

The Gospel News



"To all nations"



Editorial | We Must Change

We all likely imagine ourselves to be liberal minded, open to change, aware that we're on a journey, unafraid of where we might be led. But reality is otherwise. From childhood we prefer routine, doing the same things in the same way with the same people. We observe people existing in awful situations, physically and emotionally because they cannot bear the thought of being any other way. When things get tough in life, or painful memories are re-stimulated, we tend to react in the same well-worn paths of response, open the fridge and find something sweet, say the same angry words, think the same bitter thoughts, recall the same acutely painful memories of related pain. But the call of Christ, the way of the Spirit, is the very opposite of conservatism. We are challenged daily from God's word, from the path we are taken by providence, the people we are led to meet, the situations the Angels arrange for us... and the enigmatic words of Jesus in Jn. 3:8 become no less enigmatic, but all the same ever more true to our observed experience: "wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but do not know from where it comes and where it goes. So is every one that is born of the Spirit". Israel's wilderness journey was along paths and routes totally unknown to them: "You have not passed this way before" (Josh. 3:4). And so with us who, like Abraham, obediently go forth towards a land we do not really know, without any clearly defined highway there stretching before our eyes. But we are led on this way with great resistance on our part; because we are so conservative. The divine leading seems at times more a dragging of us, kicking and screaming. It is God's grace and indefatigable desire to save us which overcomes the resistance of our native conservatism. Sadly, many believers have tried to have the best of both worlds the exciting life of being led by the Spirit, and yet encasing this supposed way of life within a conservatism which they justify as 'defending the Truth'. A mistaken assumption is often made - that conservatism is next to Godliness, a required form of spirituality; the way we used to do things must be right. Of course, the basic truths of Christ cannot change. But I'm not talking about those things.

"The old is better"

The fact is, we must change. And radically so. The life in Christ is a path of radical, daily transformation. The Lord recognized the basic conservatism of human nature when He noted that "No man also having drunk old wine immediately desires new: for he says [deep within himself], The old is better" (Lk. 5:39). The Lord taught this in the context of engagement with John's disciples, who thought that the old ways of the Mosaic law could be mixed with some form of belief in Christ. He likened such a position to putting new wine into old wineskins; or taking a piece of new cloth to patch up a torn old garment. The stress in Mt. 9:16 may be on "a piece". Taking parts of Christ's teachings was the temptation being given into by John's disciples. The torn old garment had to be thrown away and the new one totally accepted and publically worn. Yet the Lord recognizes our conservatism, and His patience with us is proof of that. "No man... immediately desires new" appears to be a concession to the weakness of John's disciples, and to our weakness. The Lord accepted that they would not make the change immediately. There was indeed a changeover period between the Lord's death and the destruction of the temple in AD70, and the early church struggled with issues like circumcision, fellowship with Gentiles etc. They were struggling to totally reject the old and accept the new. And in human lives today the Lord recognizes that the total change of life will not come immediately - because we are essentially conservative. To get a piece out of a new garment, that new garment would be spoiled; the old one likewise would be rent further. "New" cloth refers to cloth which hasn't yet been washed (cp. baptism); on first washing of the new garment, it would

shrink, and thus make a tear. The tragic waste envisioned here is like the new wine running away on the ground from the old burst bottles. Likewise the old wineskins would've had to have the old wine poured out from them to have this new wine put into them. Mixing the old life and the new covenant, a bit of the one here and a bit of the other there, results in this tragic wastage all around. The Mosaic system is described as an old garment in Heb. 1:11; it "shall perish" uses the same Greek word as in 5:37, where the bottles "perish". The new garment is that of Christ's imputed righteousness (Rev. 19:8; Mt. 22:11). Agnaphos is a combination of the negative article a, with knapto, meaning, "to card". It therefore refers to an uncombed or unfinished material. This suggests that the New Covenant is an unfinished work; God's work in us is on-going and may take apparently unstable turns and changes - e.g. prophecy is often conditional; the intended timing of Christ's return has and may yet still change, dependent upon factors like the freewill repentance of Israel; God may plan one line of possibility for someone or a whole nation, e.g. Nineveh or Israel at the time of Moses - but change His stated intention in response to human prayer and repentance. This open-ended approach simply can't be squared with the "old" set-in-stone approach of the Old Covenant. The same message is taught by the next parable - new wineskins are required, because the New Covenant wine is fermenting, they need to be soft and flexible enough to change; if they are old and set, they will burst because of the movement and dynamism of the new wine. The wine of the Lord Jesus is therefore not about tradition, about a set pattern; but is rather a call to constant change and evolution. Yet paradoxically, religious people become set in their ways more than any, and seek stability in those traditions; whereas the activity of the Lord Jesus is the very opposite. Each wineskin expanded slightly differently in response to the fermenting of the new wine poured into it; no two wineskins expanded to an identical shape or form. We, too, will individually and uniquely respond to the new wine. We must change. If His new wine is not totally accepted, if it is mixed with the old, then lives will be destroyed through further schism. The only basis for avoiding schism is a total acceptance by all parties of the blood of the new covenant. When we read that the wine otherwise "runs out", this is the same word translated "shed" concerning Christ's blood (Lk. 20:20). Especially significant is the reference in Mt. 26:28 to Christ's blood of the new covenant being "shed". Failed spiritual life, the life which only partially accepts the new wine of Christ but refuses to change, refusing to be new containers for it, results in the blood of Christ being as it were shed, the blood of Calvary wasted in the dust, and Christ crucified afresh by our apostasy (Heb. 6:6). This is the final tragedy of refusing to change upon receipt of the new wine.

God in Search of Man

We must change, but we do this by letting Him change us. Of ourselves we don't have the steel in our will, the iron in our soul, to do so. Admittedly, the Lord had our nature, and He did. But we, from years and decades of observed personal experience, simply do not. When we read of the process of 'conversion' in the New Testament, the idea is not simply of our changing. It is equally of allowing Him to convert us. God may appear distant and passive, but once we grasp the doctrine (and it is that) of the work of His Spirit in human life, we are left in wonder at the scale and detail of His work. And He works globally, in different ways in different lives, sensitive to the unique personality, history and situation of each of those He would have as His children. He offered a sign to Ahaz to develop his weak faith; He was angry that Zacharias wanted a sign to prove that his frequent prayers to have a child would actually be answered; and He willingly responded to Gideon's request for signs regarding the fleece, and then took the initiative to give Gideon more signs when he overheard the conversation of the enemy soldiers. We each have weaknesses in different areas, needs for spiritual development in different aspects, different

talents and varying amounts of them granted to us; He works so actively in our lives according to a personal progress plan which He has been developing from the beginning.

Man is not alone in this world. Beyond the steely silence of the skies, there is God and His Son, working (or seeking to work) powerfully in our lives, every moment. Job realized this, in one of those flashes of insight born from deep suffering and internal turmoil: “You visit him [man] every morning, and try him every moment” (Job 7:18). It’s not that we are simply seeking for God and somehow, sometimes and in some ways we find Him. We are indeed in search of God, but God is in search of man. His Son is seeking “goodly pearls”, the Father is looking and hoping for the return of His Son, out looking for workers in his vineyard, and He revealed to Jeremiah that He is as it were running around the streets and squares seeking men. And so when God’s search for man and man’s search for God come together, the whole of Heaven is electric with joy, all the Angels rejoice together. But we, nervous little characters that we are, bounded by our conservatism and the very narrow frames of our vision and thinking, we who squirm in the dentist’s chair, we who, as children, feared whether our loving parent would really not let go of our hand as we first jumped into a swimming pool, feared whether loving, doting daddy would really do as he promised and not let go of our bicycle as we learnt to balance and ride free... We, Conservatives that we are, house proud town mice, or glued to our land and village way of doing things, vainly wishing to believe that the old and familiar must be the right and Godly way. We. Need to change, through believing more deeply the most fundamental truth of the cosmos: That God loves us, and wants us for His Kingdom, and through all His active leading and challenging of us, will never let go of us.

| Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM BENIN



| Bro John Aduje

I write to express my gratitude to you for your concern about my spiritual growth by sending me regularly the Gospel News, and especially the European version Bible with commentary. I am so delighted with them. May Yahweh continue to strengthen you in this great work you are doing in His vineyard.

I also want to take this opportunity to let you know the change of my postal address which is now:

Carr188 Missebo 05BP 1392 Cotonou Rep.Bu Benin.

NEWS FROM BURUNDI



| Bro John Kiyago

I am a father of 5 children twins twice! I was a refugee in Nyarugusu camp before the government of Tanzania suspended my refugee status and I was forced with other Burundians to go back to Burundi.

At last I found that it is better to go back to Burundi than to remain in a foreign country illegally. I talked to my wife and decided to go. With our decision, I found that there is no government assistance even from NGO'S. I do not have even a ticket and do not know how I shall start a new life there without land for agriculture or a house to live in or food for my family.

NEWS FROM CAMEROON



| Bro Bua Moses

Greetings in the 'Sure mercies of David' which we are privileged to now share, hoping that his great, great, great grandson will soon come to this earth for good and divine things to be seen in those worthy.

Thanks for the Bibles you sent to the brothers and sisters in Cameroon. We are making use of them to those in real need. We have 12 contacts around our area who are studying the book 'Introducing Bible Basics' we also follow-up with them some scriptural passages. We are grateful for the support from you.



Brother Bua Moses, Cameroon

NEWS FROM CONGO



| Bro Kims Mukambilwa

It gives me great pleasure to report the baptisms of five Sisters in Kinshasa, pictured right and below.

We visited Bro Zambrotha in Maluku for the Gospel News, which was very nice, they are in need of Bibles, as there were only three Bibles amongst thirteen.



The meeting at Maluku

NEWS FROM GHANA



Pictured above Bro Wonder and Sis Sarah during their traditional marriage.

NEWS FROM KENYA



ACOCKS SCHOOL | Sis Emmy Millicent

I am pleased to tell you I am well and looking forward to the return of our Lord. The work with the needy children I strive to look after within my slender resources is still going strong and I attach a photo of some of them, pictured below.



BUNGOMA | Bro Edward Kunikina

I really say many thanks for the Gospel News you send me. I get them in good time and I pray that God will bless you for the work you are doing in these last days. Many things are being done in our country which are not usual for a person of good health and mind to do. The Word of God is good and may we continue encouraging each other so that when our Lord Jesus comes we may, by His grace, enter the Kingdom of God.

EL DORET | Bro Jacob Okoth

Biblical prosperity is not based on the amount of money, possessions or real estate you have, it begins with “Your relationship with the Lord”. The key to success begins with recognising who we are in Christ – your relationship to the Word and Jesus, the Lord.

God’s purpose is that when He blesses you, you can be a blessing to others. Remember Jesus in all the storms of life that you are undergoing and its vices. Don’t be so much absorbed with your own affairs, trying your best to steer straight, anxiously watching the events around us and allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed. We must keep our eyes and total attention on the only one who can help us - Jesus.

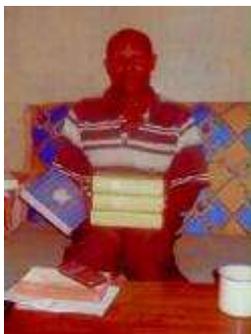
KITALE| Bro Anthony Kafula

We are all watching and waiting for the return of Jesus Christ. We are hoping that you are also fine in the presence of our Almighty God. I would like to say how much I appreciate the Bibles and lovely calendar you sent. May God bless you and enable you to continue to do the work of God without ceasing because the Bible tells us that we have to be watchful always by reading the Scriptures daily and praying so that we may be saved in the coming day of our Master. I have distributed the Bibles and calendar that you sent as you can see in the photos, I have sent you one of my family and others, and everyone is very happy to have them.

I know very well that if you are doing the work of God sometimes this will be difficult but God will make everything simple and light by showing you the way. In my Church there are a lot of challenges such as brothers, sisters and children who are living with HIV AIDS. In my Church there are 20 members – 13 sisters, 7 brethren and 12 children, all of them are in my Sunday School. Here in Africa if anyone is suffering with AIDS other people think they are cursed so they refuse to live with them or help them so that they suffer from lack of food, medicine or even a blanket.

I and Bro Herman Kisaboli and Bro Christopher have spent a lot of time to teach them and give them food like porridge, and medicine to comfort them. Although we don’t have enough funds to make them happy it’s very difficult to help these people without it, but God will do something because we don’t have anyone to help us with this project. Brother, if you know anyone, a brother, sister or friend who will stand with us please tell them and inform me and I will send you photos and details of those who are affected in our Valley Area.

My second request is for a copy of the book “Beyond Bible Basics” to enable me to understand more difficult teaching.



Bro Anthony Kafula with three copies of the Bible in his house



From back right – Bro Herman Kisaboli, followed by Bro Abraham Keiza, then Sis Annan Ondego, then Sis Mercy Baresa. Back again, in black, is Bro Kelvin Kanjala, followed by Sis Elizabeth Klamalus. In red T-shirt is Bro Bill Kisaboli. In front of him is Sis Rhodah Kafula and lastly is Bro John Lumbasi. In front are 4 Sunday School scholars – Mercy Kafula, Vivian Kafula, Faith Barasa and Brihton Barasa.

LURAMBI | Bro Martin Clemiati

Our Ecclesia very much like Gospel News and would like to have more copies. We would very much like to have some more Bible Companions for the daily readings. We have found 'Revision Studies' very helpful in instructing the 17 Brothers and Sisters who have recently been baptised and would be very happy if it is possible to send us about 20 more copies to be used in our preaching efforts.

MANYUANDA | Bro Gordon Ochieng

It's marvellous the kind of work the spirit word is doing here in North Nyanza, Kenya. The parcel you sent has been so helpful and as fishers of men we cast our nets wide and managed to catch fish. Bro Vincent, Bro Joshua Ayal and Bro Aimo and I organized an outreach campaign where we encountered people still serving idols. The image being worshiped at Yamoloko village is pictured above right.

I am happy to report that we baptized Rose Mary and Maureen from that village. They have embraced true Christian faith and have abandoned the worship of their god of fortune (Village Baal). It's our prayer that they will grow spiritually and bring more to know the truth. Please kindly send us more literature to help us in this work of following up gospel proclamation. We do appreciate the literature you have already sent but please, if possible, send us more Bibles, Doctrinal leaflets and CDs.



New Sister receiving Bible and Hymn Book Our Brothers standing in front of the Yamoloko village



idol **MOMBASA** | Bro Walter Wanyama Wasike Bro John Onani and his son Protus Omondi

SINDO | Bro John Onani

Why do not more people accept it if it is a good religion? Remember that Jesus Christ himself only had a small number of disciples. What he preached was too hard for most people to accept, many people hated him and the crowd of people shouted “Crucify him”. He himself said that only a few people would be his real followers, Matthew 7:13-23. History reveals God saves by few and through those whom he has called, both men and women of faith.

We have seen how the ten tribes’ leaders were punished, their minds were evil, corrupt and deceitful. The two tribes led by Joshua followed the God of Israel with their whole



TARBO | Bro Nzai instructing Sunday School Teachers heart. We have learnt through the flood how Noah, son of Lamech, survived because he did God’s Will and God saved them from destruction. Genesis 6,7,8,9.

Today we witness in this so called Christian era, how Christendom has gone astray for preaching the Gospel message of the serpent. The Bible reveals how the human heart and mind is deceitful in Jeremiah 17:9.

We are promised eternal life in Titus 1:2 and Numbers 23:19 by God, who cannot lie and we must endure until the end, only death can stop us, but in obeying the Truth God has assured us of resurrection by raising Jesus of Nazareth with great power and glory. We must pass under three T’s – tempted, tried and tested and finally receive the reward of eternal life promised in Hebrews 2:14-16, Hebrews 4:15,16, Philippines 2:5-11. We must never give up and our efforts will be rewarded. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

I received the book entitled “The Real Christ” by Bro Duncan Heaster and other Bible literature for spiritual growth. I must accept that you have loved me with all your heart. You have tried to maintain your brotherly love to me and shown it in action by doing your best to save me.

TONGAREN | Sis Nancy Isaac

We were very glad when we received the parcel of Bibles which have helped considerable with our Youth Studies. The Ecclesia has considerably expanded to 40 members which has been the result of the Agape project which is sponsoring 30 children from our Ecclesia to higher education. For which we thank them and God.



Sister Nancy Isaac

NEWS FROM MALAWI



BALAKA | Bro Harry Benito

I would like to thank you for providing me with a disc and the Gospel News. I still wait for more good and new things to happen to us and may God keep blessing you.

Here at Balata we have a church but it is only made with clay, so if it is possible please help us so that we may build it with cement. Secondly, this year we have ten members who have been baptised and need Chichewa Bibles, so please send us ten Bibles. We also want to preach and teach others about the Gospel so that they may know about God and Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life, so please send us more preaching materials to use in spreading the Gospel. Thank you.

Student Estar James

CHIMIMBE | Sis Maicook

Thank you for the nice CD which I managed to get played at a friend's and since he has been to the meetings.

My granddaughter Estar James has been attending the meeting and wants to be baptized which means there are now five preparing for baptism. I have been away to Mozambique to help my son and now back in Malawi we are moulding bricks and hope to buy some corrugated iron next year so as to build a beautiful hall like other meetings.

MZUZU | Bro Sylvester Tembo

The prophet Isaiah had this to say to Israel:

“But your iniquities have separated you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear.” Our sins may be one of the contributing factors for not knowing God who is above all things both in heaven and under heaven. The wise King of Israel, Solomon observed, “Only a fool can say there is no God.”

To know God needs wisdom. The Bible is clear regarding wisdom:- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7). How can we know God then? God has revealed himself to us through his own given instructions – the Bible.

In the first chapter of Genesis verse 1 we read: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This is emphatic. We can know God through things He has created. Now because we are sinners, we might fail to come to this wonderful knowledge. To overcome this problem God has His own messengers who are sent out to proclaim His Name and wishes. Sometimes these messengers are known as preachers or witnesses. The preachers are aided by the spirit Word of God Himself which is His Word - the Bible. Read Mark 16:15-16. There we find Jesus’ instructions to the apostles: “And he said to them: you are to go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believes and is baptised shall be saved, but he that disbelieves shall be condemned.”

So you can see that knowledge of God gives responsibility. That is that believers, because of their knowledge of God will be saved. Hence disbelievers will be condemned.

PHALOMBE | Bro Thom Bicycle

I write to announce the death of my dear elder brother, Friday Bicycle, who died after a long illness lasting three years.

Comment: We do send our condolence to Bro Thom. MH

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

SALIMA | Bro Austin Nyurenda

I sincerely report to you all my fellow Brothers, the demise of Brother Gamah who we have laid to rest. He left a wife, two children, and grand children.

I delivered the speech to the people who attended the ceremony from the following books; Genesis 2:7 (the origin of man), Genesis 3:19 (the state of sin upon man), Ecclesiastes 9:5-10 (the behaviour of dead people) and 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (the resurrection of the mortal saints to judgement after the last trumpet), that is the hope of those who remain faithful to God until death.

I am just finishing harvesting maize and ground nuts. The rains were a bit favourable here in Salima district this year, but in some other areas it stopped while crops were flowering, therefore they will experience hunger situations towards the end of this year.



ZOMA | Brother Lameck Niwawala and his family who regularly study the scriptures together

NEWS FROM MAURITIUS



| Bro Herold Lafrance

Greeting in the name we share. Please find the baptism photo of Sister Ony who came from Madagascar to be baptised by the Mauritius ecclesia on 09 March 2014.

She was accompanied by her sister in the Lord, Colombe. They have spent two weeks with us. Please could you put this info in Gospel News.

Our new Sister Ony following her baptism

NEWS FROM MOZAMBIQUE



NAMPULA | Bro Alphonse Mauridil Kasindi

Brothers, I am going to summarize my answer to your questions and if, perhaps, you will need more details, feel free to ask more questions. I was born in a Christian family. My parents were both full church members of “Brethren Church” in Congo. When I was born I was brought up in the same faith as my parents. When I was subject to persecution and torture in my home country by members of my extended family due to property, plantation and other assets that my father left, after this I felt compelled to leave the country because they realised that I am heir of those belongings, and while I am still alive they will not possess them with a full freedom. So I left the country and looked for asylum in another country far from them.

This incidence took place in June 2004. My intention was to look for asylum in South Africa where I could be far from my enemies. On my journey when I arrived in Lichinga, the capital city of Niassa province in the west of Mozambique, I met by chance one of my cousins on the side of my mother who was a refugee there. He welcomed me and we stayed together for 7 years before we were separated. It is from him I knew about Christadelphians because he was also of this faith. He had many literatures and books and some copies of Bible Correspondence Course. As we lived together, one day he told me about Christadelphians, but I replied him that there is no other belief than what I believed in before. And I told him not to pay attention to join any denominations because the world is corrupted and many are Devil worshippers and anti-Christ, referring to his belief. As I did not have any occupation yet, and my hobby is reading, I began reading the literatures and other books which were in the house. When he came from job he

found me reading from time to time and he used to tell me there is no other true belief than the Christadelphian one. Because other churches teach the Bible in a wrong way, he added. But even if he told me that, I continued to harden my heart and told him that each one says what you are saying. As I continued to read those literatures, books and Bible correspondence course, after 4 years of study, I was convinced and found out the difference from Christadelphian Bible teachings and other denominations, including mine (Brethren Church). For example, other denominations teach that: Jesus is God; There is God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; The kingdom of God will be in heaven; satan is a rebelled angel of God; Jesus existed since the creation of the world; someone with the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues ... all these are false Bible teachings.

After finding the truth I agreed with my cousin and told him he was right because his belief teaches the Bible the way it must be taught without adding or omitting. Then I asked him what can I do to join Christadelphians. He replied, that I have to be baptized. I asked him why, as I have already been baptized. He replied that the baptism I received was from a wrong belief. This means it was a wrong baptism. This also took me a good time meditating on it. Finally I found it was true, because the Bible declares: "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism" Ephesians 4:4-5. To have the same faith we have to have also the same baptism. And on September 15, 2010, when one of our brothers from UK came to visit Mozambique, he baptized my wife and I after an interview that lasted about one hour. This is a short story of how I became a Christadelphian. God bless you. Bro Alphonse Mauridil Kasindi

C/O UNHCR-NAMPULA C.P 173 MOZAMBIQUE



Tete Meeting

TETE | Bro Emmanuel Maugente

I do thank you for the CD, and 'The Real Devil', which is really helpful and deals with the history of the idea of Satan. It helped me to understand the Satan in the book of Job. If possible I would like the CD in Portuguese and also the book, The Real Devil, the CD on refugees and other CDs of our Christadelphian songs.

I thank Bro James Hunter of Canada for the 40 lessons in Portuguese and the pamphlets. May the Almighty God bless this work. We are all fishers of men as in Matthew 4:19, "Jesus said unto them, follow me and I will make you fishers of men".

At the moment I am in Mozambique in the central provinces, living in the city of Tete, which has 152.909 inhabitants. The province has 1,832,339 inhabitants and the Mozambique area is 799,380 square kilometres and population 20,530,714 inhabitants, Tete Province area is 100,724 sq. kms., native language Nyungwe and approximately 26 languages from Romana to Maputo. Tete is a province known for its blistering heat and burgeoning coal economy and is considered to be a place best suited to men. At least 52 nationalities are represented in the province with a colourful mix of the first and third world cultures.

I hope this letter will find you well. Please continue sending me more books, C.D.s and videos, both Portuguese and English and Sunday School material about the Lord's coming.

Tete/Mozambique is still needing the push start from the U.K. in terms of the Gospel. I have been blessed to have been visited by brothers and sisters from the U.K. – Trevor and Denis and Mary Woodgate and I have been happy now to have baptised brothers and sisters in the city of Tete after a long period of isolation and hope to have more people knowing the Truth here.

I have explained to you in my previous letter that there is so much to do and everyone over here really needs your help so I am going to make one request of you. Keep Mozambique in your thoughts and prayers and try to involve yourself in it either through prayer or some other means. God really has been blessing us here. God bless you from the bustling cities and deep jungles of Mozambique; I think that just about sums up Mozambique – it is a gold mine for the Truth waiting for us and you to reach out and pull these people out of the soil of death. Over here we have a chance to share the hope we possess with a people who without us will never have this hope.



Bro Ricardo King and his daughter Laura



Tete gathering



Tete Ecclesia

I am personally doing what I can. Who are the missionaries? The missionaries offer the pearl of great price, they open doors, they are members of the family, they are the arm of the Lord. Missionaries are not 'them', they are who have a responsibility to preach to whomsoever, (Joel 2:32). Small in number they may be but their enthusiasm in serving God is an example we can follow from week to week. I will be looking forward to hearing from you.

NEWS FROM NIGERIA



ALAYI | At the Fraternal gathering we did not expect more than 200, but we thank God there were nearly 500, despite the condition of things and everything went very well and there were five baptisms. The five baptised at Alayi are pictured above: **Bre Festus Nkawkw, Michael Ovrebo, Paul Obioma, Adundu and Sis Comfort Nwachukwu**

ENUGU | Bro Goddy Nwosu

With sorrow we announce that our dearly beloved Bro Gabriel Chukwuani, has fallen asleep in Christ. He was an example to us all in his strong beliefs and trust in the Lord. He now sleeps awaiting the day of the glorious return of our Lord.

NEWS FROM RWANDA



| Bro Omar Ndamutsa

It is very hard for me to find words to express my heartfelt gratitude for the package containing four treasured Bibles in English, three NT in French and other literature. To tell the truth, the materials are really helpful.

Once more thank you for your labour in Christ as you devote yourselves to win souls to God.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



| KEMPTON PARK & SURROUNDS

We are humbled and thankful, again, as we see God at work! Sis Arlene McKlunsky (Isolation) is now living in Benoni. We look forward to seeing her fortnightly. The McKlunsky's breed dogs. Bro Peter Mulima is still employed, in the midst of his colleagues being retrenched. We are thankful and humbled when God answers prayers. April saw the whole ecclesia praying on Bro Peter's petition and on May 3rd he finally heard with a very definite "NO - you won't lose your job" and "YES - we very much need your efficient services." Praise God!!

A Congolese refugee family (Jimmy) from Randfontein has found it easier to join us for fellowship at Aphiwe, Tembisa. Their trip is now only 1.5 hours long, instead of 2.5 hours and they get home before midnight. We are reminded to be thankful for the blessings of having motor cars, making travel a luxury taken for granted, when we have brethren and sisters who struggle to come together.

Bro Stewart Walker (UK) has been out and exhorted us to remember three important P's. **Prayer. Priorities. Purpose.** As we move forward on our journey, we need to take time to realign ourselves with what is important. How we get there and why are we doing this? Through all, we must pray, as the scriptures remind us "Pray without ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

The Women at the Well '**W@W 2014**' was a huge success, the Winterton weather was anything but wintery. Sis Hannah Fadel travelled across the globe from USA to this tiny village in the KZN Bundu. For those who have not been to this charming little town, we had the pleasure of driving through the only robot intersection, and over both its speed humps! The food was delicious (Christadelphians always enjoy the food!) the lodgings charming, and the fellowship enriching. Sis Hannah guided us through learning to Fear Man or Fear God, in a down to earth and easy to absorb manner. We cannot wait for her to return to Africa again.



Sisters gathering, Bundu KwaZulu-Natal

| PRETORIA CENTRAL

A little Sunday school is on the grow at the Congolese meeting (Pretoria West). New challenges arise as everyone is accommodated in a very small kitchen! And, it seems the kids enjoy it so much that they want to bring their friends! Maybe it will be Sunday Schooling in the passage way outside!?!

A little Sunday school is on the grow at the Congolese meeting (Pretoria West). New challenges arise as everyone is accommodated in a very small kitchen! And, it seems the kids enjoy it so much that they want to bring their friends! Maybe it will be Sunday Schooling in the passage way outside!?!

| SOWETO

We in Soweto have a "Mother of note". We celebrated another decade fulfilled for our beloved Sis Leonie Verster. She, who touches all our hearts and lives in some special and unforgettable way, celebrated with candles on her cake and a home filled with a flurry of the flowers that she loves.

The joyful news continues, in that our Bro Austin Mataka is back from Zimbabwe, much to our surprise and delight, who we are pleased to report is looking and feeling very much better and where he belongs in our midst. Bro Daniel Makhado has been away in Limpopo to keep the work alive in that area. He goes for his driver's licence in the next fortnight, after which we will all benefit from the vehicle he has bought. All our movements in this part of the world are governed by the lack of independent transport, and so this is a great asset to the busy ecclesias we have here in the "City with a heart of gold".

We were very happy to welcome visitors from near and very far. At one of our Tuesday Bible classes 10 brethren and sisters from Australia and Canada, on one of the Christadelphian tours,

were able to join us for a short tour to some of the sights in Soweto after which Bro Rod Ghent (Toronto, Canada) led us in a very interesting and exhortational Bible Class on Baalim. We were very sorry to hear that Bro Rod had to be hospitalized in Durban with a blocked carotid artery. Our prayers for him and Sis Linda.

Other visitors have been Bre Gary Smith and Stewart Gomeza (Yeoville) who presented two of our seminars in our new 10 week Bible Basics series that we started on 11 May. We thank them for their labours. It is by God's grace that we have a constant stream of interested students from the area. It really is a privilege and a joy to share the true gospel with so many who are serious about understanding God's Word for themselves. We look forward to Bro Anthony Oosthuizen's presentation at the end of the month. We sent a delegation of 7 from Soweto to attend the Women at the Well weekend.

South African news is via Sis Paddy Campbell in the Gauteng Newsletter

NEWS FROM TANZANIA



KASULU | Bro Daniel Sabuni

We are pleased to report that we are all nurtured in the ways of the Lord and have pleasure in reporting five baptisms at the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Bre Abonimana, Anzuruni, Jafari, Pascal and Sis Byamonea in the Nyarugusu River at the camp.

We are finding the NEV Bibles very helpful in understanding God's Word and have had one baptism as the direct result of the Bibles you sent us, but need three more in French and at least two in English.

Photo top right: Bro Amsini in the blue t-shirt and Bro Sabuni, baptising Bro Abonimana

MBEYA | Bro Ewaldi Mushi

I am a retired school teacher and run a weekly Bible Class and we can have as many as 40 from all sorts of denominations and even Muslims attending. We deeply study the commentary section of the NEV Bible as it teaches us the way of salvation. One of the attendees is a professor at the Arusha University and he is much impressed by the comments in the NEV Bible.

NYARUGUSU II ECCLESIA

| Bro Alexandre Lukye

It is a long time since I wrote to you as I have been dangerously sick, but with God everything is possible and now I am o.k. For this reason, in our daily prayers we ask for the Kingdom to come right now so that we may leave this corrupt world. I appreciate your letter full of encouragement and appreciation which led me to fund and write to the various magazines for our contacts. Thank you very much for the book about James and the other studies. I am reading it today and I hope through it I will learn more about the Word of God as I know the Word of God gives health and spiritual riches.

NEWS FROM UGANDA



DAKHA | Some of the members of the Lumino Dakha Ecclesia, Uganda pictured above. Seated: Sis Helen, Harriet, Bre Godrey, David, Patrick, Sis Dlello. Standing: Sis Natoch, Andrew, four contacts and Sis Stella with her baby, followed by two more contacts and in the front our Sunday School children Elisha, Joel, Vackline.



KASESE | Brother Samuel Wanga with his super weapon ~ The Bible, which he uses for winning souls for Christ

NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



KAFUE | Bro Wilfred Chibomba

I have just received the two mails almost concurrently, one after the other, and I am so grateful for both, which included the book, Women in the Church and the Gospel News as well as other materials.

It has been a long time since I received information on world affairs in 'The Present Day Events', but I do have time to get some coverage on T.V. The changes in this country have had a bad effect on me as I lost my employment but now I am shortly taking up another job just to sustain my family, but it is hard to make up for lost time.

There are very many changes across the world now and we all should be careful not to let it hinder our progress in God's work as there is a time for everything. Isaiah 35:3-4 and verses 5-7, "in the wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert." So these are the last days we are experiencing which are spoken of in 2 Timothy 3:35, so let us win more souls to the Lord.

Lastly, let us tirelessly do His work by preaching His Word. 2 Timothy 4:1-5, the day is coming, 2 Peter 3:2-7, also Acts 3:18-26 and Acts 2:38-41.

KASAMA | Bro Boniface Simpanze

I and my family appreciate very much CAT's work in preaching materials, books and the like. Thank you very much for the DVD or is it MP3 – one on Scripture Studies and the other about The Real Devil. We also received the NEV Bibles, New Testament but only one complete Bible. This is a bit difficult at family level when studying because I always have an extra task of explaining any word found in a different version. This would not be the case if all six of us had the same version.

KAZEMBE | Bro James Kambobe

I really thank you through the Almighty God for a job well done. I am pretty certain now that the process of publishing materials has almost reached the highest peak. Better still, the good news is actually broadcast so tremendously that it has reached all corners of the world so that no one will say he has not heard it when the Son of Man comes.

Regarding the Bible project of the NEV, I would like to bring to your attention the fact that the project has played a pivotal role in the teaching of the 'Bible Messages' to brothers and sisters not only at our ecclesia or in Zambia or in Africa, but in the world as a whole some students have enjoyed them. I have got a television set to connect a DVD and need some CDs on Bible messages. I don't want my children to be watching these other films apart from the Divine messages. I would like my children to grow up in a manner that they understand the Word of God through actually watching and listening to CDs and DVDs.

MUFULIRA

Seven brethren and sisters recently interviewed and baptised by Bro Denis Kombe of Ndola at Mufulira.



LUSAKA | Bro Stephen Siamabi

Thank you for the care, love and protection through the Word of God and books you have been sending to me for the past nine years, I do appreciate the benefit I have gained from them.

I would like you to send me more books and spiritual guidance as we approach the Kingdom of God and to help me, if you can, to have some useful computer software which will enable me to read more books.

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



BANKET | Bro Fibion Ngozi

Has God recently answered some prayer of yours? Has that filled you with praise and thanksgiving for His loving kindness?

Knowing God's will is about looking outwards as well as inwards. Telling others about the way God has helped us. David in Psalm 40 tells us " I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings" (verses 1-2) He was at times down hearted, but not for long for he knew how to look beyond himself and fix his eyes upon God (verse 5) for him knowing God's will was to be in close touch with Him (verse 6). Read verses 9-11 several times and notice his open heart, open eyes, ears and mouth and then meditate upon

the following statement. I will never stop telling people about God's word. I know you will never stop being merciful to me. I have not been silent about your loyal and constant love.

CHIREDZI



Bible students

On the right Bro Tavaremba Mugova instructing a number of

CHIBUWE



Brother Mutambala Nondo

News from Europe / Eurasia

NEWS FROM RUSSIA



Our new Brother Vladimir - he plays professionally in the Udmurt Philharmonic Orchestra

NEWS FROM UKRAINE





With joy we baptised Brother Viktor at the Kiev Bible School - it took four brethren to immerse our brother as he has had a severe stroke and cannot walk

MATHABISA | Bro David Ngwenya

Greetings to you all in the Name of our Creator and His Son, Jesus Christ. We are delighted to report the baptism of Musaslin a Khumalo of Mathabisa. May God bless him on his journey to the Kingdom. May God give me the power for preaching the Word of God, the Bible.

What's The Significance of People Taking Hold of the Hem of Jesus' Clothing (Matthew 14:36)?

The Law of Moses commanded the Jews to make “borders” of blue upon their clothes (Num. 15:38), presumably to remind them of Heaven in daily life. The people were taking hold of the righteousness of Jesus, and were thereby healed. The healing had a basis - the fact that Jesus was perfectly righteous. But the same Hebrew word is found in Mal. 4:2, speaking of how the Messianic “sun of righteousness” was to arise with “healing in His hems”. Their seeking for healing in the hem of the Lord's clothes was therefore a sign that they accepted Him as Messiah. But the “arising” of Malachi 4 is the time of the Kingdom established on earth, with Judah freed from her oppressors. The time for Mal. 4:2 was not then. They thought it was. And yet the Lord still goes along with their misunderstanding, by granting them healing from His hems. This may have been simply from compassion of the moment towards human need; or it could be that the Lord was happy to reward faith when He saw it, even if it was based upon somewhat wrong interpretation of the Father's word. *D.H.*

“Even So, Come Lord Jesus”

“Surely I come quickly” (Revelation 22:20). His coming is fearful to those who are not ready to meet Him. But in this verse, the response is: “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” What kind of heart is portrayed in this response?

1) **A believing heart** Though it is now almost two thousand years since the Lord's return was promised, yet the believing heart still responds, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus”. This is the only good way for a believer to respond. The thought is, “Yes, Lord, I fully believe that you will come as you said. Christ's coming does not hinge upon our acceptance of the fact. My belief in his coming will make no difference whether or not he comes, but it will make a difference whether he comes for me. “Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time” (Hebrews 9:28). So for me it will make a great difference whether or not I am looking for him.

Sadly, not all men believe. Peter speaks of scoffers who ask, Where is the promise of his coming? Such is the response of unbelief. We surely would not scoff at the promise of the Lord's coming, but perhaps closer home is a subtle form of unbelief like that of the servant who said, "My lord delayeth his coming" (Luke 12:45). We can easily believe that Christ is coming but that he is probably not coming today. Such thinking results in disorderly conduct, as it was for that servant.

I once spoke with a young man who told me that the Lord is not coming today. This man's attitude obviously affected his behaviour. He was indifferent and was not living up to what he knew was right. We must rather be convinced that Christ is surely coming and that he could come today. His promise is by no means less certain because of the fact that he has tarried many years. Peter wrote that the longsuffering of God is one reason for his tarrying. He wishes not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

2) **A submissive heart** This is indicated by the "Amen" in our text. John was saying, "So be it, Lord. Even though I do not understand all the details, come, according to your will." What are some characteristics of Christ's coming? One is in the text: "Surely I come quickly." This has the thought of coming soon (without delay) as well as coming suddenly (without warning). Another characteristic is that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night (1 Thess 5:2). People will feel secure, saying "Peace and safety", but suddenly they will be robbed of everything they trusted in.

God has a perfect right to send His son for his bride, as He chooses. We may not be certain about the manner of his coming, but let us be sure that we are open to God's higher ways. Above all, let us not be so taken up with our conjectures that we are not ready when Christ does come. That is what happened to many of the Jews when Jesus came the first time. Jesus' mother, Mary, provides an excellent picture of one with a submissive heart before Christ's first coming when an angel told her that she would be his mother. "He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever" (Luke 1:32-33). Did Mary grasp everything that the angel told her? Did she understand how all the details would work out? She probably had a number of misconceptions about the whole thing. But Mary's response clearly portrays a submissive heart. She simply said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38). That is very much like John's response in Revelation, "Even so, come Lord Jesus".

3) **A ready heart** In Revelation 22, John recorded various truths associated with Christ's coming; one is in verse 11, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Another truth is in verse 12: "Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be". The coming of Christ will mean giving an account of our lives and being rewarded accordingly.

John's response, "Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus." It seems that he was saying, "I am ready. I have met the conditions that you have stated, and I am living in accordance with your will and your word." Does our heart echo the same readiness? Are we satisfied that we are ready to be forever with the Lord? What glory we will experience if it is so! But if we have failed to meet God's requirements for salvation, we cannot always honestly say, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." Instead, we need to take action to get ourselves ready. In his first epistle, John described how we can be righteous before God: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and

the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8,9). If we receive God’s grace and sincerely strive to live above self and sin, we can always be ready for Christ’s return. May that be true in our experience. May we be like the five wise virgins, who had their lamps trimmed and burning ready for the bridegroom.

4) **An eager heart** We sense this in the words, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus”. Here is the cry of an eager heart, one that is longing for Christ and even urging him to come quickly. What was behind this eager desire? Revelation 21 and 22 speak of the wonderful things John saw, things so marvellous that he had difficulty putting them into words. The light of the heavenly city was like unto a stone most precious (21:11,18), “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light.” John was bursting with the splendours of the New Jerusalem and these should also quicken our pulse and stir the heart’s longing for home. The greatest attraction in this magnificent place is the throne of God and of the Lamb, “And they shall see his face!” Oh, do we not long for the time and day. What overwhelming joy it will be to see our precious Redeemer face to face!

We must hold fast to the truth, adding nothing to it and taking nothing from it. If we do these things and if we have a believing, submissive, ready and eager heart, we can echo John’s response: “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

Bro Uka Egwa (Ohafia, Nigeria)

Holiness

The journey to the kingdom of the holy God requires holiness in us: “Try to be at peace with everybody, and try to live a holy life, because without it no-one will see God”. Something is said to be holy when it is set apart for God’s use and kept from profane use. In calling us to holiness, scripture has enumerated various areas of our lives to be separated from and dedicated to God.

1) **Our body:** “By grace, God has chosen to dwell in us” (Romans 12:1). He has made our bodies temples for His abode. As He is holy, so He demands that His temple should be careful about how we use every part of it.

2) **Our lifestyles:** God is calling Christians to live differently from people in the world who do not glorify Him (Roman 12:2). By adopting the right attitude towards Christ, we must have a new relationship to anyone in the world. We must press on so that our lifestyle, our actions, our day-to-day conduct conform with scripture, which will prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. We are to be an example to all around us.

3) **Our gift:** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16).

4) **Our worship:** Services which we offer in the worship of the Lord must be done in the fear and reverence of God (1Chronicles 16:29). Our worship must be done in holiness unto the Lord, and God will also accept and bless us accordingly, for we must give God reverence in our worship.

Let us all try our very best to serve the Lord God with all holiness. May our Heavenly Father bless us all, and send the coming kingdom that our Lord and Master Jesus Christ will set up on the earth.

Bro Joseph Kwesi (Ghana)

The Eternal Reign of Peace

The blessed climax of living for Christ, the Prince of Peace, will be finally realized when “the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev 11:15). Then Isaiah’s prophecy will reach the zenith of its long-awaited fulfilment, “of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David to order it and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever” (Isaiah 9:7).

What a wonderful time it will be when all the children of peace will blend together in praise to God and the Lamb in one glad fellowship of love. The trials of this life will seem small in comparison to that glorious heavenly atmosphere (Romans 8:18). Then we shall exchange our cross for a crown. What a blessed swap! In glory our labours of love will be amply rewarded. Non-resistance will not be needed because there will be no sin to resist (Mat 13:41-43; Rev 21:27). We shall be free from the very presence of sin. Dear brothers and sisters, are you prepared for that time? Have you walked so closely to the Prince of Peace that you will hear his welcome words: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21). “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (2 Peter 3:14).

Bro Henderson Sosola (Mtenthela, Malawi)

Registering in the Book of Life

It is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion”. Here, Israel’s rebellion is given as a warning to us. “Today”, not any other day, is the right time to make a decision whether to obey God and His commandments or not. Did you know that God’s ways are the only ones that have power to put anyone’s name in the record of the Book of Life?

Paul says: “He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life” (Romans 2:6-7). Also, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we, too, might walk in newness of life”. (Romans 6:4).

Here Christ's burial denotes the believer's burial of dead works (sins) while Christ being raised denotes the believer's newness of life.

And so righteousness, which is the newness of life, will make any of us, to be registered in the book of life (that is, if we do not grow weary in doing good). You can see what matters most in this case is our deeds. That is, good deeds will enable our names to be recorded in the book of life and bad deeds are not be found in the record book, the Judge will declare, "Away from me you workers of iniquity, I do not know you." And so such a declaration will result in the banishment from before the righteous Judge. Therefore it is up to us to consider our conduct and our ways. Why not register your name in that vital record, the Book of Life.

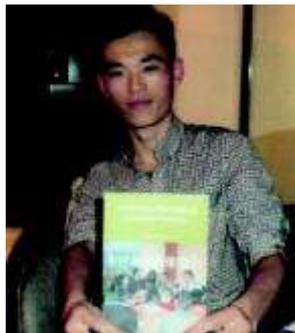
Bro Sylvester Tembo (Mzuza, Malawi)

Gardening with God

God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to look after it and care for it. Adam was not going to do this alone for Jehovah. God was time and again coming and inspecting the work Adam was doing. Adam was working with God until his fall.

We, as brothers and sisters in Christ have been mandated by Christ to take care of his farm - the ecclesia of God. We should do this voluntarily and devote our time and energy to bring a big harvest to the Lord at the end of our tour of work. This is a noble work, and no individual should claim superiority and work or labour as a lone ranger; rather we should emulate the apostles in their approach and also learn from the humility of our Lord.

The farm is the Lord's so we should try as much as possible to work with God in our daily tasks. The vineyard is big and ripe for harvest, but the labourers are few. We should pray earnestly for God's kingdom to come, while working with God in our lives. The apostles worked with God, and the fruits of their labour can be read in The Acts of the Apostles, and the epistles. They were quickened by the Holy Spirit and, even today, we are guided by the spirit word of God - the Bible.

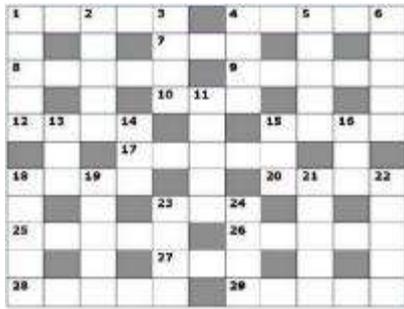


So let us all work with God. **CHINA** | Our new brother MA - seen here with Chinese Bible Basics literature

Bro Gordon Achieng (Manyuanda, Kenya)

Test Your Memory

See what you can do without looking up the references. The text used here is that of the King James Version. Solutions can be found on page 15



Clues Across

Numbers 26:59

1. Moses' father

Matthew 13:55

4. A half-brother of Jesus

Luke 3:9

7. "the ... is laid unto the root"

Mk 1:5

8. "baptised of him in the ... of Jordan"

9. "Have ye not known? Have ye not ..."

Isaiah 40:21

Matt. 5:34,39,44

10. "But I say unto ..."

Daniel 5:25

12. "... ..., tekem, upharsin"

1 Corinthians 15:22

15. Our ancestor

Luke 2:7

17. A high priest

18. "the burden and ... of the day" Matt. 20:12

Prov. 23:23

20S. "Buy the truth and ... it not"

Luke 2:7

23. "No room for them in the ..."

Exodus 25:14

25. "put the staves into the ..."

Numbers 11:27

26. A temporary prophet

Genesis 12:5

27. Abraham's nephew

Acts 16:1

28. City visited by Paul

2 Kings 5:1

29. The country of Naaman

Clues Down

Genesis 17

1. Abraham's original name

Genesis 8:7

2. Noah "sent forth a ..."

Luke ch. 2

3. Jesus' mother

5. "I ... at the door and knock" Revelation 3:20

Genesis ch. 19

6. City of wickedness

11. Otherwise called Araunah

1 Chron. 21:15, 1 Samuel 24:16

Genesis 3:20

13. The "mother of all living"

Luke 12:19

14. "... drink and be merry"

15. "the dumb ... speaking with man's voice"

2 Peter 2:16

16. "Love beareth ... things" 1 Corinthians 13:7

Matt. 2:16

18. He had the infants slaughtered

19. Saul's cousin and commander-in-chief

1 Samuel 28:7

1 Samuel 28:7

21. Where the witch lived

Acts 16:14

22. “a seller of purple”

Rev. 1:9

23. “the ... that is called Patmos”

Luke 5:4

24. “Let down your ... for a draught”

| Denis Jackson

“Faith Without Works is Dead” (James 3:17)

Faith does not make things easy, just possible. When you pray, move your feet. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in His way” (Psalms 37:23). The size of a mustard seed is very tiny and yet it can produce a big plant. The word of God teaches that all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed.

Your problem will be large or small according to whether your thinking is large or small. I have learned that all my problems, which I call challenges, will either stop me, stress me or stretch me according to the size of my thinking and faith. Each time that I have been stretched to go beyond my comfort zone, God was there. Each time I was stretched, I tapped into my power of creative problemsolving, my flexibility, my sense of humour, my intelligence, my ability to let go, my inner strength and, yes, stretched to give, be, and do more than I ever knew was possible.

Once you have been stretched to a new level of faith, vision and endurance, you cannot go back to old thinking. Stretching your faith and using mental muscles to move mountains will allow you to be the head and not the tail of your circumstances. Life’s circumstances may be pressing you right now: are you going to allow your challenges to stop you, stress you or stretch you? “Without faith, nothing is possible; with it, anything is possible”. In Mark, Jesus said: “With people it is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (10:27).

“Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing, and they that strive with thee shall perish” (Isaiah 4:10-14). “Thou shalt seek them, and shall not find them, even them that contended with thee, they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, ‘Fear not, I will help thee.’” The Lord Almighty will greatly do everything for us if only we have faith and trust in him.

Nobody told me the road would be easy. And I don’t believe He brought me this far to leave me. “Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart” (Psalms 31:24).

Look back to thank Him Look forward trusting Him Look around to see how to serve Him Look up to praise Him.

Whenever times get hard, when you don't know how you got wherever you are, let alone how you are going to make it out, out of the pain, out of the heartache, out of the terrible sorrow or situation you find yourself in, remember that God never built a staircase to nowhere. And you do what you can, He will do what you can't.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him."

"The elevator to success is out of order; you will have to use the stairs one step at a time."

"For a journey of a thousand miles, start by taking a single step."

1) You say, "It's impossible." God says, "All things are possible" (Luke 18:27)

2) You say, "I'm too tired." God says, "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28-30).

3) You say, "Nobody really loves me". God says, "I love you" (John 3:16; 13:34).

4) You say, "I can't go on". God says, "My grace is sufficient for you" (1 Corinthians 12:9; Psalms 91:15).

5) You say, "I can't figure things out". God says, "I will direct your steps" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

6) You say, "I can't do it". God says, "You can do all things in me" (Philippians 4:13).

7) You say, "It's not worth it". God says, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

8) You say, "I can't forgive myself". God says, "I forgive you" (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1).

9) You say, "I can't manage". God says, "I will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

10) You say, "I'm afraid". God says, "I have not given you a spirit of fear" (2 Timothy 1:7).

11) You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated". God says, "Cast all your cares on me" (1 Peter 5:7).

12) You say, "I don't have enough faith." God says, "I have given everyone a measure of faith" (Romans 12:13).

13) You say, "I'm not smart enough". God says, "I will give you wisdom" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

14) You say, "I feel all alone." God says, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Therefore, beloved brethren and sisters in Christ, let us all try and have faith in the Lord and trust in Him, and he will put all our sorrows, troubles and sufferings behind us. With all joy, let us wait hopefully of having a share in that kingdom, when our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, comes to set it up on the earth.

RUSSIA | Summer Bible School, Moscow, Russia



Brother Pavel (front, 2nd right) at 87 years of age made the 3 day journey from Siberia each way - an amazing example of devotion to the brotherhood

Bro Joseph Kwesi (Ghana)

Are you a failure?

Before the Almighty guided me into the truth, there were a number of events and circumstances in life that all pointed to the fact that I was a failure. During a number of years of living in the truth, I have experienced a lot of testing, temptations and challenges which try to affect my faith, spiritual strength and the direction I should be taking.

However, God has used these experiences to bring me to Himself. Actually, it is important to have Jesus Christ at the centre of all our experiences. The failures we may experience in life will all have a great ending, provided we develop a deep level of faith, trust and love for God. Recently, when reading the book of Joel, I found this verse of great encouragement:

“And I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army that I sent among you” (2:25).

Of course, this promise applied to natural Israel, if only they would heed God’s commandments. But it is also true for us who have experienced the dimension of God’s grace and goodness. But God has not promised to restore everything instantaneously, for the apostle says:

“For you have need of patience that after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:36).

So we must take the long term view.

My failures have brought me near to the Lord, but have also enabled me to continue walking with Him over these many years. I can now say without any reservation that given our efforts in the flesh, we are all failures. That is, without Jesus Christ at the centre of our lives, we are failures. Jesus said that without him, we can do nothing: “If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers: such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:5-8).

Our personal failure should cause us to look up and fervently seek the Lord. The sign of true wisdom is when we realise that we can do nothing without God. Any time that man, by his own efforts and flesh, tries to do even the works of God, failure is the inevitable result. Consider the

tower of Babel where man, by his own efforts, tried to build a tower to reach to heaven (Genesis 11). Think of Abraham who tried to bring forth the promises of God by his own effort; Ishmael was born, but God said the son of promise would be the child of Sarah and Abraham. Moses wanted to deliver the people of Israel before God's time, and he had to go and live in the wilderness for 40 years.

I have tried in my own effort to get employment, but all in vain. I am now in a rural village trying farming. Perseverance is required. I now realise that we must not only carry any burden that is given by God, and that includes the trials of this life - but we must also have the motivation of wanting to let the word of God direct our steps and have a vision that will be realised in God's set time. God's ways are different from the ways of man. His plan and purpose will be fulfilled. His kingdom will come and His will shall be done on earth as it is now done by the angels in heaven. Amen.

Bro Green Mumbelunga (Ndola, Zambia)

A Man or Woman of God

The Bible provides many instructions to enable us to perceive in our mind a picture of a man of God. Some components that depict such a man or woman of God are:

- ▶ Growing in the Lord
- ▶ Self-examination
- ▶ Accepting our faults
- ▶ Breaking of bread
- ▶ Desiring Christ's appearing

1) **Growing in the Lord** It is important for us to assess whether we are growing into the stature of Christ or regressing. Sometimes it is difficult because we find it hard to see our own failings when we are what we have chosen to be.

There is a benefit for us to continually review our lives, our thinking, our priorities and what we do and deem to be important. We need to be measuring ourselves by the heroes of faith, mostly following the superlative example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Daily reading the word of God and seeking the help of our Father in prayer, are crucial in the need for growth in Christ. "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves" (James 1:22).

2) **Self-examination** Self-examination is one of the important things we are called upon to do as believers of Christ Jesus. It is good that we should all be aware of, and sensitive to, exhortations that touch upon known weakness and failings. We find it hard to see ourselves as others see us or, more importantly, how God sees us. The problem lies in the flesh, the heart, the mind of men, which is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9). Only God can, truly see us because He knows our thoughts - He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Therefore, as servants of the Lord, we must recognise how deceitful the human heart is, how prone to defend itself against criticism, even when we know it to be justified and true and we

must also forgive and to learn to ask for forgiveness. 3) **Accepting our faults** A believer of Christ who practices self-examination eventually accepts his/her faults or sins. When we are under accusation or allegation, we tend to become very self-justifying and refuse to accept the guilt before God for our real sins for which we should feel guilty.

We should, of course, welcome constructive criticism of our character and be thankful that someone has been courageous enough to speak with us about a fault or a sin. For many times we become experts at diagnosing the faults or sins in others whilst being blind to our own shortcomings. This is not a characteristic that we ought to have as a brother or sister (Mat 7:3). Judgement upon our fellows belongs to God who will determine who goes on the right hand or the left. We need to be more aware of personal weakness and sin and learn to ask forgiveness. There is a responsibility to speak to a brother/sister about a fault or sin, albeit discreetly, all the time being conscious of our own shortcomings. We need to remember how frail we are, and that we are utterly dependent on the grace of God. For we ourselves are nothing and have nothing (Job 1:21; 1 Tim 6:7). Pride and selfishness come before a fall. We just need to be spiritually attentive to fleshly desires that can lead us astray and intoxicate us so that we have a mistaken view of our own importance. Paul the apostle calls upon us to be “kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another” (Romans 12:10).

4) **Breaking of bread** The memorial service is the most important time in our week. The word of exhortation is designed to prepare our minds to share in the bread and wine - the symbols of the Lord's body and blood given for us (1 Cor 11:23-32). Reflection and introspection is needed so that we should not eat and drink unworthily, so coming under condemnation at the last day (1 Cor 11:29).

5) **Desiring Christ's appearing** Where there is a will there is a way.

An important attribute of a man of God is a firm belief in the return of Christ and the setting up of God's glorious kingdom on earth. By having lived a life focused on that wonderful time now, giving diligence to enter into that rest (Hebrews 4:11).

Bro Isidore Mwibeleca (Nyarugusu, Tanzania)

The Second Greatest Commandment

“Teacher, which is the GREATEST COMMANDMENT in the Law? Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40.

When we consider the conditions under which our brethren are living in the refugee camps – the hunger at times, because it is not possible for the authorities to provide adequately for everyone, the humiliation and general inconvenience, the feelings of despair and sense of hopelessness with no idea of how long they must endure this hardship, especially for those with families and their concern for the future of their children in this pessimistic situation, and those older brethren whose aging bodies are suffering under these harsh conditions, how actively are we seeking to apply these two commandments – the greatest - in our love towards Our Heavenly

Father? Jesus, the Son of God provided the example in submitting to his Heavenly Father's will in giving his life, going the full length, suffering the heartless brutality of



crucifixion, to remove us from the hopeless bondage of our sinfulness “and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). He fully realized and responded thus to God's great love and entire focus to reclaim mankind to himself. This is the essence of Gospel Message, and therefore the basis of the two commandments, which in its absolute greatness, forms the support of all the law and prophets. In following Christ, our goal should be carrying out the will of our Heavenly Father in applying our lives to the principle of so pleasing him, by extending our effort to provide for our suffering brethren the same relief we need for ourselves. It was not easy for Jesus, as his entire life was one of sacrifice for mankind, climaxing in his crucifixion, but God was his stay, sending his angel to strengthen him when he appealed for the needed strength. While Jesus' sacrifice was aimed at redeeming us from our sinfulness, he brought out in his parable in Luke 10:27–37, the practical way in our everyday lives, in which these commandments could be applied. Our brethren in the refugee could be likewise described as being stripped of all their possessions, wounded in spirit and lying half dead in their hopeless existence.

Notice unlike the Priest and Levite, the extent to which compassion moved the Samaritan – he went to him, bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, setting him on his own beast, so that he had to walk instead, to take him to an inn to be cared for. He still proceeded on his business but after ensuring the required comfort of the victim. Our Heavenly Father wants us to make this kind of effort to take care of our suffering brethren, because he loves them enough too, to sacrifice his only begotten Son for us all. Just as compassion for us moved him to the extent of sacrificing His own son, we must be similarly motivated to make the required effort in resettling our brethren out of those camps, seeking for them, I suggest, a stable environment in their own country, if possible close to established ecclesias. In this way, we express the first and two greatest commandments.

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Searching for Wisdom

Most people go out to search for precious stones and gold and silver to gain some wealth. To do that, much energy and dedication is required. And yet any wealth that is gained is only for a limited time.

A good picture of what I am saying is in the book of Job, 28:1-11. In that passage, Job has shown us what happens when mines of gold and silver are being constructed in order to acquire these precious metals. All the mining processes are done by the wisdom that is in man and not in wild beasts. Man's wisdom has proved to us where gold and silver can be extracted. That is from underneath the earth, and yet Job continues to pose a question for us: "But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?"

Have men bothered to search for wisdom as they do for gold and silver? What we ought to know in the first place is that wisdom is more valuable than gold and silver, because the man who gains wisdom gains life and favour from the Lord (Proverbs 8:35). Again, "Where is wisdom from?" Is wisdom in the deep as gold and silver? "The deep says, 'It is not in me' and the sea says, 'It is not in me'" (Job 28:14).

In Proverbs 2:1-4, we read of the Father's instructions to the son. It is therefore the duty of the son to take up every word and commandment that the Father gives us. In that passage there is mention of the ear and the heart. The function of the ear is listening, and that of the heart to do what has been listened to. Our heavenly Father has some instructions and commandments for us as His sons and daughters for the taking. Who is the wise son and daughter? The fact is that God's instructions and commandments are indeed wisdom for our taking. Therefore if any of us is looking for wisdom, the place to turn to is not in the depth of the earth or the sea, but in God's Word.

As it is said many times, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Job echoes the same, "And he said to man, 'Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom and to turn away from evil is understanding'" (28:20).

There has been only one person who has appeared to be our role model in this: "And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:2-3). These words of Isaiah refer to no other man than Jesus Christ. If we want to achieve our goal of searching for wisdom, let us imitate Jesus who is at the same time both the author and finisher of our faith.

Bro Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)

Fruits of the Spirit

Love

"Beloved, if God loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11)

Joy

"We worship and rejoice" (Philippians 3:3)

Peace

"The peace of God which passeth all understanding" (Philippians 4:7)

Longsuffering

"With longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2)

Gentleness

“Be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted” (Ephesians 4:32)

Goodness

“Ye also are full of goodness” (Romans 15:14)

Faith

“And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4)

Meekness

“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5)

Temperance

“Everyone that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things” (1 Corinthians 9:25).

Bro Uka Egwu (Ebem, Nigeria)

Visit to Candu, South Africa

Brethren Michael Floyd and Wilfred Alleyne from Birmingham UK were able to travel to Candu and experienced warm and meaningful fellowship. We arrived early Monday morning around 9-30 a.m. and settled in to our comfortable lodging at Templeton’s house. There was a week’s school holiday, so we were unable to witness the crèche in operation but there were still over a dozen local children being cared for during the holiday. From enquiries it seems that the crèche is functioning well with nearly 30 children attending. Everything was neat and



Playtime on Jungle Gym tidy and cupboards all locked up. The borehole is working well after the last renovations by Bro John Shrosbree and all the village benefitting. The ecclesia has many interested friends locally and in neighbouring villages and although we planned to have a class nearby, this class was cancelled at short notice. This allowed us to spend more time with brothers and sisters and fix the many problems with Dorothy’s computer. Various problems were discussed with the members and possible solutions put forward. The area has been blessed with excellent rains over the past few months so there is no sign of the drought that was so devastating last year that saw so many cattle and sheep dying. The rain tanks are full and the area is wonderfully green. Sadly, the wash away of the roads meant that the car experienced potholes and dongas (South African for deep sided gully created by soil erosion) that were far beyond the call on normal duty. Shock absorbers will need to be checked carefully when back

home! Only 4x4 can get down to the crèche. Bro Wilfred led a Bible study on “What happens when you die” which was well attended by members and friends. The unaccompanied singing was wonderful and the meeting vibrant. We were blessed afterwards to interview two ladies that had been attending for over a year and heard excellent confessions of faith. When asked when they would like to be baptised, we were pleasantly surprised to be told – “how about tomorrow morning”! Plans were put into place to arrange baptisms in the Bashee river, about 10k’s away. Next day we had a braai which we had planned for approx 20; over 35 were eventually fed. A long journey to take the cook Sister Nozuko Bula home was then undertaken in the dark. A



memorable experience not to be repeated!

Bro Michael Floyd (Port Elizabeth)

New Sisters being interviewed



A lengthy evening discussion followed at Templeton’s house with the only three brothers in the meeting, Eddie, Bungeni, and Templeton. The ecclesia now has approx 20 sisters.

Despite an influx of a million mosquitoes, a good night’s sleep ensued. The early morning call of the cock and chickens around 6 a.m. started a new and exciting day! After morning chats and a small breakfast, we arranged to have as many as possible of the ecclesia join us for the baptisms at the Bashee river. A taxi was hired and paid for in advance to collect approx 14 other members at 9-00 a.m. It eventually arrived at 9-45 A.T. (African)

Hymn singing at Bashee River

Time!) and we then left for a short 20 minute drive to the river. After hymns and readings, the baptisms took place in a quiet part of the river and we all welcomed with much joy our two new sisters, Nolugisile Gidi and Nomalungisa Tetyana. Arriving back at Candu and after a good time of fellowship we all enjoyed a breaking of bread service, where our two new sisters were given

the right hand of fellowship. Eventually we were able to take our leave and start the very long trip back, although the roads are now greatly improved. We were not impressed to read that the N2 in that area is rated as one of the most dangerous in the world but by God's grace we arrived back home safe and thoroughly uplifted.

The work of meal a day fund is greatly appreciated by all in the village and has made a profound difference to the village which continues to be totally neglected by local authorities. The upkeep of the premises was impressive and even the gardens and some trees had survived last years drought.

Various health problems were addressed and over 10 blood pressures and blood sugars checked! Accommodation is comfortable, albeit rural and the luxury of flowing water and flushing toilets is most appreciated compared to earlier days.



Hymn singing children

A Satisfying Inner Peace

Two immortal longings of the human heart are to be at peace with God, and to be at peace with one's fellow men and women. These longings exist because man is by nature at enmity with God (Romans 8:7). Though the world is trying desperately to supply their inner cravings for peace, yet they are total strangers to it (Isaiah 57:20-21).

Man is a stranger to peace because he is a stranger to the Prince of peace. However, peace with God can only be experienced after we exercise faith in Christ: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). This resulting peace is an inner condition of freedom from guilt, with rest of mind and soul, divine security, and oneness with God. Such repose of spirit and tranquility of heart is indeed marvelous. It is beyond human understanding, but not beyond human grasp, because we believe by faith: "The peace of God, which passeth understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

Peace with God is also a result of following the word of God daily (reading the Bible). Obedience to God's commandments is a definite ingredient to the life of peace: "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165). Such peace is not only a quality of life, it can also be experienced in great quantity: "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments, then had peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea" (Isaiah 48:18). Peace with God and men are largely dependent upon each other. Peace with our God is not entirely possible without peace with our fellow men. A relationship of peace with God prompts us to live in harmony and quietness with our fellow men. When the heart is renewed by God's grace, we are able to live peaceably with all men: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Proverbs 16:7).

To be a peacemaker we must follow Christ, the source of peace (John 14:27). Therein lies the key to peaceful living; Christ himself came to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:79). Peacemaking is a distinguished mark of being in the family and favour of God. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Bro Henderson Sosola (Lilongwe, Malawi)

Do We Celebrate Natural or Spiritual Births?

Setting our eyes once more on John 3:5, we noticed Nicodemus; a master of Israel, did not know the obligations needed by God from his forefathers Abraham and the prophets etc, to come to Him in humility.

When we are baptized we show that our old sinful life is put off and that we then put on the new man in Christ. The question is whether we should consider and celebrate natural births or spiritual births? Do we take the idea, 'except a man be born again' as serious. Hardly ever we hear that a bro/sis. is celebrating a spiritual birthday. Most do celebrate the natural. My opinion is, we do both if need be. We may use both as a form of preaching the Gospel, especially on natural birthdays where, on most occasions, nothing is mentioned of the importance of one's spiritual birth which is eternal. We should tell our friends and relatives that our spiritual birth is more important than our natural birth.

Comment: In my own Ecclesia we have an arrangement whereby a nice card is sent to each of us on our baptismal birthday. This helps us to consider the honour we have in being born into God's family. MH

Bro Bua Moses (Cameroon)

My Testimony

I started to receive the Bible's teachings from 1992 until the time I was baptized on 28/07/1998 by Bre David Smith and Tony Davis. I thank God because I continue well in faith and up to now I continue to read certain books, such as Bible Basics, to progress and to grow nicely in faith. God bless strongly Bro Duncan as he continues to send many books and the New NEV Bibles. It will please me if I continue with different brothers to exchange ideas and to remind one another of the word of God which is the pillar of our life.

Bro Shadruck Ngambi (Dzaleka, Malawi)

A spiritual birth: Bro Kum Cifford is baptised in Cameroon



A natural birth: Bro Zuwed Norbert of Tole (Buea) Ecclesia with recently born baby Priscilla

Letter: Prison Work

Thank you for the article you wrote in the last Gospel News, including the photo in remembrance of Bro William Casivant. It was a good article. Bro John Warner (San Francisco Peninsula) even mentioned it to the ecclesia on Sunday. I do miss Bro William.

The prison work does keep me busy besides the family and work in the ecclesia. Some days it is hard to keep up because I also have to pay attention to my health these days. I do find the prison work is difficult because of authorities, but it is like that all over the world. The sad cases are the sex offenders. I never in my life thought I would be dealing with this subject, but there you have it. I am finding they are not all the same, but they are lumped all the same and branded for life like Cain. There is Megan's Law which will not allow any sex offender anywhere near children, which means they can NEVER attend an ecclesia. Brothers and sisters have to go to meet with them if possible. Then they have strict rules. I'm learning more about this all the time.

One man in prison in Mississippi is a sex offender and there is no ecclesia for him to attend. He didn't think he could become a Christadelphian. He is about to finish Bible Basics and just wrote that he has stopped doing any other Bible studies that have anything to do with the Trinity. I will be sending him another Bible course soon.

Love in our Lord Sis Marilyn Seagoe

Comment: Sis Marilyn has done much to help prisoners come to the Truth for many years. Incidentally, I forgot to add Trinidad, where we often publish news from Brother Constantine who also learnt the Truth from 'Bible Basics' whilst in prison on Death Row. That makes seven countries where prisoners have recently been converted to the Truth from 'Bible Basics' in Prison. MH

Sis Marilyn Seagoe

Jesus' Parable of the Ten Virgins

Brothers and sisters, let us be letters of Christ as Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 3:1-3. First of all, changed behaviour must be seen in us by putting off the old man and then putting on 'the

new man' (Ephesians 4:24). We are to look good both inside and outside as saved brothers and sisters.

Secondly, to be letters of Christ in this present world, the fruit of the spirit must be seen in our behaviour (Galatians 5:22-23). We must apply this scripture in our own lives: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works" (Matthew 5:16).

Thirdly, let us be letters of Christ by expressing and demonstrating the love and compassion of God to our fellow brothers and sisters. If we happen to do what I have said above, then our Lord Jesus Christ will be alive in us.

May the Lord in heaven bless you abundantly as you live to please Him.



RIGA

Bro Sasha [far left] has brought many to Christ over the years and here you can see Bro Andy Downton and Duncan helping him baptize SERGEJ in the Baltic Sea

STAY AWAKE

"Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be likened unto ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise and five were foolish, for the foolish when they took their lamps took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom was delayed they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, Look the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, Perhaps there will not be enough for us and you. Instead you should go to them that sell oil and buy some for yourselves. And, while they went away to buy, the bridegroom came and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage feast and the door was shut.

Afterwards came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I do not know you. Therefore, stay awake! For ye know not the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

Matthew 25:1-13

Bro Joseph Kaliyaya (Kidatu, Tanzania)

God's Plan to Unify Mankind

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11.)

Although God divided and scattered mankind by confusing their language, it is His ultimate purpose to unite every nation, tongue and people through the Gospel. (Revelation 5:9-10.) Jesus instructed his disciples “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved.” (Mark 16:15-16.)

This extensive work of spreading the Gospel to all languages and people commenced on the day of Pentecost when Peter and the apostles were given the ability by the power of the Holy Spirit, to speak in the various languages of the crowds assembled in Jerusalem for the feast. (Acts 2:1-11.) Those who responded to the message of Peter and the other apostles were baptised (Acts 2:41). Thus commenced the spread of the gospel which unite men and women of all nationalities into the one family of God through Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:16.) Later the apostle Paul was specifically chosen to take the Gospel that was first preached to the Jews to the Gentiles (non Jews) as well. (Acts 9:15, Romans 15:15-16).

Finally, brothers and sisters, are we ready to help the Gentiles or are we willing to enable ourselves so that our sacrifices can be acceptable to God? “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11.)

Bro Stephen Siamabi (Lusaka, Zambia)

Mauritius Visit

It had been with some trepidation that Michael and I visited after an eight year absence. The Ecclesia, established in the late 50's thanks to the work of Bro Hubert Thorneloe and the hard work of Bro Frances Georges, also bore much fruit with many of his converts now running the ecclesia. Bro Leon Shuker from Yeoville joined us for the first few days. Having arrived at the magnificent new Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam airport, we then sped like freed birds down the very posh highway towards Flic en Flac. As we neared our destination, the traffic was dreadful; our route through Quatre Bornes was terrible but we finally made it to the self catering Blue Lotus Villas.



Next evening we attended the Tuesday Bible class

Phanuel Marie Jeanne plays the organ with gusto! at the hall. Herold, the Recording Brother, and his wife Lallita, arrived on their motor bike to open up. It was wonderful to renew fellowship with many young and old faces we had not seen for such a long time. The singing of hymns with much zeal was led that evening by Phanuel Marie Jeanne, a 10 year old who played the organ with gusto. We loved the whole hearted singing from their own hymn book; a selection of English 'Praise The Lord' and other French hymns. Bro Leon spoke on Romans which was translated by Patrice Abraham.

We have been quite puzzled by the lack of plugs in sinks and tried without success to find one in the shops and market. Our current theory is that Hindus, by far the majority on the island, insist on running water for religious reasons.

Sis Vanessa Floyd (Port Elizabeth, South Africa)

Bro Harry Bhagal with Bro Michael Floyd

Next day off to another Bible class. Leon gave an excellent talk on Hebrews 1 which got everyone thinking.

Next day Leon gave his last Bible Class on Romans to a full hall, appreciated by all present; much disappointment was felt that he would not be there to complete the series.



Sunday we left for the breaking of bread at Quatres Bornes. Michael's exhortation was on unity based on John 17; very apt for Mauritius with another Christadelphian group down the road and others in isolation. Straight after the meeting we took Bro Leon to the airport and a sad departure after such a brief visit.

Next day we visited Bro Lilkan, who is not well with early stages of Parkinson's disease; Santa and their sweet but sickly daughter, Brenda, were also there. A Brother from Ipswich UK – Albert Wade – married to a Mauritian Muslim lady, Ben, 33 years ago joined us. There is a good friendship between her and Santa. Michael went off for a long discussion with Lilkan and helped put many Bible programs onto his computer after getting rid of viruses. Lilkan finds it very difficult to walk, with bad feet from diabetes.

Next day to Quatre Bornes to visit Bro Harry Bhagal, an Indian brother and early member of the Quatre Bornes Ecclesia. We took him to a Chinese restaurant of his choice and discovered he was celebrating his 90th Birthday that very day! Quite an amazing man, ex headmaster and still very alert and active. His memory is phenomenal. He recollected all the things they had done together with Bro Frances Georges and how we had bought the land for the Ecclesial Hall for only Rupees 48000; now worth one million Rupees.

Off again that evening to another Bible class given by Michael – “Who is Jesus”, a study on how to know our Redeemer better. Thursday we paid another visit to dear Lilkan and Santa as Michael needed to complete work on his computer and fix his printer. This time Santa showed me her beautiful garden. Albert arrived soon after us and we had a good discussion about Bible prophecy. He invited us to tea (Vanilla tea) at his place and another chat with his wife also.

That evening, 5.30 p.m., another Bible class which Michael led. Statutory two hymns and readings done – it was 6.30 before the main talk “Sin and its consequences; Why did Jesus have to die?”.

Saturday ... The FRATERNAL! We asked Roy, the owner, for permission to have some friends around – maybe ten to fifteen but he said max ten – but relented if more came. He brought six chairs from his home and left them at the cottage next door. So all shopped out with lots of cold drinks - including Michael’s special vanilla iced tea blend, burgers, meat, pork sausages, snacks and rolls, we waited anxiously for the arrival of the hired bus of approx ten to twelve brethren and sisters and friends at 3.pm ... and that’s when the fun began! Then a bus with eighteen arrived ... and then two cars and a few scooters at 4pm! This is Africa! Instead of the ten to twelve we had expected, **thirty** arrived, with many youngsters with little ones in tow - the potential for a Sunday school and youth group here is HUGE!!



Brothers, sisters and friends at the fraternal



A few of the young people ...

Who are My Mother and My Brothers?

Jesus asked, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:31-35).

God gives an invitation to the thirsty: “Come all you who are thirsty, come to the water, and you who have no money, Come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy.< Listen,

listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare” (Isaiah 55:1-2). “There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.”

“And it will be said: Build up, build up, prepare the road. Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people. For this is what the high and lofty one says, he who lives for ever, His name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. I will not accuse for ever, nor will I always be angry for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me.”

Sis Dorine Mboya (Ndhiwa, Kenya)

Decision Making

Decision making is part of our everyday life. We make decisions on when and what we eat, when to sleep and wake up, etc. These, however, remain trivial as compared to decisions concerning worship, career, marriage and others. When taken wrongly, these decisions can ruin one’s life for ever. It is only God who can guide you, for He knows your destiny (Psalms 139:13-24; Hebrews 12:21). The flesh will paint elusive pictures and the carnal mind will want immediate satisfaction, but it profits to wait upon the Lord (Isaiah 40:31).

Decisions taken without God’s guidance lead to disasters and regrets. A man left Jerusalem (Land of Bread) to Jericho (Land of Waste) and ended up being beaten by thieves (Luke 10:30). The prodigal son’s decision to satisfy his youthful lust ended in failure (Luke 14:11-32). Samson was born a Nazarite but he chose to live a careless life, and the result was bitter (Judges 13-16). Naomi left Bethlehem (Blessed Land) to go to Moab (Land of Uncleanness) to dodge a temporary famine but ended up losing her family.



Others depended on God’s guidance and prospered in life. God told Abraham when to leave home (Genesis 12:1) and Jacob when to return home (Genesis 31:10). It was not easy, but God’s supremacy prevailed. The leaders of Israel and Judah who sought God before going to war had victory. Gideon and King Jehoshaphat defeated their enemies without throwing a spear (Judges 7; 2 Chronicles 20:1-24). Joshua saw the omnipotence of God and urged the Israelites to worship God alone.

Seeking God before taking a decision will level barriers and defeat enemies. One has to wait for God’s appointed time (Isaiah 60:22).

Waiting upon the Lord needs a lot of patience. Time will fly past, friends will prosper and others marry before you, but let not your hope crumble. God will raise you above them at the appointed time.

Probably, you are just being prepared for your inheritance. Beware of Job's three friends in your life for they will bring confusion and destruction. Depend on the Lord. He has promised to lead the blind and light their path (Isaiah 42:16). Ask in Jesus' name and receive (John 14:13-14). He stands and knocks at your door, and if only you will allow him to guide you, he will lead you to a satisfactory end. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then shall you call upon me, and I will hearken unto you. And you shall seek me and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon," says the Lord. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:6-10).

So, beloved brethren and sisters, whether we make known our decision to the Lord or not, He knows our inner thoughts. Therefore we should humble ourselves before him. May our almighty heavenly Father greatly pour out His abundant showers of blessings upon us all as we walk in that narrow and slippery road to the Kingdom of the Lord.

Bro Joseph Kwesi (Ghana)

Are You Strengthened by God's Word?

When faced with challenges, how do you cope? In Jesus' case, recalling an appropriate scripture helped him, as when facing temptations challenges (Matthew 4:1-11). Likewise, when King David faced personal trials, he also was strengthened by God's word. He said, "When my disquieting thoughts became many inside me, your own consolations began to fondle my soul" (Psalms 94:19).

In a similar manner, recalling a favourite scripture can console us or give us strength when we face challenges: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). Do we sometimes face direct challenges like Jesus? Then Philippians 4:13 may become one of your favourite scriptures. Like King David, do you suffer from "disquieting thoughts"? Philippians 4: 6-7 may help you to cope. Do you sometimes worry that your service to God is in vain? Then remembering 1 Corinthians 15:58 will give you strength.

By memorising appropriate scriptures, we allow God's word to exert power in our lives (Hebrews 4:12). Such favourite verses can provide us with both strength and comfort (Romans 15:4).

Bro James Kambobe (Kazembe, Zambia)

Keep the Word of My Patience

“Because you did keep the word of my patience, I also keep you from the time of trial which is to come upon the whole world, to test them that dwell upon the earth.” (Revelation 3:10).

“Therefore the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment to the day of judgement” (2 Peter 2:9).

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

These three quotations are very comforting in our day. If we are left on our own during this time of trouble, we could find it becomes very difficult to solve the problems we face. And we are told that there will be the time of trial which is to come upon the whole world, and during this time if we have kept the word of his patience, it will be good for us to know that the Lord will deliver us out of the temptation. Though these temptations come, He will provide us the way of escape. Thus we can see that the Lord is God in everything and whatever happens to us: “We know that to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose, all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28).

The wicked are kept for punishment in the day of judgement. Our protection will be because we have kept His word of patience.

To Abraham, God said, “In your seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” So it is that keeping the word of His patience and having obeyed the word of His voice will be key factors for our Lord to deliver us out of temptation. Our temptation will be the very common problems we face daily (1 Corinthians 10:13) that are common to man. They are there to test us who dwell upon the earth. And as we keep the word of His patience, He will also provide the way of escape. Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures for ever!



You can receive the weekly reports by emailing us at info@carelinks.net. Here are the highlights from recent reports.



Bro A D Liwawa (Neno, Malawi)

Carelinks | Ukraine

area, and made a movie featuring the conversation. It's in Russian but they speak with great emotion of how thrilled they are to know we are praying for them and thinking of them. They took the initiative in reminding us that they continue reading daily from the Bible Companion and breaking bread together; they say that telephone contact comes and goes, there are strict curfews and movement is difficult. And seeing masked gunmen patrolling your street, barricades and check points everywhere is of course very nerve wracking. Above is a photo taken in happier days of the ecclesia in Slavyansk; in fact this is the photo on the front cover of the latest edition of Introducing Bible Basics. Please pray for each of them.

Please, do continue praying for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Ukraine has announced the return of military conscription and the call up of military aged men, and this includes many of our brothers. Please do pray for them and for us to have wisdom as we try to do what we can for them. We've mentioned before that Slovyansk, the town which is currently central to the conflict, is home to a small ecclesia and we have previously reported visits to that town and baptisms there. The town is right now the scene of fighting and the young family there are remaining indoors - although this creates all manner of problems with not being able to work, buy food etc. We have spoken to sister Ira and also spoke to an older brother or sister in another flashpoint in the

Carelinks | Belgium



Bro & Sis Paul Jones of Calais, France with newly baptised brethren in Belgium

There are now many Iranian and Afghani brethren baptized in Belgium and we are doing what we can in appealing to the authorities to grant them asylum status. There is no way they can practice their faith in the regime they have fled from. We are baptizing people regularly in Belgium. Recently in Brussels it was a pleasure to visit and baptize sister ALMA and her 16 year old daughter ANNA. We appealed in previous Carelinks for Farsi Bibles to be sent to Belgium and there was response to that appeal. One of these was given to Alma, and along with Farsi Bible Basics she came to a thorough conviction regarding the Lord Jesus Christ.



Brother M assisted with translation and prayers. It was good to see Bible Basics used as it is intended to be used - as a guide to be read alongside the Bible, rather than simply read and uncritically accepted. In the discussions before baptism it was good to see brother M and our new sisters discussing the doctrines of the Gospel with Bible Basics open next to open Bibles.

Our sisters are keen to make public witness to their acceptance of Christ and rejection of Islam; so we have made a video of their baptism and at their wish have placed it on the open internet. It is mostly in Farsi but you can see it and share in their spirit of joyful commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7tQeqkphss>

Carelinks | Riga

An average of four people / week are being baptized by Carelinks, including one or two each week in Latvia. The question of course is 'How many fall away?', and that is hard to quantify. All we can say is that there is real spiritual progress in the lives of many of those baptized, to the glory of our Lord Jesus. And that is what we are all about. We hold 'sobriety birthdays' for those quitting alcohol, and some members of the Riga ecclesia are celebrating over five years of sobriety - that is how long they have been attending our meetings. This is real, tangible spiritual fruit.

We're also proud to tell you that brother Slavik and sister Judite were recently married; the Lord gave them the sunniest day of the year in Riga so far. They are amongst our most regular attenders at our meetings, and operate the sound and video equipment faithfully each meeting. Although they have been dealt a harder hand of circumstance than many of us, they have set a great example in trying to base their lives around the things of the Lord and getting properly married. You can see them in the photo outside the registry office.

Our brother Vladimir is now almost blind but continues to attend the meetings and do what he can, you can see him below attempting to cut sister Medina's hair, not without concern being expressed by onlookers!

Again we encourage you all to support the wonderful work in Riga by prayer, donation and considering whether you can come over and help cook, clean or teach.



Carelinks | Riga ~ Winter Welfare

The Riga Bible Center and Winter Welfare scheme was recently visited by Bro Trevor and Sis Alison Routledge from the Knowle & Dorrige ecclesia in the UK. They again demonstrated what it's possible to do without knowing Russian or Latvian. Trevor and Alison ran their presentations through Google Translate, then ran the result back into English to iron out obvious errors, and then a Russian sister [who doesn't know English] read out the Google Translate output in Russian, correcting any grammatical errors as she did so. There's really great potential here for brothers and sisters of all talents to come and trade those talents - cooking, cleaning, speaking, sharing, building, painting. Let us know if you'd like to get involved. You can see 30 minutes or so of Trevor & Alison's presentations and music recorded at: <http://youtube/S23x18QIKWQ>.



The week they were over saw the baptism of two very different sisters; DZINTRA, wife of brother Yuri, seen here with her husband, and



ELINA, an invalid with a withered arm who lives largely on the streets. Her baptism service was likely the only time when even on earth, she had had so much fuss made of her in her life [not to mention all the Heavenly rejoicing]. Pictured above right: Vanessa graciously ending Elina's special moment by drying her hair - you can see Sis Elina's bread bag on the table, part of the

left over food we gave her after the feeding scheme. We continue getting around trying to help our most needy brothers and sisters. Some can only stay in the night shelters for about 280 / 365 days each year, and this means that in the Winter [when everyone wants to be inside because of the cold] some have no 'days' left. They can however stay there if they pay just over 2 Euros / night. Seeing they have no income this is also hard, so we have been assisting with this in a few cases. It is too bad if sisters in their 70s struggling with high blood pressure and other issues, women who worked all their working lives, are now let down by the system and are basically told to sleep on the streets in the snow.

Those with communicable diseases [especially TB and HIV] aren't allowed in the night shelters. So those most in need of assistance are totally failed. So many of our members have TB. A chorus of coughs goes on throughout our meetings. We delivered food to two of our most needy members who are living under the stairs in a deserted building. Access is only through a loose window in the building. Not much fun living in such a snow covered building without heating, running water or toilet facilities.

Brother Trevor reports as follows: "Life at home is busy and I tend to take a day at a time, so preparation for Riga was limited. As we set off for Riga I had not looked at any books on Latvia or spoken to people about their experiences and so had little idea of what to expect. We had volunteered to help in a 'soup kitchen' for a week but as time grew closer I had become aware there was rather more to it. I have done some work with people in difficult places and so was not entirely unaware of possible scenarios we may meet. However, now we were off to a land we knew little about, to help some very poor people who spoke Russian! This was all because Andy and Mel said it was a great thing to do, they were going for three months and would like some help. So my impressions:

- things in Riga are a lot more organised and structured than I imagined, with a well practiced routine.
- the group consists of close to a hundred people daily [many of them baptized]; they are a mixed group of people including some very intelligent and educated people.
- there is a close bond among the group and they are emotionally connected.
- there is a willingness to contribute by some, this I understand is continuing to develop.
- the afternoon visit lasts for 3 hours: firstly, there is a time for coffee and chat, secondly, there is a Bible time with lots of energy and engagement and thirdly the meal which is very orderly and quickly over.

At the end there is clearing up which is a big job, here some of the people again do their part to make this work easier. We did visit a night shelter one cold snowy night and also an empty building where some others were living. Life is very tough with no real solution in sight.

In Summary: the decision by the Bolers and the Downtons to support the Heasters through a three months feeding program with the help of friends has fed about 100 people a day over the cold winter, taught willing listeners more about the Bible message, brought people together emotionally and very significantly helped take people back to a level in life where they are better able to participate in activities and make contributions of their own. As ever, it is people like us who have had the privilege and opportunity to go out and get involved and leave our comfort zones who learn or continue to develop.

A final thought: if the tables were turned and I lost everything, it would be me first in the queue to find support from being part of the community in Riga that we have been part of, for just a few days. So a great and worthwhile project.”

Trevor

