken idea that "much speaking" would produce an answer. To make a request without being deeply moved to do so is not to pray, and to repeat such a request in that way is vain repetition. A moment's reflection will reveal how perilously near to this we may come when we use certain phrases, particularly in public prayer, as if they were mere points of punctuation in a cold, emotionless speech. Fervour is not "much speaking"; it is the spirit which turns our prayers into pleading and which, as Jesus points out, will result in persistence in praying for the things which are really necessary for our well-being (Luke 18:7).

Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared (Hebrews 5:7). This verse provides the perfect illustration of what is meant by fervent prayer, as it seemed to apply not just to the final prayer of Jesus but to the whole bent of his life. Jesus often offered up prayer; although the son of God, he had no illusion about himself or his needs. He prayed unto God who was able to save him from death, not just the death of the cross, but the penalty which must be borne by all who carry Adam's nature. Jesus knew of man's need of help beyond himself; he knew that God alone could be the source of life and to Him he prayed for deliverance. By God he was heard because he feared. Jesus prayed with strong crying and tears.

This, then, is fervour: to know our needs, to be conscious of God's power to help, and to be so sincere in our desire that our being is moved to tears. Are we really capable of reaching such depths of human sorrow at the sinfulness of self? Probably not, but we can rejoice to find that even here God has provided for our needs. Likewise the spirit helps our infirmities for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. And He that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the spirit for he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27). By this most wonderful verse we are taken right into the innermost part of the subject of prayer, to see prayer as a vital part of our salvation and to see it changed in meaning in the person of our Lord Jesus. As the priest arranged upon the altar the sacrifices of men, so our Lord re-arranges our feeble utterances so that they are in accordance with the will of God if in faith we pray through him. Better our lips remain still if our heart is moved. And if our heart is moved, our lips also need to be - for our pleading will be taken up by Jesus, and God will not mistake his meaning, for He knows the mind of the spirit.

Bro David & Sis Jacklyne Wanjala (Chwele, Kenya)

A Mid Year Prayer

Thou hast so far preserved us through its various happenings and we stand on the threshold of the remainder of the year peering into its darkness. We thank thee for the things that remain constant: thy presence, thy love, thy continuing communion through prayer and the reading of thy word. Especially we thank thee for the Lord Jesus, and all that he has come to mean to us, past, present and future. These "constant things" embolden us to look forward to the things that remain.

Bro Kevin Simiya (Nyange, Kenya)

~ Time ~

Time slips through our fingers
Like golden grains of sand,
As God works out his purpose
In all that he has planned.

And He has made His purpose known,
It's written in His word:
So all who love and fear
His name Will never be deterred.

And though the future may look bleak
To those whose faith is frail,
All those who understand the word
See the working of His will.

Time marches on and soon there'll be
God's will on earth sublime;
May we be there its joys to share,
Until the end of time.

* * *

It Is Not Good For Man To Be Alone? ~ Genesis 2:18

We notice in Genesis 1:20-22 that sea and land creatures were created in such a way that they could associate and reproduce immediately, but not man. It seems that God gave a gap after creating the man. That is why I wish to revisit the statement, *"It is not good that man should be alone."*

The first man needed an associate, someone with whom he could converse with, and helping each other, so that they became one, the phrase is *"an help meet for him"*. So originally it appears the woman was to share equal association with the man with no subordination. After

their transgression, we see a new order from God, making the man to rule over the woman, during their difficult life (Gen 3:16).

We know that this innocent fellowship did not last, sin and death entered. In this relationship we see a possible type. The man stood for Christ, the woman for the ecclesia. As the man had to be in a deep sleep to beget the woman, so Christ in his death and resurrection begets the ecclesia. The similarities are many. God said that the man should rule over the woman, pointing to the time when we, the ecclesia, see Christ as our husband, and our master. For he is the firstfruit, just as Adam was, the gap taken to create the woman is symbolic of this present age since Christ was raised from the dead.

Our marriages are literal but they are also symbolic. The idea that the man and the woman come together to form one flesh *“cleave”* is a symbol pointing to a time when we - the ecclesia (bride), shall cleave in marriage with Christ (bridegroom) (Revelation 19:7-9). In baptism, we lose our personality and put on Christ, as married women put on their husband's names.

Bro Bua Moses Nchia (Beua-Tole, Cameroon)

The Power of Faith and Love

Jesus said that if we have faith as small as a mustard seed, we will move mountains (Matthew 17:20). Nothing is impossible if we believe and trust in God. Through believing in God, the Israelites subdued kingdoms, brought about justice, gained what was promised, shut the mouth of lions, stopped the fury of fire and escaped the edge of the sword. In a time of weakness they were made strong, became brave in battle (as David when fighting Goliath) and defeated the armies of the enemy (Hebrews 11:33-34).

Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). One of God's greatest powers is love. Love is strong as death. Love wins over our enemy. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. When we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His son (Romans 5:8-10). It was the power of love that enabled God to give us sinners His only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). This love is what we Christians should have for one another. This love of God constrains us to love Him, to keep His commandments, to be obedient and to trust Him. It casts out fear. Nothing is able to separate us from the love of Christ.

“In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

Bro Achomyang A Jamyinjia (Muyuka, Cameroon)

Personal Testimony

God calls His servants for a purpose. To mention a few of those heroes of Faith listed in Hebrews chapter 11: Abraham, Moses, Noah. When they were called, they did not know what was in store for them, they only knew that He had a purpose with them. Today there are still only a few who are called for God's purpose who, God willing, will be among those heroes in the kingdom of God.

Born into a family of 12 children, I was the last born in my mother's house. My father was a polygamist. He had two wives neither of whom were Christians and believed in the traditional cultural traditions.

I started to love Christianity when I was sent to a mission school, as school children we were forced to attend Sunday services. From there I started to correspond with many Bible schools and missions. I enjoyed receiving certificates, but none of them stole my heart. Some of them showed that I had reached the point of having learned enough, they said, to be eligible for baptism, but I just made excuses.

One day I met someone on a bus, who I can't remember to this day, but I am convinced that he was a Christadelphian. We discussed the topic of hell. At that time I believed in hell fire, and heaven-going after death and so on, since these are what I had learned. On reaching my destination the man gave me the overseas CBM address. As it was my hobby I applied and started the 40-lesson course with my first tutor, Brother Dereck Borrowclough. That is when the basic Bible truth started to touch my heart. What I learned was very different from what I had learned from the other Bible schools. Deep in my heart, I said this is the truth which I was seeking for. It penetrated my heart and immediately changed my way of life. I gave myself to Jesus, and on completion of the course I surrendered myself into God's hands.

It was a great day in heaven as the angels rejoiced with us in Harare (Luke 15:7) on the 8th day of the 8th month in 2004 when I was born again in water. The baptism was witnessed by the overseas missionaries who had visited us during the course of the year.

I now believe that it was God's purpose, that he guided me to preach the gospel truth and to search for His called ones for His name.

Today there are twelve active baptised brothers and eleven active baptised sisters plus a Sunday School of fourteen children in Guruve ecclesia.

May the Lord guide us all in the journey to the Kingdom, so that not one of us is lost.

Bro Fanuel Mazodzcka (Guruve, Zimbabwe)

Forgiveness and Salvation

Luke 1:77 tells us that if we really feel God's forgiveness, then we know salvation, but such a wonderful experience comes from appreciating the seriousness of sins.

The proud and self-righteous have no feeling for the wonder of God's forgiveness.

This comparison of Jesus Christ, humanity and his exaltation is found in the Bible as it teaches us about his death. It speaks of the subordination of Jesus Christ to God.

He was lifted up in crucifixion and shame. Yet in God's eyes Jesus was lifted up in glory.

* * *

Bro Austen Mwaka (Kapirir-Mposhi, Zambia)

In Memory of William Casivant

Brother William Casivant has recently fallen asleep in Christ. Ten years ago, whilst in a Tennessee prison he found Bible Basics which totally changed his life. Before that he became associated with the Sunni Muslims, studied the Quran and became an Imam, an Islamic leader. He became uneasy about Jesus and read Bible Basics which convinced him of the Truth and he quit being an Imam. Sister Marilyn Seago became his tutor and after much study he was baptised By Bro Wes Booker. He was released from prison in 2006 with the serious rare bullous lung disease. He loved talking about God and has now fallen asleep in Christ now awaiting Jesus return.



Brother William is one of several that have found Bible Basics whilst in prison which convinced them of the Truth and led to their baptism - and changed to a Godly life. Placing Bible Basics in prisons has been a small effort, but baptisms have taken place in America, Britain, Japan, Malawi, Nigeria, and Russia and if you would like to help by sending Bible Basics to prisons we would be happy to let you have copies to do so. However, we have the feeling that our new NEV Bibles may be more appropriate as most prisons have a library for their inmates and the NEV's mini commentary together with a mini Bible Basics, nicely bound together in one volume could be more appropriate. So far these Bibles have only been sent to all prisons in Australia and New Zealand; at present the French edition is being sent to prisons in France. Volunteers or sponsors are needed to extend this work throughout the world. (The cost of the Bibles and postage works out at £8-£10 each, depending on the country).

The following are a few extracts from letters from the prison authorities who have accepted the Bibles.

Australia "One of my prisoners is a Chistadelphian ... There are occasions when prisoners engage in systematic Bible study, who would value a Bible such as this which includes a simple commentary. Would it be possible to send me a further five NEV Bibles that could be given to prisoners to assist them in their biblical study. I hope that this will be possible".

Another letter *Thank you for the gift of the NEV Bible. It has been placed in our chapel for inmates to access.*

New Zealand *I was pleased to receive a copy of the NEV for the prison library. I would value a copy for myself as well as several copies for the prison.*

So, do Jesus' words, *I was in prison, and ye came unto me* give an incentive to help in this project.

Bro Marcus Heaster

We Are What We Eat

There are many interesting sayings about eating habits, but I have chosen two of them, *We are what we eat*. Another is, *We dig our graves with our teeth*. No doubt there is much truth in both of these sayings and it is unfortunate that while living in a land of plenty, we eat so poorly. When we say *poorly*, we do not mean inexpensively because everyone who buys food knows that it is anything but cheap. It seems that much of its food value is lost by the time the food gets to us. One doctor recently told us that there is as much food value in the cardboard box in which some of our breakfast cereals come as in the cereal itself. This is an example of good money being spent on poor nutrition.

If it is true that we are what we eat, then we should be careful what we eat because it matters what we are. *Now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be* (1 John 3:1-3). Daniel recognized his responsibility to God and therefore purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank. It took a great deal of courage to speak up and refuse to eat the meat of the king when Daniel was a slave, but it was so important that he did assert himself.

Do we assert ourselves to stand up for what we believe? We certainly do not have the same trial that Daniel had, but we need wisdom to know to refuse the evil and choose the good. This applies to much more than the food we eat, but if good nutrition is necessary for good health, then we should make every effort to eat good food so that we can live properly. When we are in poor health our service to God is certainly impaired.

Of course, we can serve God wherever we are, and we know of several who were taught the truth by Christadelphians in the next bed in hospital. If we are sick then we serve God as best we can, but the point is we should do our utmost to be well so we can serve Him with vigour. As important as our physical health is our spiritual health is even more vital to our service to the Lord. Here again it is our diet that is vital to our service to the Lord. If we eat, we are feeding our physical man. What are we feeding our spiritual man? Jesus said that his meat was to do the will of him that sent him, and to finish his work. This must be our meal also if we are followers of Jesus. Where do we get the meal that the world is missing? It is there for those who are willing to partake of it, for the word of God which is able to make us wise unto salvation, is available to everyone. How few choose to digest it! Jeremiah found the word of God to be delicious: *Your words were found and I ate them, and your words were to me the joy and the delight of my heart: for I am called by your name, Yahweh, God of armies* (Jeremiah 15:16).

There is food all around us but most of it is as nourishing as a cardboard box. If we are wise we can choose that food that gives us real nutrition. There are books all around us that feed the mind garbage. If we are wise we will choose God's words and meditate in His law day and night. Let us be wise and follow Jesus. He knew what to eat and Isaiah, speaking of Him, said: *"Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good"* (Isaiah 7:15).



Bro Moses Komanya with his grand-daughter and brothers and sisters of Kidatu Ecclesia, Tanzania

Bro Moses Komanya (Kidatu, Tanzania)

The One Sent To Us

After temptations, our Lord Jesus Christ went back to Nazareth, to the synagogue, and started out on his mission on earth. *"The spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind: to set at liberty those who are bruised, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord"* (Luke 4:18-19). These are the reasons why our Lord Jesus Christ was sent to the earth. He came to preach good tidings to the poor about the Kingdom of God, when it will be established, and who will be the king in that kingdom.

He will rule with righteousness when justice will be done to all those who stand with him, they will inherit the earth. The poor he talked about are those who are poor in spirit; these are the people for whom our king came to proclaim release.

There are those who are afflicted by many sicknesses and problems and we will be freed from these when Jesus returns, providing we trust in Him.

Jesus came to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ always reminded his disciples to be ready and watching, for Him. The sheep and the goats will be taken to the right and left hands respectively by Christ the true Shepherd. Jesus said, the time is coming and all of us should repent and prepare ourselves for his coming. Those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus will, when he comes, be married to him at the marriage supper, *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying: "Behold the tabernacle of God is with them, and they shall be his people; and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things are passed away." And he that sits upon the throne said: "Behold! I make all things new." And he said: "Write, for these words are faithful and true"* (Rev 21:1-5).

So, let us hope and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may be united to him, in his kingdom.

Bro Nasong'o Horron (Naitiri, Kenya)

Believers or Disciples ?

If you are reading this "Gospel News", you probably consider yourself a Christian. Which of the following would best describe your Christianity: Christian believer or Christian disciple? The book of Acts uses the term "believers" once to refer to Christians, *"and believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women"* (Acts 5:14). The book of Acts uses the term "disciple" (or "disciples") thirty-one times. Herein is a lesson for us.

When Jesus called his disciples, He did not ask them to go into ministry training, he asked them to follow him. The disciples did that. Peter told Jesus, *"Lo, we have left all and have followed thee"* (Mark 10:28). They left their jobs and even family members behind and followed in the step of the lowly Master. Jesus calls to *"all who labour and are heavy laden: take my yoke upon you and learn of me"* (Matthew 11:29).

A disciple of Christ is one who follows him and learns from him, and cultivates a humble and teachable spirit. He goes to Christ to learn from him, not to find support for a pet position. He sits at Jesus' feet and he hears him. There is much more to believing in Christ than simply accepting in our heads the fact of his existence. The belief must move from the head to the heart, and result in genuine repentance and cross-bearing. When Saul, he was struck down on the road to Damascus, he asked *"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"* (Acts 9:6). A disciple hears what Jesus teaches, *"He heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them?"* (Matthew 7:24). Too many Christian believers do not really believe Jesus enough to obey him. Rather, they hear these sayings and do not do them (See 2 Peter 3:11, which poses a question for each of us to answer: what manner of persons ought we to be?) To preach on the radio, in the street, and to understand all the signs of the times without really showing the excellencies of God manifested to the world as Jesus manifested them. In fact, such "believers" are not true believers. Believers should not only be disciples, they should also make disciples. Our work now is to make disciples whether by words or deeds. It is a pity that many of us can preach the gospel, but be far from the life of Christ.

Bro Uka Egwu (Abia, Nigeria)

The Meaning of Worship

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

Worship is the intimacy we should experience in knowing God. It should be a one-on-one with God. It should be deep meditation, and not the shedding of tears in the church for all to see. *"Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth. Say*

among the nations, "The Lord reigns". The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity" (Psalms 96:9-10).

Moses had a one-on-one with God while tending his flock (Exodus chapter 3). Abraham spoke to God when God made a covenant with him. The angel of the Lord appeared to him. So if we worship Him with all our might, He will reward us in due time. Abraham was given a son when his wife Sarah was past the age of bearing children. What lesson do we learn from all this? *"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him"* (Psalms 34:7-8).

On many occasions Jesus Christ had a one-on-one with God. He would move to a secluded place to pray to God, to worship the Father. One such incident was when he was with his disciples. He actually withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed. An angel of the Lord appeared to him (Luke 22:38-43).

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

* * *

Bro Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)

Kakuma Refugee Camp: ?Now, Where is the Water ??

Part of the Kakuma Refugee Camp that stretches way into the distance, providing for some of the 968,790 refugees in Kenya

Every time I start packing up for a trip to the ecclesia at Kakuma Refugee Camp, I get engulfed in memories of the long and exhausting 900-km road journey ahead; but all of a sudden thoughts of smiling faces of brethren, sisters and contacts eagerly awaiting *"the feet of those who bring good tidings"* cross my mind and get me enthusiastic for the journey.

Bro Lovis Mbongo joined me on a 5-day visit to Kakuma Refugee Camp. As always, the journey to Kakuma is never uneventful; our trip *"*this time round coincided with a terrorist attack carried out at the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi and so we had to put up with several security checks at a number of roadblocks set up by the police (where all passengers had to get off the bus and present their identification documents) in an effort to apprehend the perpetrators of that heinous act. There have been allegations *"*by Kenyan authorities *"* that the said attack had been planned and masterminded by some refugees in the Kakuma Camp; therefore every one travelling to and from the camp was considered a suspect.

Bible Studies and Baptisms

The first activity of our visit started late in the afternoon on the same day of our arrival, with a Bible study session where Bro Lovis was the main speaker. He refuted the belief in the trinity which attracted a heated discussion from the audience that was made up of many friends who believed in it. Due to a good number of questions which came up during the debate, we decided to extend the question-and-answer session to the following morning. As expected, the ecclesial hall was full to capacity. We took great pains to answer to so many questions mainly about the basic teachings of the Bible (God, Jesus, Kingdom, Satan/ sin, Israel, baptism*"*).



Bro Lovis Mbongo leading the Bible talk

The climax of the trip came after conducting interviews with ten of those who had expressed the desire to be baptized, eight of whom gave a good confession of their understanding and belief in the name of Jesus Christ and the things concerning the Kingdom of God. Immediately after the interviews, I told the eight that they qualified for baptism and nothing could prevent them from being baptized. I could see their faces shining with joy and one of them asked me a pertinent question: "Now, where is the water?" I kept silence for a few seconds because I thought having travelled all the way from Nairobi I was the one who should have asked that question. It was a sharp contrast from the account in Acts 8:36 where the Ethiopian eunuch said: "Look, water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" I felt challenged and had no option but to devise a solution; thus, came the idea of digging a hole in the ground. But as soon as water was poured into, the sandy soil swallowed it up. A friend suggested we put in some water-tight material first and then pour water in. We gave some money to buy a plastic sheeting which was promptly brought and fitted in the hole. The plan finally worked out well and the baptisms were carried out.



The makeshift baptismal pool. Sis. Regina Asende emerging from the water of baptism.



Our new brothers and sisters

So, the mission was crowned with eight baptisms: three brothers and five sisters were added to the number of the Lord's family at Kakuma. They were given the right hand of fellowship and then welcomed to partake of the emblems during the memorial service held on Sunday. The two

following days were spent on a door-to-door preaching campaign to the homes of many friends who had shown interest in learning the Truth.

Our visit came to an end after a meeting with the ecclesial committee who shared with us stories of the ups and downs of life in the camp as Christians; most importantly, the progresses and challenges facing the ecclesia.

Kakuma: An Ecclesia on the move

On our previous visit the main mission consisted of helping brethren put up a meeting hall following an incident whereby Somali Muslim refugees had destroyed and vandalized the ecclesial hall claiming that it was built in an area they termed "theirs". We managed to present our case to the administrative authorities who dealt kindly with us by granting our request for a different site where a new meeting hall now stands. I was amazed at the unshaken resolve of Kakuma brethren to have a meeting place despite the challenge they bravely faced without dispiriting their stand in the Truth. From that backdrop, the ecclesia at Kakuma has moved from strength to strength and as a result has seen an increase in the number of both those baptized and those interested in the Truth.

Every time I leave Kakuma, I always feel happier than when I arrived there because of the warm welcome from brethren and how people, in such harsh living conditions, are responsive to the good news of the Kingdom of God unlike those in urban setups. That makes me more than willing to go back there over and over again knowing that Kakuma is a field where the "harvest is plenteous" awaiting labourers.

May the Lord, who "is able to save completely those who come to God through him", strengthen their faith "for it is God who works to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." Amen!



Singing to the Lord

Bro Innocent Baruani (Nairobi, Kenya)

The Law Has Been Abolished

"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandment contained in ordinances, for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace" (Ephesians 2:15).

This verse makes it clear that Jesus has abolished the law of commandments contained in ordinances, given to the Jews in the Old Testament. He fulfilled them and abolished them. The laws and commandments of the Old Testament are not directly relevant to the new creation in Christ Jesus. It is therefore wrong for us to live our lives trying to obey the Mosaic law.

Hebrews 7:12 is another verse that gives us an interesting light on this, *“For the priesthood being changed there is made of necessity a change also of the law”*. The Lord Jesus became our high priest in the New Testament, not in the order of the Aaronic or Levitical priesthood, but in the order of *“Melchizedek”* (Hebrews 7:17 and see also verse 21). This signifies an eternal priesthood, a new priesthood, headed by Jesus Christ, different from that which obtained in the Old Testament.

Now the importance of this is that Jesus has become our High Priest, not a high priest under the Sinaitic covenant. What we read in Hebrews 7:12 is that a change of priesthood automatically means a change of the law. Since the priesthood has been changed and Jesus Christ is now our High Priest in the New Testament, the law has also been changed. This is why Jesus said: *“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”* (John 13:34).

Love has replaced all the laws and ordinances in the Old Testament (Romans 13:8-10). *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”* (Matthew 22:37-40). This, however, does not mean that the Old Testament is not useful to us today: *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”* (Romans 15:4). The things written in the Old Testament have been written for our learning; let us now learn what it is to walk in love.

Bro Maxwell Choongo (Kasaka, Zambia)

The Prophets

The books of the prophets from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel to Zechariah and Malachi cover several hundred years of history. Their words weave through the lives of an almost overwhelming number of kings, governors, nations and people. Some sections of the prophets speak clearly and easily to us of the wonderful time to come when God’s kingdom will be established here on the earth.

Here are some well-known favourites:

“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus and the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads” (Isaiah 35:1,10).

“For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away, and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more” (Micah 4:2-3).

Prophecies of Messiah also abound. Daniel lays out the time periods involved until Messiah would come. Micah tells us of the birthplace of the one to be ruler in Israel. Jeremiah reveals

something of the devastation and loss in Bethlehem following his birth. In the "servant" chapters, Isaiah tells us much of the sufferings and death that Messiah would undergo. Zechariah gives us some glimpses of the setting for his glorious return. It is thrilling to see how these prophecies were fulfilled in the life of the Lord Jesus, and their full import hits us when we reflect on the time differences between when they were written and when he actually came.

Bro Harry Manda (Kazembe, Zambia)

Israel Are Led Out of Egypt

"Yahweh went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them on their way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light that they may go by day and by night" (Exodus 13:17). It happened when Pharaoh had let the people go. But God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that way was near. For God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war and they return to Egypt, but God led them around by the way of the wilderness by the Red Sea, and the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt".

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says Yahweh. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). I don't know the kind of problems you are encountering at the moment, but from the "Signs of the Times", there are problems galore. "But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1). Do we have to go back to Egypt because of these perilous times? Remember the way through the land of the Philistines was near, but God chose the way of the wilderness through the Red Sea.

Bro Joseph Onyango (Suna-Migori, Kenya)

Willingness of Mind

Unless there is a willingness of mind to know or to learn there will be no progress. This applies at all levels of knowledge so that a non-believer will only learn the gospel if he has a mind willing to find the truth, and a brother or sister will only develop in wisdom and understanding if there is the same willingness to progress. It is the lack of willingness of mind rather than a lack of natural ability which is the main reason for the low and falling standard of scriptural understanding amongst us. The proverb asks the vital question: *"How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?" (Proverbs 1:22).*

Jeremiah showed the willing approach when the law was discovered in the reign of Josiah: *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" (Jeremiah 15:6). Similarly Psalm 119 is full of expressions of a willing heart to learn God's way: "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (verse 97) and, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (verse 103).*

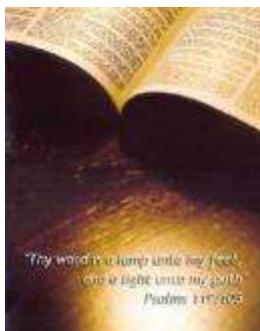
In these passages the willingness comes from a true appreciation of the inestimable privilege of having access to the word of God: *"For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgements so righteous as all*

this law [2][2] The Lord Jesus taught that [2]the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof and goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field[2] (Matthew 13:44). The root of the parable is in Proverbs 2:1-5: [2]My son, if thou wilt receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God[2]. The words [2]incline[2], [2]apply[2], [2]criest[2], [2]liftest[2], [2]seekest[2] and [2]searchest[2], all emphasize an intensity of effort resulting from a deep desire to find wisdom. **Without the true estimation of the treasure there will not be sufficient willingness and effort, and consequently no treasure found.** And lest any should fear that focusing on personal effort and application is tending towards selfconfidence, we should always remember that even when the treasure is found, it is because the Lord has provided it for us, as Proverbs goes on immediately to say: [2]For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous[2] (verses 67).

With regard to willingness of mind, there are shining examples in the scriptures that Christadelphians have to follow. The Bereans displayed three crucial aspects of the right approach to God's word. Directly related to 1 Thessalonians 2 is the estimation which they had for the word of the Old Testament scriptures. It was their authority in matters of truth: they [2]searched the scriptures daily[2] to see if what Paul said was true (Acts 17:11).

The new word preached by Paul had to be consistent with their Old Testament. The Greek word for [2]searched[2] (according to the Greek Dictionary by James Strong) is one which means to scrutinize, investigate, interrogate, determine, ask, question, discern, examine or judge. These imply repeated and critical examination. And the Bereans carried this out [2]daily[2].

The second lesson to be derived from the Bereans is their motivation for Bible study[2]to find out whether these things were so[2]. A desire to learn the ways of God is the only sound motive for Bible study. It requires that at all times we have the humility to accept the correction of deep-rooted and cherished ideas. It would be entirely wrong to study the scriptures just to enable us to speak and teach others. The correct order was shown by Ezra: [2]For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgements[2] (7:10). Every teacher knows how much more difficult it is first to do the things we teach others.



Ezra, preparing his heart to seek the law, brings us to the third lesson to be learnt from the Bereans: [2]They were more noble in that they received the word with readiness of mind[2]. The word [2]noble[2] means literally [2]high born[2] and is only used on three occasions in the scriptures. In Luke 19:12 and 1 Corinthians 1:26 it is clearly referring to family pedigree, and the idea that in

Acts 17 it means "noble in mind" can only be derived indirectly. The sense it carries can be found from the same chapter. The Bereans are being contrasted with the Thessalonians- Jews who "moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd (wicked) fellows of the baser sort" and set all the city in an uproar" (verse 5). The "baser sort" were literally the "frequenters of the market" (Greek: agoraioi) - the first century layabouts, probably low born, and certainly not in the same social class as the "honourable" Berean ladies (verse 12). But Acts is not preaching eugenics. The point is that the market mob were not at all interested in judging the apostles for themselves. They did not care what they said. The contrasting response of the more civilised Bereans was to listen first to what Paul had to say - an approach no doubt inculcated by class culture. This is not to say that the Greek culture was to be applauded, but the readiness to listen was. After all, it was a related inquisitiveness which allowed Paul to preach on Mars Hill (Acts 17:18-20). But the Jewish Bereans, whilst showing the same willingness to listen, did not fall into the trap of treating the gospel as entertainment, as did the Greeks of verse 21, most of whom were not interested in pursuing the evidence (verse 32).

A true estimation of the scriptures will affect all aspects of our Bible study and the use we make of scripture. Since the author is God, no word of it is without purpose. Repetition of words and phrases in different parts of the scriptures, ie quotations, must have a purpose. We have to handle the word with respect so that we do not quote verses out of context. We will want to know, above all, what the voice of God says, and so we will use concordances, lexicons, etc to check the accuracy of translations rather than picking translations for their immediate subjective appeal. We should search the scriptures for guidance on personal and ecclesial decisions, even when the conclusions which we reach are painful to implement. Bible study will be a joy, not a chore, and therefore we will spend as much time as possible in listening to the voice of God. We will not use scripture in order to catch one another out or to gain preeminence, or to attract the praise of our brethren and sisters, for we are not of those who handle the word of God deceitfully. And in all things we are encouraged by the voice of the living God for, "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool" to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and or a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:1-2).

Bro Francis Odiko (Ateiku-Wassa, Ghana)

We All Need Salvation: Zacchaeus ~ a tax collector (Luke 19:1-10)

In those days it was reckoned tax collectors were deceitful men because many would cheat in their business dealings. They could overcharge taxes from people in any way they wanted, so it is no wonder they were well-to-do people, but sinful.



Zacchaeus, I am sure, had heard about Jesus and he was very anxious to see who he was, but he had a problem - he was a short man and the crowd following Jesus was so large. To solve his problem he had to find out the exact way Jesus was going to pass at a particular time which he did. He then decided to climb a sycamore tree which was along the way. Jesus and those following him reached the place and, to the surprise of everyone, Jesus called Zacchaeus to come down immediately. *“I must stay at your house today”*, he said. Straightway Zacchaeus came down and welcomed Jesus gladly.

But the people’s reaction was a different one. They did not like to see Jesus with a sinner. However, Zacchaeus was so happy to have a rare visitor in his house. To show his gratitude he offered half of his possessions to the poor and also promised to repay anyone he had cheated four times the amount. Following that, Jesus told him that salvation was in his house. In Luke 19:10 we are told the reason Jesus had come to the world - to seek and save what was lost.

Generally man is lost. In Romans 3:23 we read, *“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”*. Also in Isaiah 59:2, *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear”*. Man is born a sinner and it is in this sense that all men are lost. Therefore all men need salvation; without it they remain alienated from their Creator.

The fact is that God is a holy God, He cannot be where there is sin. But despite that, God loves. In John 3:16 we read, *“For God so loved the world (men), that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life”*.

Therefore to have eternal life a man has to associate himself with Jesus. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). With our nature, death is before us, but God gave us hope of life eternal through Jesus. Should we lose this great opportunity because of our laziness? It is up to each one of us to check our personal relationship with Jesus.

Our fellow friend Zacchaeus obtained his hope by:

- (1) Realising he was a sinner
- (2) Knowing the person who could help him
- (3) Having faith

We are no better than Zacchaeus: we all need salvation to enter God’s eternal kingdom which is soon to come when Jesus will be king. But first of all we must associate ourselves with the promised seed of Abraham and David which is by baptism into Jesus, the seed. When we are dipped in water we die to sin, and when brought out of water we live by faith in Jesus.

Bro Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)

Jesus Christ versus Technology

Jesus Christ can be viewed as a very special type of software. Why ?

Jesus enters our life: he came so that we may have life and be healed of all our ailments.

Jesus scans our problems. Nothing is impossible before God, so let us present all our problems through our Master and Saviour - our mediator Jesus Christ.

Jesus edits our tensions; nothing is too hard for God. Even if our sins are as red as scarlet, they can be washed to become as white as snow.

Jesus downloads your solutions. The Bible says, *“Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28-29). Do we believe Jesus and find that rest for our souls?

Jesus deletes our worries, *“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or what you will wear on your body. Who by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”* (Matthew 6:25-33). Your heavenly father knows and will provide all your needs.

So Jesus can be seen as a very special type of software, which cannot be matched. He is incomparable.



Sister Wang, our latest new sister in China. She is holding one of the last Chinese Bibles with commentary and Bible Basics which we have in stock. Please consider donating to enable more Bibles and Chinese literature to be printed.

Bro Itai Tembo (Sanyati, Zimbabwe)

The Wicked

The wicked shall go into the grave, all the Gentiles that forget God. The wicked are those *“who know not God and obey not the gospel of the Lord”* (Psalms 9:17; 11:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:89). There are three groups:

First: Sinners that have never heard of the one true God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel, as well as others who are incapable of faith and obedience.

Second: Those who have come to an understanding of the gospel, but have rejected it (Isaiah 26:14; Luke 13:38; 2 Timothy 4:1).

Third: Those who have obeyed the gospel, but do not hold fast to the precepts and return to the flesh.

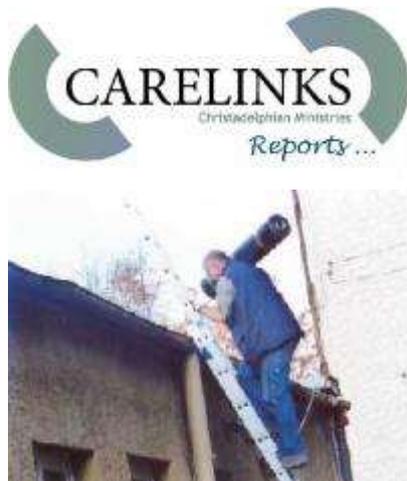
The first group dies and perishes like the beasts. The second group also dies but comes forth from the grave to encounter the burning indignation of Christ, the judge of the living and the dead at his appearing and kingdom. The third group also comes forth to be judged and to

undergo condemnation, a sorer punishment (Hebrews 2:2,8; 10:27-29; Romans 8:13; Galatians 6:7-8).

* * *

Bro Frances Mayende (Bungoma, Kenya)

Riga Bible Centre | Latvia



The re-roofing project has now been completed thanks to your support. About the only break our four workers had during the week was for the baptism of VLADISLAV in the hall. We'd like to pay special tribute to brother Mark Leadbetter of the Maidenhead ecclesia who has literally been doing a herculean task as the master builder amongst us. Due to rainy weather, he and his team worked all hours on the job whenever it was You can receive these weekly reports each week by email ~ here are the highlights from the last few months. Email us at info@carelinks.net to be added to the list.

dry, struggling with the gas bottles which feed the blow torch getting so cold that the gas turned to liquid.



Pictured top right: Mark giving words of encouragement to Vladislav [left hand side, left] just before his baptism in the well used baptismal bath; also present at the baptism was our blind sister Larisa, pictured right, who gave very moving encouragement to our new brother.

And finally, pictured below, dear Mark just exhausted!



Riga Bible Centre | Latvia | Winter Welfare Scheme

Andy & Mel Downton (Horley) and Mike & Vanessa Boler (Folkestone) arrived in Riga at the beginning of January and spent three months providing hot meals each day for the brethren and sisters and contacts. Others which have come to support them for shorter periods, included Rob & Debbie Clements (Ipswich), Anna and Barbara Ryder (Horley), Denis Leverett (Chelmsford), Mim Clark & June Williams (Guildford), Belinda Burns (Australia), Trevor Alison (Knowle & Dorridge) and Hazel Rutherford and Peter & Lorraine Eichhorn (Nantwich). Fellowship with so many visitors from a wide range of ecclesias is most encouraging for all in Riga.

Sisters Lorraine Eichhorn and Hazel Rutherford of the Nantwich UK ecclesia were in Latvia along with brother Peter Eichhorn and brother Denis Leverett (Chelmsford UK ecclesia). Here's their report on some Winter welfare work done in Riga:

It has been -15 degrees by day and down to -25 by night in Riga (the capital of Latvia) since we arrived on Saturday. Try to imagine the living conditions of three members of the ecclesia and a non-member who is looking to be baptised but ashamed to expose his long unwashed body. Two have TB and one is HIV positive which prevents them from getting beds in night shelters due to their having communicable disease. We visited them last night, travelling in a warm car the journey that they make on foot or taking illegal bus rides in sub-zero temperatures. Their 'home' is a stair-well, on a concrete floor, in a cavernous derelict building. The wind whistles through its broken entrance. No furniture only concrete stairs to sit on and an assortment of thin pieces of bedding to lie on. Two candles light their nights. No heating, no wash facilities, no hot food at all. Their only facilities are in a nearby supermarket where they can use the toilets and wash during opening hours.



These are some of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ who walk these long distances in subzero temperatures to receive the bowls of soup prepared daily at the hall. The reality of handing out these bowls to the 100+ every day hit me forcibly after our evening visit. The huge disparity between their lives now in Christ and mine.... We stay here in a well heated, modern house, sleeping in warm beds and with access to every modern facility. At home we have houses, pensions, savings and government support systems. They have nothing due to their situation as ethnic Russians. We bought them some food, water to use immediately before it froze, gave them some sleeping bags, gloves, hats and the scarves that we were wearing. More will be provided as needed. Today I will understand why they return for 2nd, 3rd and more helpings of soup and bread until the pans run dry. If reading this sounds like drama, it is not. It is cold hard reality for some. And I will pray that my Brothers and Sisters in the West will support this valuable work with more love, understanding and aid and pray for more workers to come over and help those who already work out here.☞ There have been baptisms every week. Pictured top right is VLADIMIR, a spritely gentleman who looks like some kind of Christadelphian Solzhenitsyn, who simply loves what we have to teach. He was at one time a guard on the Berlin Wall and still remembers some German from his time stationed in Berlin. He is pictured with Cindy Heaster and Mel Downton.



Pictured right is our new brother Vitaly with Marina, and Vanessa Boler and Mel Downton to his right.

Eastern European | Winter Bible School

Every dollar donated to enable the recent Winter Bible School was truly well spent, and used by the Lord to create a wonderfully spiritual environment for the scattered brethren throughout the Russian speaking world. We're thankful for safekeeping throughout- the hotel where we held the conference had all spare rooms taken over by Police bussed in to deal with the riots, so we had off duty policemen walking all around us throughout the last few days of the School. We had speakers including Alan Atkin, Steve Gretton, Paul Hosking and Jeremy Neate from the UK, and Joe Badlu from the USA. Brother Joe Badlu summarizes his impressions:

☞Despite the demonstrations, riots and bloodshed in the center of the city of Kiev, about 65 brethren and sisters attended the Bible School here. Some others feared to come because of the violence, but we were quite safe. It was an amazing experience to meet elderly brothers who had been looking forward so eagerly to coming to the School for a whole year. They had braved very low temperatures [it was -25 C during the School] and one 87 year old brother travelled five days to be at the Bible School. They came from remote areas of Siberia and the Arctic to be together with those of like faith at Bible School. At the end of each presentation or lecture, brothers and sisters engaged in deep discussion of the Biblical topics in an animated but

friendly manner. The highlight of the Bible School was the baptism of two brethren, SVYATOSLAV from Ukraine and NIKOLAJ from Russia. It was most spiritually uplifting to be amongst brothers and sisters who showed such zeal and passion for the study of God's word. It was a pleasure for me personally to meet face to face brothers with whom I had previously been in communication by email, from Russia, Ukraine and the UK². Brother Joe Badlu is the treasurer for Carelinks USA. The funds donated for the project of sending out Bibles to remote parts of Russia and Ukraine are forwarded by him to the brethren who are posting the Bibles out. Above you can see Brother Joe receiving very detailed accounts and receipts from a local brother.



It was good to see some more recently baptized present, including our African brother Samuel, pictured above, who was recently baptized in Ukraine.

You can view the testimony of 87 year old brother Pavel who travelled five days to Bible School on various trains. It's translated into English and worth listening to. See <http://youtu.be/lGQWcq2Ddil>. Above is a picture of our brother taking careful notes (as many of the bre & sis do) on the talks.

We're truly grateful to our speakers and to those who sponsored the local bre & sis to attend. We're interested in hearing from potential speakers for our Summer Bible School, which God willing will also be held in Kiev in July this year. Do be in touch if you're interested. Speakers talk one sentence at a time through translators - below you can see bro Jeremy Neate being translated by bro Alexei Tishchenko.

Carelinks | USA

This has been a busy time for our work in the USA. We're delighted to report the baptism of a young married couple, GWEN and GERARDO in Florida.

They were baptized by Bro Josh & Sis Heidi. Josh & Heidi came to the Carelinks Missionary Training program in Latvia a couple of years ago, subsequently got married, and are now a great help in following up contacts. Gwen and Gerardo have been studying the Truth in detail for a long time. Gerardo works night



shifts and so the baptism was performed at dawn one Sunday in the Gulf of Mexico near Tampa - a beautiful start to new lives in Christ.

Here are a few clips from earlier correspondence which indicate just how deeply they studied the True Gospel before baptism:

I already read the Bible Basics and the books Real Devil, Real Christ. I've been studying the Christadelphians doctrines the last 4 years. I read Elpis Israel by John Thomas. And other books from Robert Roberts... My wife and I want to have contact with someone to help us to be baptized. Please help us... My wife requests to be you and your wife's friend on facebook. We been praying a lot for God to provide someone to help us... I encourage Gwen to be patient and trust that God is in control of our lives. I have been looking for the truth with all my heart. Four years ago I found the writings of dr. John Thomas and Robert Roberts. I read everything I could on the Christadelphians... Thank you again and talk to you soon. The God of Israel bless you... I just want to say my wife and I are very excited and happy about our meeting with Josh and Heidi, and to be baptized...

Carelinks | Israel

A recent Carelinks visit to the brethren and sisters in Israel began by visiting and breaking bread with brother Vladimir and sister Galina near Haifa - great to see them strong in the Faith. We baptized Vladimir 13 years ago in the river Jordan, and Galina came to the Moscow Bible School to be baptized last year.



Breaking of Bread near Haifa

Next we spent a day with NASIR, an Arab Israeli in Nazareth, who literally lives in a house ^{on} the cliff on which their city is built (over which the inhabitants wanted to throw the Lord). He turned to Christ 30 years ago and is very intense in his faith and efforts to preach the Gospel to both Jews and Arabs. These have led to many problems for him, including stones being thrown at him for passing out tracts in Cana of Galilee, just a few miles from Nazareth. It's really so hard to be an Arab Christian - so many Israeli Arabs who were traditionally Christians are now converting to

Islam. We baptized him in the river Jordan. He gave a wonderful and intense prayer before his baptism.

You can hear a video of his baptism and testimony in English at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbx-Nlmxh5M And he also gave it in Arabic at: <http://youtu.be/0MpuyshoLOY>

On our last trip to Israel, we reported meeting SHIMEON, one of the many Russian Jewish intellectuals who left the USSR for Israel when the USSR broke up. We told his amazing story of survival as a child in the holocaust against all odds - see <http://carelinks.net/doc/1624658007>. We mentioned that he sadly and inexplicably backed out of baptism then and we asked for your prayers for him. This was nearly 18 months ago. Now he has turned the corner we were delighted to baptize him and record a very, very compelling presentation from him about how he turned from atheism to belief, and how reading Bible stories to his grandchildren led him to believe the Bible as inspired; and then, accepting the Old Testament as inspired led him to accept the New Testament, and thence to accepting Jesus as the Son of God. There's much background noise in the recording, but it's a story that a cameraman would wait 1000 years to catch on film. It's in Russian, but for interest it's at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGZ7FH6K9VU> Pictured right is a still from the video of this wonderful Jewish brother in Christ.

Finally we went to **Southern Israel**, to the small towns of the Negev desert where many Russian pensioners have been settled. We had an encouraging memorial meeting with brother Nikolaj whom we baptized last visit, and met Emil, another Soviet Jewish intellectual who has been in touch with us a few years and studied Bible Basics to the end. But like Shimeon, something stops him getting baptized. Please pray for him - by God's grace he may follow the same path as Shimeon.



In their old age, these men have turned to God and their Messiah in spirit and in truth. Blessed are those who remembered their creator in the days of their youth and decided for Him and His Son then, so that they might serve Him in their lives, rather than having to spend a large proportion of life working through basic questions about God and Jesus.

Carelinks | Japan

We've been corresponding for a while with DANIELLE, a New Zealand Maori woman in prison in Japan who providentially got a copy of Introducing Bible Basics in prison, mailed us answers to the 120 questions, and then did Bible Basics and mailed us another 100 or so answers to those questions - and then passionately desired to be baptized, and has engaged in the most profoundly spiritual correspondence with sis Helen Pyper of Carelinks New Zealand.

All our prayer requests for this situation have been answered!

You can see Danielle's answers to the Bible Basics questions at:

www.biblebasicsonline.com/inc/japan1.JPG www.biblebasicsonline.com/inc/japan2.JPG
www.biblebasicsonline.com/inc/japan3.JPG www.biblebasicsonline.com/inc/japan4.JPG
www.biblebasicsonline.com/inc/japan5.JPG

But visiting Danielle was humanly speaking impossible, she is only allowed visits by blood relatives - nobody else. So it was with prayer and faith that we began to request special grace for this visit. After much contact, permission was finally granted. We had an email stating that the visit had been agreed for December 12th. So we went there and did it. Please spare a moment to just praise our Father and His Son for enabling Danielle's baptism. Really it was THEIR work, and they worked extensively to bring a wonderful woman to themselves. She was in tears most of the way through, we of course have no photos from within the prison, but the record is with God. She prays daily her family in New Zealand can be baptized, hopefully the Pypers and others will be in touch with them soon. She is really unusually deep in her grasp of both the doctrines of the Truth and also of the real essence of the spirit of Christ. She is a Kingdom person, very much so. She is in a cell with 8 other women so she now has an audience to preach to - women from all over the world. She is really a wonderful sister. All was worth it. Thanks so much again for your prayers without which this unusual situation wouldn't have unfolded as it did. Please do take a moment right now to pray for our sister, and to thank God for His grace.