

The Gospel News



Editorial | Meeting the Crucified Christ

“I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous shall answer him, saying: Lord, when did we see you hungry and fed you? Or thirsty and gave you drink? And when did we see you as a stranger and welcome you? Or naked and clothed you? And when did we see you sick, or in prison and came to you? And the King shall answer and say to them: Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of these my brothers, even the least, you did it to me. Then he shall also say to them on the left hand... I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome me. Naked and you did not clothe me. Sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they shall also answer, saying: Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he shall answer them, saying: Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of these least, you did not do it to me.” (Mt. 25:34-46).

The Lord says that our attitude to Him when He was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked and imprisoned is going to be the crucial decider of our judgment outcome. The historical Jesus was all these things on the cross. Let's just prove that:

I was hungry - The Lord was hungry on the cross. The spear thrust resulted in a clear separation of blood and water, suggesting that His bowels had completely emptied at some point between the last supper and His death. The psychological trauma of Gethsemane, with sweat as drops of blood, would surely have involved such bowel movements.

I was thirsty - The Lord said “I thirst”. A stranger- The Lord's blood money was used to buy the place of “strangers” (the same word used in Mt. 27:7 s.w.); He was treated as a Gentile especially in His death on the cross.

Naked - The Lord Jesus was naked or at least without clothing on the cross. Crucifying Him afresh puts Him to a naked shame (Heb. 6:6).

Sick - The same Greek word translated 'weak'. “He was crucified in weakness... we also are weak in Him” (2 Cor. 13:4). The Lord carried our weakness / sickness (Mt. 8:17, quoting from the prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus in Isaiah 53).

In prison - “Prison” was understood by Peter as a fair description of the Lord's sufferings, “to prison and to death” (Lk. 22:33). In His death, the Lord went to the “spirits in prison”, He was with them / us there (1 Pet. 3:19). But “prison” wasn't necessarily understood as a building with “Prison” written on it. Legion was “bound”, imprisoned, with fetters (Lk. 8:29 s.w.); and yet still free. Likewise Paul was ‘bound’ or ‘imprisoned’ to a soldier (Acts 28:16 s.w.). The Lord's binding could therefore be fairly understood as an imprisonment. And He was imprisoned at least for 24 hours before His death.

So we can say that hunger, thirst, being a stranger, naked, weak and imprisoned are all things which the Lord experienced during His life and especially in His death. His brethren, His body, share His sufferings. We are to minister to them as we would have done were we there beholding the sufferings of Christ on the cross. We should emerge from such ‘beholding’, as we do it at the memorial meeting, practically resolving to reflect it to His brethren. And we are the more motivated by realizing that all those situations of hunger, thirst, imprisonment, weakness and nakedness are in fact metaphors for our own spiritual poverty, which the Lord through the

cross responded to, in utter grace. As He has done spiritually to us, so we are to do, spiritually and materially, to others. All those symptoms of poverty are often (although far from always) the result of mismanagement, weak motivation, unhealthy copying patterns, chronically missed chances... and yet in spiritual terms, those things are the story of our lives. In the materially poor we see exact reflections of ourselves, of our spiritual poverty and failures. As the Lord has graciously responded to us in our weakness and self-inflicted poverty, so we are to do to His people.

Just as Jacob saw himself in Laban, so in the materially poor we see ourselves in the mirror - in spiritual terms. If we were to be standing before the cross of Jesus, we would do anything for Him. Imagine Him there speaking to you, through a mouth full of broken teeth, gasping at the pain of filling lungs with oxygen as He hung crucified. If He asked for a drink, we would run to get it, and bravely risk our lives to bring it to Him. But the cross in essence is still there. We meet Him crucified today through our encounters with the least of His brethren and their needs. The art of our lives together is to perceive the Christ in each other, especially in those who are “the least of My brethren”. The word is elsewhere used about the spiritually least. And Paul alludes to it in saying that our attitude to the feeblest, weakest members of the body of Christ is so vital (1 Cor. 12:21); the weak are indispensable to us. To turn away from them in irritation, to put up barriers against them for their weakness whereby we resign our obligation to care for them... is to run the risk of condemnation according to the parable.

The Lord's Response to Us

He responds to us then, at judgment day, as we responded to the needs of His brethren today. Let's go through the list again:

Took Me in - The same word translated “gathered” in :32. As they gathered Him, so He now gathers the wheat into His eternal barn.

Clothed Me - As the believers clothed Him, so He will clothe them (Rev. 3:5; 7:9; 19:8; being clothed upon with immortality is definitely a picture of salvation). He will act spiritually to us, in terms of salvation, as we have acted materially to His brethren as they in their lives, as the body of Christ, experience various aspects of His life, sufferings and death.

Visited Me - The idea is not really to pop around to someone's house or hospital ward. The idea really is of identity, with a view to salvation. Thus God visited us in Christ to save us (Lk. 1:68,78; 7:16 “God has visited His people”; Acts 15:14 God “visited the Gentiles to take out a people”; Heb. 2:6 “what is man that You visit him”). This is the ‘visiting’ in view. As He ultimately ‘visits’ us to save, crossing the huge distance between God and man to do so, likewise we are to ‘visit’ our brethren. Again, what we do materially for those in Christ is a reflection of what He spiritually does for us. This is to be the motivation; to perceive that their poverty, their imprisonment, all of which may be their fault, is a reflection of our spiritual need and poverty, as we, like them, miss chance after chance to pull ourselves out of our poverty, and fall down too easily into survival and coping mechanisms that bind us to our poverty.

In prison - Prison is a metaphor for where sin and spiritual debt leads us. We are all hopelessly in spiritual debt and therefore in the debtors’ prison (Mt. 18:30). He comes to us in our self-inflicted model to save us.

A Shock for All

The parable implies the day of judgment will be such a surprise. Both righteous and wicked will find that they are respectively commended and criticized for things which surprise them. Both groups will almost argue with the Lord Jesus that He hasn't made the right decision concerning them. It's only a highly convicted man who would dare do that. Their shock is because they utterly failed to appreciate the extent to which Jesus was manifested in their brethren- especially in the least of them. "When did we see you?" is the response of both wise and foolish. "See", eido, means effectively 'to know'. The Lord has just used the same word in warning that He will have to tell the foolish virgins "I know you not" (:12). Here He explains that this is in fact because they knew Him not, in that they didn't recognize His brethren. To not recognize His brethren means that He will not recognize us.

We need to observe that the goats are rejected not so much for their lack of actions, but for failing to discern Christ in the least of His brethren. Then, the rejected will finally see their good works in context. They will realize how little works really meant. The faithful already knew that - for they objected when the Lord told them all the good things they had done. The list of works in Mt. 25:35,36 include the following: giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, a bed to the homeless, help to the sick. Yet these are the very things which Job claims he had done, when he clears himself from all his accusers (Job 31:17-20). They will confidently deny it when Jesus points it all out to them. They served with no expectation of reward; so much so that they even forgot what they did. Giving without any thought of getting anything back is a must for all of us who seek to truly manifest God: for this is exactly what He does and has done, minute by minute, down through the millennia of indifferent, unresponsive human history.

And so the Lord explains that "inasmuch" as they did or omitted to do things for the least of His brethren, so they did to Him. The Greek suggests an exact correspondence. Whatever is done to the Lord's brethren is done to Him. This is the point of the Lord's teaching. He is not simply saying that if we do good practical works we shall be saved, and if we don't, then we shall not be. He is saying that it is what is done or not done to Him which is significant. So the point of the teaching is an appeal to recognize and serve His brethren, rather than to simply do good works. The rejected of Mt. 7:22 "did many wonderful works" - and the same word is used here, "you did it unto one of the least of these my brothers". "One of" may seem superfluous until we realize that 'one of the least of these' is an invitation to look at the group of sheep and focus upon any one of the faces. This is a unique insight into the day of judgment. We are enabled to imagine ourselves there. The Lord is inviting us to imagine the colossal importance of perceiving Him in His brethren, and treating them as Him. If only this principle were understood in church life now, the church would be a beacon of light in this world's darkness. All rejection, spitefulness, hard speaking against other believers... would disappear. We are to treat others in Christ as if they were Him. And that is the basis of our acceptance or rejection. "Of these..." invites us to imagine a nod towards the crowd of sheep, with an invitation to focus upon "one" of those faces. The same faces we engage with today.

| Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM BOTSWANA



We have just returned from an excellent weekend in Gaborone despite having to improvise with our conference venue at the last moment we were told they had double booked and so we had to squish into a biggish lounge at the guest house where we were staying and not have the use of the 'official conference room' but it was a really great weekend!

Our brothers Gary and young Lucky did us proud speaking about Demons and Suffering we had a good response of 22 in attendance and the more informal atmosphere of the lounge worked well. The good news is that another student approached us and said he wants to be baptised next time - this is so encouraging as Botswana seems to be so slow in getting people to commit. There is such a good spirit amongst the brothers there and our brothers - it is such a joy to be part of it all. Bro Lucky this morning gave the exhortation and he is really worth his weight in gold in that he was able to change from the exhortation on kindness that he had prepared to one on preaching which was in tune with the readings. It was fitting and excellent. It was also great to see our new brother Galelatsang making a point of chatting to each of the new students on the Saturday and explaining that he was always available for discussion. We feel greatly encouraged and thank God.

Bro Paul and Sis Leonie Verster

NEWS FROM BURKINA FASO



Pictured above is Bro Luc Kabore (standing) together with other brothers and sister holding the new NEV French New Testaments in Burkina Faso, which is situated close to Mali and Niger and is one of the world's poorest countries.

NEWS FROM CAMEROON



Bamenda Sunday School

news from gambia



I was really so very happy to receive a box containing Gospel teachings which I consider to be a big blessing from brothers and sisters in Christ. The gospel books are really interesting to read and I have given them out to others to read. I will so like to join you on sending news from the Gambia.

Bro William A Kamara

NEWS FROM KENYA



BUNGOMA | Bro Edward Kunikina

I thank you very much for the Gospel News you send me, which I get in good time, and I pray that God will bless those for the work they are doing in these last days. Many things are being done in our country which are not usual for people of good health and mind to do. The Word of God is good and I pray that we continue encouraging each other so that when our Lord Jesus comes we may have a chance of entering the Kingdom of God.

BUTALI | Bro Gibson Amesa Azere

I would like to inform you that I have moved from Kambi-Mwanja to Butali where we have established an ecclesia. We are 25 in number with about 18 Sunday School children. About seven of our members have no Bibles and I ask if you could send me some, if available, and especially NIV or New King James Version or any which are available.

I am interested in evangelism in this area and am requesting if you could consider providing me with a means of transport. I have saved some money and would like someone to help me by topping up what I have. It is better to have a new motorbike as cheap is expensive long term.

CHWELE | Bro Jacob and Sis Fedeliah Walioula

We are grateful for the letter you sent us, which was full of love, comfort and encouragement and we have also received the Holy Bibles, etc. We thank you for the sickle cell anaemia treatment notes that we requested. They are indeed helpful to our children, not forgetting the help you offered through Bro Philip Lawrence, the welfare brother in Kenya. I received good news from the Welfare and Secretary Brothers in Western Kenya that they will present health notebooks and the names of children with the problem of sickle cell. As an ecclesia and a family (Makhonge) we have been spiritually built up, therefore everything you are doing for us, just the same as Jesus did, signifies God's love by washing the disciples' feet and wiping them with a towel he was girded with. He is a servant for all and we as brothers and sisters have to do the same; although it is hard, Christ challenges us. We pray to God that through our Lord Jesus we may love one another as it is our Lord's command.

Recently I took my son Bob to hospital and he was also found to have sickle cell positive, therefore in my family and at the moment three children have the same case. In Kenya at the moment some doctors are resigning, while others are going to private hospitals, striking or leaving Kenya because of low pay or delay in salary. All these things can happen and the only hope is in the Gospel. Our Master, Jesus, will soon come so let us preach the true Gospel to encourage brothers and sisters to grow spiritually to attain the coming Kingdom.



Bro Jacob and Sis Fedeliah Walioula and the family – Job in red, Wendy in the middle and Nelly – despite being victims of sickle cell anaemia this is a happy picture for Gospel News

KITALE | Bro Anthony Wafula

We are all watching and waiting for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are hoping that you are all fine in the presence of our Almighty God. I would like to express our thanks to you and to tell you that the family are very happy to receive the Bibles and calendar, because the Bible tells us that we always have to be watchful by reading the Scriptures daily and prayer so that we will be saved in the coming Day of our Master.

In our ecclesia we have many challenges and difficulties such as many brothers, sisters and children living with HIV AIDS. Many people think that is a curse, so refuse to live with them or help them in any way. These brothers and sisters are suffering from lack of food, medicine and other necessities. I and Brethren Herman and Christopher spend time trying to assist them with food, medicine and to comfort them. Please let me know if you know of any brother or sister who will stand by us with this work and I will send photos and details of those affected and there are more in the Rift Valley area.

Please could you also help me with a copy of “Beyond Bible Basics” which is very good for teaching and will assist me to understand some more difficult matters.



Holding Bibles received – Lindah, Sisters Esther, Marrow, Shiron and Sunday School scholars ~ Melissa, Esther, Magdalene, Venezor, Naomi, Millie and Lineth



Sis Rhoda Wafula with her children, Mercy, Vivian and Bill enjoying looking at the Bibles and calendar

KITALE | Bro Martin W Chemiati

Much greeting in the hope we share. I am happy all the time when I read the magazines in our country and outside I always feel very joyful when brothers worldwide write about the signs concerning the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Also when we have our weekly Bible Study in our ecclesia brothers and sisters always ask questions about the signs and the return of our Lord. The NEV has helped us very much in our Bible Study and enabled us to baptise nine good friends last year and we are hoping to baptise seven who we think will be ready this year.

The number of youths in our ecclesia is increasing rapidly because they understand English well, (NEV) and its commentaries. We are praying that our Lord God may bring Jesus Christ to this earth and establish God's Kingdom to all mankind. It is a true understanding that these are the last days. All world governments and societies are corrupt, people are lovers of money and true Christianity is in danger. As we know, our Lord's return is very near and because there is too much violence love has been totally lost in humans and the Governments are unable to solve the problems in their lower subjects.

Let Christadelphian believers keep separate from the world because Our Lord is coming and those siding with the world will suffer and will not be rewarded and rule with Christ. Christadelphians know very well of the judgement and punishments that will fall on the unfaithful who do not believe the things concerning the Kingdom of our Lord, which was first with our father Abraham. May our Lord guide us and bless us too.

MADIANY | Bro Gordon Ochieng

I have adopted an orphan baby boy with HIV who was abandoned by an unknown person a few metres from my house. In the early hours one morning I was awakened by a child's cry and rushed out to find an infant wrapped in a towel. I reported it to the authorities and the Children's Department, and the Police Department has requested me to care for the baby while they look for a Children's Home to take him in.



Bro Gordon Ochieng with the baby boy



Brethren Gordon, Vincent and James conducting baptism interview

MANYUANDA | Bro Gordon Ochieng



Above: Brothers and Sisters at Manyuanda Ecclesia



Centre: Baptism of Sis A at Obenga beach in Lake Victoria

I send warmest greetings from myself, family and the entire ecclesia. Day by day life is becoming unbearable. The cost of living is exorbitantly high and the Third World and countries like ours barely survive from hand to mouth. My Bible reassures me to be calm for these rudimentary problems that cannot be solved by legislation are soon coming to an end.

I appreciate the work of CAT and those contributing towards its support, may God bless both hands abundantly. Thanks for your fatherly advice. Right now all local correspondence is addressed to me, mark and send such with concerned notes where appropriate. We cannot get everything from the U.K., but having the capacity we can devote our time and energy in season and out of season.

Recently I visited Siaga G.K. Prison and was granted permission for 2 hours to share with the inmates the glorious and wonderful hope we have. It was spiritually uplifting and even though they refused photos being taken I arranged another visit before I left. Seven interested friends were eager to learn the Biblical truth.

I have already volunteered at the Latvia Riga Bible Centre but due to resources I may not make it, but spiritually I am with them through their effort to spread the gospel. The same goes for missionary work in Syria and China. Pass my warm greetings to Carelinks Missionaries in Latvia and please include my e-mail in your weekly highlights and updates. My camera has developed problems but I am praying that God will provide a replacement as it has been my source of livelihood and support in local missionary endeavours.

I had a tutor, father figure and friend in the Lord in Torquay Ecclesia – Bro Ellis Price and Sister Marjorie Price. In Gospel News I saw an article from another brother at Torquay, Bro Ralph Green. Can you send him my email address so that I can follow up the whereabouts of Bro and Sis Price? Bro Price was my correspondence tutor for over 15 years and I am also grateful to Bro Bill and Sis Carol Rawson, being close to them in their missionary work in Kenya in the early 1990's as interpreter made me learn and grow spiritually.

Thank you for the books so far received and please bear me in mind for any future publications worthy of serious reading. I am now about to have my daytime meal of Ugali (flour and water) and Omena (small fish), prepared by my beloved sister/wife, Mary.

NDHIWA | Bro Allan

We have different gifts in our churches (Eph.4:11-12) and you and I may feel more regarded than others, but it comes to remembering our sins – the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. The apostle Paul reminds us to always humble ourselves and feel the least and most unworthy of us all because we have all sinned. 1 Cor.15:9 – “For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church.” – SIN.

Brothers and sisters, the gifts given to us by God are meant to help us to attain the unity of the faith that we attained at our baptism (Eph.4:13) with an ultimate aim to help the church grow itself in love. (Eph.4:16).

You and I need to be humbled before one another today. It only means that we shall for ever in the Kingdom be humbled before our Master!!



Taken at Youth Conference with two brothers seated from Kakuma Refugee Camp Ecclesia. Bro Allan is standing.

NAKURU | Bro Wanga Samuel

There was a time when my tutor, Sis Yvonne Salisbury of Stroud, U.K. sent for me three pairs of socks made in the U.K. Imagine, it took 5 years to wear out the last pair! The ones available here are from China and cheap but don't last. Please send me a few pairs if possible. I will let you know when my visa is ready from the Australian Embassy, Nairobi. I still need a few copies of the Bible in Leo, Luhya, French and Kiswahili. You know, most of our members in rural parts of Kenya are elderly and they understand their mother tongues best.

On 29th July I took a 12 hrs drive from Nakuru to Mombasa on gospel mission, I spent a week with Bros and Sis in the coastal region of Kenya, then on 3rd August broke bread with the Likoni ecclesia. We had a very good time and we felt the presence of the Almighty within us. The area has more than 100 ecclesia's, they lack Bibles and other gospel books, I promised to send more as I ran out of Bibles and tracts.



Bro Wanga's daughter with her last born baby Jeremy

NATIRI | Bro Masongo Harron

I am grateful to be able to write to you again and our postal address is now P.O.Box 42-50211 Natiri, and this is also for the use for the ecclesia.

I have been ill with a kidney disorder which has brought down my strength. I could not work, least of all properly. I have been using over the counter medicines but seeing no improvement. I have been bedridden for four months and trying to survive as the days passed has been through prayer. I could have gone to hospital but the amount of money they recommended for treatment was more than the family could raise.

I am grateful that now I can do something although my energy is not back yet. It is in the Lord's mercy that I am alive today and I try to give myself hope of tomorrow. I see the way Job was tempted in my life too but God is great. These have been some of the challenges that have been facing me recently.



Migwena Ecclesia, Kenya

SUNA MIGORI | Bro Joseph Onyango

It is true that God is searching for men and women to come to the Truth. The search reaches its climax when they meet at the waters of baptism. The Christian's journey to the Kingdom starts at baptism. From Bible history the walk has never been without obstacles even for the patriarchs, prophets and apostles who preceded us. Remember Joseph, Moses and Paul just to name a few. Their lives were clouded with obstacles which they overcame simply because the God of Israel was their stronghold. Let me ask a question – where are our strongholds today? Is it in our wallets, jobs, family members, ecclesias, political parties? Where do we get our refuge when the winds blow? John 17:3 “And this is everlasting life, that they should know you, the only true God and Him whom you sent, Jesus Christ.”

In my house we usually take turns in prayers every night. Sometimes it is my wife, Sis Lucy, sometimes the children, Kevin, Jaqueline, Marvin respectively. And, of course, myself, the father, I take the lead most times.

There is a point here I want to bring home. Yesterday I asked my daughter to pray and after the prayer she began to recite the GRACE, which is not bad, but it compelled me to tell her that we are different from other churches because their children go to schools managed by missionaries from other denominations and if we don't tell them the truth we might end up without future sisters and brothers in our ecclesias. In fact, these churches believe that their god only provides the good and the bad comes from another cosmic being they call Satan. I have used the small letter “g” because I know that “Yahweh” has no other rival as is categorically stated in Isaiah 45:1-5 and 1 Sam.2:8-9. Christadelphians are unique and we ought to let these little fellows toe the line. We are unique. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now

and for evermore.

TONGAREN | Bro Isaac Kapa

One of the highlights of my work as a college director in my Tailoring School is commencement. While my candidates worked for the government Trade Test I was excited by the thought that our graduates were ready to go out and implement their skills to the people nearby, as some do attain the knowledge of the Bible about things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus, Our Saviour. On the way to the Examination Centre I noticed some industrious ants busily going about their routine and I thought, "There are much greater things happening than the building of sand piles."



Bro Isaac Kapa, the Ecclesial elder with those attending the Bible School held in April 2014



Tongaren Tailoring School graduates who are now working in their enterprises to earn their living

It is easy for us to get lost in ant world – to be so busy with our routines that we miss the joy of personally embracing the bigger picture of God's great work around the world. The work of CHRISTADELPHIANS is to preach the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God on earth throughout the world. Paul reports that "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world." 2 Timothy 4:10. I wonder if Demas regretted abandoning the Gospel for the 'piles' of this world? Let's get out of 'ant world' and engage our hearts and lives in spreading the gospel of the coming Kingdom. Don't let smaller things distract you from the bigger work of God around the world. God bless you.

YATTA | Bro Lazarus Kingoo

The Gospel News magazine has been very helpful not only to me but also to other brothers and sisters in Yatta Ecclesia, to which if possible you can be sending some extra copies to meet the big demand in the ecclesia. I also very much appreciate the Bibles and copies of Bible Basics you have been sending to me to supply to others. This has been a very big boost to all who had a copy of these. I want to tell you that now there is a big demand for Bible Basics and Bibles not only in our ecclesia but in the area around. God is great, for the outcome of this supply was in February this year when we were blessed with 13 new converts via the true baptism. At the moment we are preparing almost the same number – most of them being youth, for baptism. Remember this is only in Yatta ecclesia, but in ecclesias in other areas we also have new converts. So this confirms that what you are doing has an impact.

I have opportunities to visit many ecclesias on different ecclesial occasions and am praying for a digital camera to capture all activities that I can share with other Gospel News readers.

NEWS FROM MALAWI 

NKANDA | Bro Lyton John

The supremacy of Christ and his fundamental importance to God is difficult to comprehend fully. It is therefore true to say that Christ existed in God’s purpose from the beginning, although he only came into actual existence physically through his birth of Mary. He was not an angel (Hebrews 1:4-7), and in his mortal life he was less than an angel (Hebrews 2:7). After his resurrection, he was exalted to far greater honour than angels. 1 Peter 1:20 sums up the position: “Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you”.



Sis Aida Kalungama



Nkanda Sunday School

NEWS FROM MAURITIUS 



The Mauritius ecclesia witnessing the baptism of Bro Kevin Arekion

**EKONI | Bro Igani U Eteng**

I thank you very much for the book you sent me and the answer you gave to my questions. The book “Teach me Thy Way” is very good. Please, if possible, let me have some more preaching books. I am now alone in my town and I have tried to form a group but it is very difficult.

ENUGU | Bro Goddy Nwosu

Brethren and Sisters baptised in November

In the Hope of Israel we all share, how are you? This is the picture I promised to send of people who were baptized (as above). From 16th-30th November five were baptized – Bro Chinoso Ugwunta, Bro Udo Chukwudi, Sis Patience Ezeala, Sis Nineka Uzoigwe, Sis Chisomu Nniasi. We pray for God’s mercy to guide them toward His Kingdom and pray for those who never take the decision to change their mind because time is very short.

For your information, we are in trouble this time. Our Government has given an order that no church should worship at a Government School. We have been 24 years in that school and are in confusion as to getting another place; it is not easy for us as rents have become very costly. Since the announcement I have not been able to rest in mind or sleep. If we get another place I will let you know but we need everyone to pray for us at this time of trial. Prayer helps a lot. Thanks to you all in Jesus’ Name. By grace.

MBAISE | Bro Blessing Nwigiwe

There is too much trouble going on around the world like terrorism, earthquakes, rumours of war and crisis, spreading of diseases like past years AIDS now we have heard of another one, “Ebola”. These diseases seem to be incurable.

We are living in the last days, waiting for our Lord’s return. We in Mbaise ecclesia remember you in our prayers and I myself as well. Two weeks ago I was wounded in my leg so that I cannot walk or move out without a stick so try to remember me please. You know I have no help except UK brethren.

OHAFIA | Bro Uka Egwu

We are reaching the end of time; many events are happening in the world today which speak of the coming of our Lord, and the glories of His reign. Even as I write now the next hours are unknown. But Daniel long ago in advance warned all his followers of a time like this – a time of trouble (Daniel ch.12) when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of God.

The world is under fear but can only be saved with Jesus coming back to the earth. Human government has fallen, all the world is hit by terrorism, war and hardship. Please brothers and sisters, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed (Romans 13:11-14). The world is sinking so fast into its end, we rejoice although the grief and sorrow which fills it makes us long for Him who will rid the earth of every curse shortly. How we long for Him. (I was hospitalised from last month but I am alright today). I thank God so much because the problem was acute and much thanks to C.B.M. Nigeria (Aba) for all their care to me and my family.



Bro Uka showing Bible Basics to a friend during the time of house-to-house preaching at Ohafia

UMUAHIA | Bro Chika Onyer

What does our love in God look like?

Many times some claim that they have the love of God, even to their fellow brethren. Yes, indeed, Judas claimed more than that, he even wanted to share the same dish with Jesus, (Matthew 26:23).

In the story of Orpah and Ruth, their mother-in-law Naomi explained her situation and Orpah failed to wish to go with her but Ruth was strong in her support and said “Never ask me to leave you, because where you die, I will die and there will I be buried” (Ruth 1:16-17). I remember what happened to Christ and his disciples. John 6:66-67. In my view I can say that Ruth saw the situation of her mother-in-law’s loneliness and old age and that she wanted to be able to provide for her daily food and comfort.

In all situations let us hold firm to our faith and never be like a boxer who wasted his punches and later be disqualified.



Bro Chika Onyer

**KEMPTON PARK**

The outreach work continues with our members seemingly to be continuously blessed. With the final Crèche course for the year over, we are encouraged that many of the Crèche course attendees have also signed up and are completing the 'God's Master Plan' Bible course and attend the lunchtime Bible class at the Aphiwe Good News Centre. The course has become so popular that the Sister team have started another running in Eden Park. Waiting lists are filling up quickly!

SOWETO

Another of Adam's race took to the waters of baptism on October 7. This time it was Shawn Ntekele, a friend of our Bro Lucky, but also a friend of us all in that he has been attending the meeting for more than a year and already felt part of the family. He was delighted to be born again and sat in the pool afterwards savouring the moment while we sang the whole of 'To God be the Glory'. Life for young adults in particular, has many temptations and challenges so we pray Bro Shawn keeps strong in faith on the narrow road to the Kingdom. Bro Barry Van Heerden's Bible Class turned into a baptismal talk and then a Bible Class.

Our interactive seminars continue every Saturday, students really enjoying being involved. Three students who have been with us for most of last year have requested to be baptised, so they are preparing, God willing, to take that vital step next month. Also Bro and Sis Jimmy and Synthia Matekane's daughter and Okkie, Sis Thato Tshikumbana's husband, are preparing for baptism. We rejoice at the prospect of these additions to our Soweto family like an expectant mother!

Long distance outreach preaching and pastoral trips this month, have continued. Bre Daniel Makhado and Austen Mataka to Limpopo, Bro Lucky Sekhasembe spread his wings and joined Bro Gary Smith (Yeoville) to go to Maputo, Bro Paul and Sis Leonie with Bro Emmanuel Mphambo went to Gaborone. It was a pleasure to see the new brothers in Gaborone so active and enthusiastic. Bro Emmanuel did the seminar on, "Do we need prophets today?" Five pastors from Palapye (280kms away) made the effort to attend and check out this insolent challenge. Some common ground was finally found but needless to say it was a hotly debated topic and we applaud Bro Emmanuel for keeping his cool throughout! We were able to disagree without being disagreeable! They were willing to take our literature and Introduction to Bible Basics, seemingly keen to, at least, study. The attendance was very good with 25 in all.

YEOVILLE

We had a wonderful fraternal gathering led by Bro Barry Van Heerden who was accompanied by Sis Wendith; and we enjoyed the fellowship with other Ecclesias. The long awaited Sis Yvonne Dube (Walton, UK) has arrived; she has started teaching and demonstrating the Cooking course at Yeoville Ecclesia. We also had her at our Wednesday class and contributed with words of encouragement.

We thank God for his blessings on our preaching activities: we have been granted a stand in the Alexander Shopping mall to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, a lot of people are responding to our correspondence course. If God be willing, we are hoping to run series of Seminars in Alexander.

**MBEYA | Bro Ewaldi Mushi**

I have received your great Mail Bag in which you enclosed books and very wonderful Bibles with commentary. We are so pleased and proud to have them. We use them in our evening Bible Class (in which I am the teacher), in our Church and in our Annual Camp meeting which has just ended and in which I was the main speaker. I found all attention to the topics: I could speak on all those subjects by standing on your shoulders, which has enabled me to know the real God. In Tanzania we are told that just immediately after death one goes to heaven (if he or she was a good Christian) or to hell (if bad) or to purgatory (if between). This lie has been preached for centuries and we are now uprooting it and people see the Truth in the Bibles you have sent to us.

“Is there life after death?”

“What is the correct baptism?”

“Is Jesus really God?”

“Why does God allow suffering?”

You asked me if we would like Swahili New Testament, with the comments. The answer is a big YES!

MUSOMA | Sis Monica Achieng

I have been very busy at work and home and been stressing a lot as Kevin, my son, was to go back to college. He is now on his way to college, which is his third year.

I thank God for his tender care to both of my sons and me, plus the ecclesia at large. The meeting is doing great and we are all thankful. Yesterday a very bad tragedy occurred and many people died - about 75 both young and old. There are more funerals here in town but we are glad that all our sisters and brothers relatives were not affected. This means that God is in control of his people.

USAGARA

We thank all brothers and sisters from all the world – through your praying we advance in reading the Word of God.

Also we send many thanks for sending us the Gospel News which encourages me and our ecclesia to know and to understand the Word of God. May God bless you and your way to reach the Kingdom of God to come on earth soon.

We should struggle to remain in Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Acts 15:20, “But that we write to them that they abstain from pollutions of idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled and from blood.” So the Apostle Paul shows us the good way that we can follow in order to get life for ever when Jesus comes back to the earth.

And then Romans 16:25-26 says, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began.”

**CHINSALI | Bro Edward Choko**

Let us work for the Kingdom of God, not for the things of the world. Let us fight for eternal life in the Kingdom of God by living and preaching the good news to all people – Luke 4:43, “Blessed are you when men hate you because of the Son of Man, Christ Jesus” – Luke 6:20-23. Be spiritually rich in the eyes of God. Jesus said that God has given to you the secrets of the Kingdom of God – Luke 8:10.

We will be in the Kingdom if we are doing good things for God – Read Luke 12:31-32. “I tell you the truth, whoever has left home or wife or brother or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God will receive it.” Luke 18:29-30. Let everybody follow Jesus Christ as did the disciples, Simon Peter, James and John.

KABOMPO | Bro Reuben Kaambeu

I am informing you that I have retired from secular employment. For my retirement I have re-settled at my Lelavana Farm situated at Malolwa, about 45 kilometres north-west of Kabompo.

I have a Bible student who has keen interest in studying the things concerning God, Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. I have some Bible students who would like to have copies of the New European version of the Bible. Due to the high cost of postage I do not know if you are able to send me ten Bibles for I have opened a new preaching point at the Lelavana Farm this year and the attendance on Sundays in the evenings is very encouraging and the people want to be using the New European Version of the Holy Bible instead of other versions during the Bible study but the copies I have are not enough to cater for all those who read and understand the English language, especially those in the Ministry of Agriculture and the teachers in the community. You may also know that I have chosen to lead a quiet life on the farm away from town life in Kabompo town so that I can concentrate on preaching the Word of God (the Gospel of the Kingdom of God) to the poor in the rural villages of the neighbourhood of my farm.

KAPIRI MPOSHI | Bro Chisosa Ostine

I was thrilled to receive the “Teach Me Thy Way” booklet, which I have great interest in and if possible would like some more copies to help in the preaching work.

KASAMA | Bro Joshua Mushili

The NEV Bible project is a success in that many brothers and sisters have benefited in understanding the Holy oracles better than before during their Bible Study, you can tell the way that brethren explain various scriptures so perfectly. Most of our students are still on the 40 lesson correspondence course. I am confident we are on the right path brother. We started preaching in the northern Provinces of Zambia recently and we have over 20 very interested friends. You can be impressed to see how the Truth is spreading in this area and if available we need 15 copies of the N.E.V.

NDOLA | Bro James Mwanza

It has been a long time since I wrote an article as I have been going through thick and thin - but knowing very well that nothing can separate me from the love of GOD. We were called to work, by accepting Jesus as Lord we signed up to being His servants. Each servant has been given a

task to do, to every man his work, Mark 13:34. Read also Romans 8:35. God is able to do or manage our life or affairs. He knows us. Eph.3:20. We must also deny ourselves and follow Jesus Christ and take up our cross as soldiers of the cross daily, all the time, forsake everything. We have to follow Him. We must be willing to suffer for Jesus Christ. We should examine ourselves in whatever we do as this will help us not to fall away or to cause others to fall away. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23,26,27,29. Here in Ndola ecclesia we have lost our Bro Victor Chizuma, who has fallen asleep in Christ.



Bro James Mwanza, Ndola, front, Bro Victor Chizuma, Ndola, standing behind with two sisters from Kafue ecclesia

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



BANKET | Bro David Yelulani

Love, joy and peace to you in Jesus and to all your family. May this year bring Jesus back to bring peace and plenty to this troubled world and to fill it with God's glory. May we in God's grace all be part of that.

Pray God will continue to keep us strong in faith to be a lightstand to those around us until Jesus returns. How we pray the things we see in the world are indeed the pangs for the Kingdom, and that God will soon send Jesus to right all the terrible wrongs of His beautiful world.

We have much pleasure to inform you that we immensely enjoyed our Bible weekend which was held on 8-10 August 2014 at Kawadzana Primary School, Banket. Brethren and Sisters from various ecclesias participated in the Bible weekend. We were delighted to witness the baptism on 9 August of Erick Gambe a Bible student of Bro David Banda Yelulani. He was given the right hand of fellowship and we shared in the breaking of bread. We pray that this will be the start of a walk that leads to eternal life for one more of God's children.

KARIBA



Above: Group photo Below: Boys' session with elders



CHIREDDZI | Bro Mugova Tavaremba

I received your letter enclosing 12 Bibles, New European Version, and I dispatched them to the following people – Leonard Mudemba, Jemeon Mupinga, Mapope Madzvamuse, Petros Matopa, Nyitayanhu School for Scripture Union, 4 Bibles Aaron Chiwawa, Justice Matwinge, Tombirai Magwaza and Learnmore Mugova.

You can write to any of these people to confirm. Because of these Bibles we started Bible studies at school twice a week. I do hope you will continue sending me any of the Scriptures to mobilise this group. One more important request is from the above mentioned school, they are in need of more Bibles for the students.

TONGOGARA | Bro Nondo Mutambala

I am very happy with C.B.M. U.K. and C.B.M. Zimbabwe and all Tongogara Ecclesia members for being united together for building the Tongogara Ecclesial Hall. From this union result for the Tongogara Ecclesia building that had been needed for a long time

although the ecclesia has been known here

and in the camp and other places.

I support and am thankful to all Christadelphian brothers and sisters who put their money, strength and many sacrifices for the building of the hall. Dear brothers and sisters, don't give up on all our problems and needs, let us give them to our God. He will always help us and provide. All the builders joined our knowledge together to finish the building.



Building the ecclesial hall



Bro Nondo Mutambala

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from arabia



Through the generosity of Bro E of Qatar and Bro D of Oman, a brief pastoral visit was made by Bro Alan Eyre of Jamaica to some of the many Christadelphian brethren and a few Sisters scattered widely across this fundamentalist Muslim Sultanate.

Conversion to Christianity or even private meetings for prayer and Bible reading in homes by non Muslims, are strictly forbidden, and very serious consequences follow discovery by the authorities. Nevertheless “the Word of God is not bound” (2 Timothy 2:9), and almost miraculously, in one oasis in the Arabian desert alone, ten earnest seekers for Bible truth are presently preparing for baptism.

You will appreciate that any more detail is inappropriate at this time, but our prayers are needed for all in great difficulties in many parts of the world.



I am a Christian

When I say that “I am a Christian” I am not shouting that “I am clean living”, I am whispering “I was lost and now I am found and forgiven”.

When I say that “I am a Christian” I don’t speak of this with pride, I am confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say that “I am a Christian” I am not trying to be strong, I am professing that I am weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say that “I am a Christian” I am not bragging of success, I’m admitting that I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say that “I am a Christian” I’m not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I’m worth it.

When I say that “I am a Christian” I still feel the sting of pain, I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His Name.

When I say that “I am a Christian” I’m not holier than thou, I’m just a simple sinner who somehow received God’s good grace.



Author Unknown

God's Greatness and Your Problem (Psalm 104:1)

There is always the danger that you unconsciously reduce God to the limits of your own thinking, because you are convinced that it cannot be done and you link God in your mind with that which you consider to be impossible.

When you have been as logical as possible, and when your reason has reached its limits and you are convinced that you have studied every facet of a particular problem, you must remember that beyond your thought and power lies the greatness of God.

All knowledge is partial, but when you link your thought power with meditative qualities you learn to draw upon the infinite resources of the omniscient God. You cannot say you have done all in your power to solve your problem until you have thought about it in the presence of God. When you do this, God's Spirit inspires your ideas and enables you to penetrate even further into the problem and gives deeper understanding from angles you have not thought of considering. It is wise to place your problem under the security of God for He understands it in its completeness.

Because your Father knows all about your problem and you have implicit faith in Him, He will guide you in the way you should go. Do not lack confidence in His leading, but go forward knowing that He understands your problem and with your co-operation He will bring things to a satisfactory conclusion.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Joy in the Scriptures

Definitions of Joy include Gladness, Pleasure and Delight and it is fairly safe to assume that everyone has experienced one or all of these feelings during their lifetime. Perhaps something has been achieved. Possibly this was by obtaining a sought-after job, or a relationship has developed into marriage which is a delightful occasion, and in due time children come along which bring great pleasure and because of the enlarged family a new home has to be found. So many things can bring joy, gladness, pleasure and delight. Looking back through history there are many incidents and occasions that have brought great joy to those concerned.

On a spiritual level, we can look into the pages of Scripture and find situations where joy must have been experienced even in the realms of Heaven, the dwellingplace of the Almighty,

Perhaps we ourselves have experienced the joy of re-union with family or friends that we have not seen for a long time and it is natural to go to great lengths to make it a memorable occasion.

Another instance of joy, albeit in the form of a parable, is the story of the prodigal son recorded in Luke 15:11-23. We find a similar situation to that of Jacob. A son, thought to be dead returns home. In real life we can imagine this father, possibly speechless, because he was filled with so much joy in having his son safe and well.

Another example is in the book of Genesis which records Joseph re-uniting with his brethren and making plans for them to return to Jacob to tell him that Joseph had sent them (Genesis 45:9-13,24-28). For Jacob to be united once more with Joseph whom he thought had died, must have filled him with emotion and no doubt he shed many tears of joy. What joy Jacob must have experienced! No doubt he had resigned himself to not seeing his favourite son again. The narrative continues in 46:1-7,26-30.

We read of the birth of the Lord in Luke's gospel: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men;'" (2:13-14). Natural birth brings joy when the baby is born. The trauma that has been experienced is forgotten when the baby is held by its mother. To Mary that was a natural event, but the whole scenario was not. God was his Father meaning there was great joy in heaven at his birth and the crucial stage of God's plan of salvation (vv 30-31). "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people'" (vv 9-10).

The angel of the Lord brought these things. Not just joy but great joy. I do not think that we can depict heaven as being without emotion, witness Luke 15:7-10 where we read that there is great joy in heaven over one sinner that repents. Later in Matthew's record we read of the Father saying from heaven: "This is my beloved son" (3:17). So joy was experienced both on earth and in heaven at the birth of our Lord. He grew from childhood to manhood preparing himself for the work which his Father wanted him to do. He knew that this was God's will and he knew that at the climax of this process he would die. At all times our Lord's attitude was to do God's will and we know there were countless times when Jesus engaged in prayer to his Father.

We proceed to the terrible events in the Garden of Gethsemane. The strain which Jesus was under showed in his words and actions: "And he went a little farther, and fell on the ground and prayed, saying, 'O my Father, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt' ... And he went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, 'O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done'. ... And he went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words." And when the mob came guided by Judas, and Peter resisted with the sword that he carried, "Thinkest thou that I cannot pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26). So why did Jesus not ask for this help? "Thy will be done," certainly, and this was always paramount in Jesus' mind. But there was another reason that can be effective for ourselves when the flesh struggles against the spirit: "For the joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:1,2). Bro John Carter in his book, 'The Letter to the Hebrews', has this to say: "(For the Jews) it was a shameful thing to be spat upon and derided and beaten and then, worst of all, to be crucified. But he endured the shame

of it all; and he did it by faith in the promise of God by which he saw the joy before him; and encouraged by this prospect he was sustained and triumphed. He now knows that joy then contemplated: for at the Father's right hand are pleasures for evermore" (p 161).

Our Lord was crucified but rose to life again on the third day. Matthew records the actions of the two Marys going to the sepulchre to see the body of Jesus. An angel appears and informs them that he is risen and that they should go and tell the disciples. What did they do? They had all been close to their Lord, following him and living with him and they must have been overwhelmed with joy to know that their Master was alive again, and that in due course they would all be with him again prior to his departure to heaven. This was forty days after his resurrection. Acts 1:1-8 gives us details of the final moments Jesus had with his friends and disciples.

Let us recapitulate briefly on the life of Jesus before reading that all-important verse 9. From an early age he knew his destiny and was well aware of God's plan of salvation. He knew that he was the key part of that plan. As his life developed, it was one of complete obedience to his Father (John 4:34). His life culminated in giving that life as a sacrifice for sin, through which sin was overcome and a way of salvation made possible. Jesus did not waver, at all times he did his Father's will.

Read again that verse 9. With the love and obedience Jesus showed to his Father, I am sure that God would have made great provision for the ascension of Jesus to heaven. Could we say with all reverence that it was to be a dignified occasion? If it was possible for God to send twelve legions of angels to sustain Jesus in the garden, I think we can be certain that angels were sent to take Jesus to his Father. Angels were there as they spoke to the disciples and I feel that the cloud referred to was a cloud of angels.

The important word of Acts 1:9 is "received". We know the joy experienced when a child of God is received into fellowship: a special occasion with usually many brothers and sisters present. Surely it must have been an even more special occasion for the Lord to be taken into the presence of God. They received him. The record could have said he ascended. But this powerful word received is used. The more you repeat the word received the greater the picture develops of Jesus having completed his mission on earth and being taken by the angels to sit at the right hand of his Father. What JOY there must have been in heaven. Joy amongst the angels and joy with the Father and Son. As Bro Carter said: "At the Father's right hand are pleasures for evermore."

In God's mercy, we will be able to experience this joy in the Kingdom and this is confirmed by: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ... be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25.)

Bro Roy Soffe (Portsmouth, UK)

The Need for Tears ~ Luke 19:37-44

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, we were all overwhelmed by the images of devastation and hardship endured by the people of Haiti, especially by the many heartbreaking pictures: one

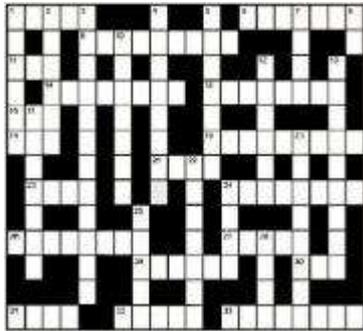
in particular captured my attention. It showed a woman staring at the massive destruction, and weeping. Her mind could not process the suffering of her people and as her heart was crushed, tears poured from her eyes. Her reaction was easily understandable. Sometimes crying is the only appropriate response to the suffering we encounter. As I examined that picture, I thought of the compassion of our Lord Jesus. Jesus understood the need for tears, and he, too, wept over a different kind of devastation – the coming destruction of Jerusalem brought on by sin. As he approached Jerusalem, marked by corruption and injustice and the pain they create, Jesus' response was tears. Now as he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it (Luke 19:41). He wept out of compassion and grief.

As we encounter the inhumanity, suffering and sin that wreak havoc in our world, how do we respond? If the heart of Jesus breaks over the condition of our world, shouldn't ours? And shouldn't we then do everything we can to make a difference for those in need spiritually: "Compassion offers whatever is necessary to heal the hearts of others."

Bro Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)

Test Your Memory

How many of these can you answer without looking up the references (which were kindly supplied by Tenby Sunday School). Test yourself and see! Solutions can be found on page 16.



Clues Across

1. Though Hebrew, he was raised a Prince in Egypt *Hebrews 11:24*
6. He ministered to Paul *Acts 11:24*
9. A centurion of the Italian band *Acts 10:1*
11. Son of Noah *Genesis 5:32*
14. Descendants of Esau *Genesis 36:9*
15. Neither hot nor cold *Revelation 3:16*
16. A town of Benjamin *1 Chronicles 8:12*
18. Father of Joshua *Joshua 1:1*
19. Joseph's trade *Matthew 13:55*
21. "I will come down and ... with thee there" *Numbers 11:17*
23. A son of Benjamin *1 Chronicles 7:6*
24. Precious stone in breastplate *Exodus 28:19*
26. Original formation of universe *Genesis 1:1*
27. Bathsheba's father *2 Samuel 11:3*
29. The Jews were allowed to settle here during the famine *Genesis 45:10*
30. "There was no room at the ..." *Luke 2:7*
31. Early form of transport *2 Samuel 6:3*
32. "The elder unto the ... lady" *2 John 1*
33. "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be ..." *1 Corinthians 16:22*

Clues Down

1. First husband of Ruth *Ruth 1:2-4*
2. With his brother Levi he massacred the people of Shechem *Genesis 29:33*
3. The Law is spoken of as this *Galatians 3:24*
4. The hippopotamus of the Nile *Job 40:15*
5. An acceptable sacrifice *Numbers 7:87*
7. A place in Edom *Isaiah 16:1*
8. A King of Egypt *2 Kings 17:4*
10. The symbol of God's promise not to destroy the earth by flood *Genesis 9:13*
12. Solomon built this *1 Kings 6:1*
13. Baptism
17. 4th book of the Pentateuch
20. Cupbearer to Artaxerxes *Nehemiah 1:11*

- 22. Sandal thong *Genesis 14:23*
- 24. "So be it"
- 25. Messenger
- 24. "Let down your ... for a draught" *Luke 5:4*
- 28. An Asherite *1 Chronicles 7:35*

Meg Grant

"Come out and be separate"

The ultimate and only purpose of God in creation is to build up a family that would become, "Like Himself" in every way, in character, nature and performance. We gain this insight, initially, from Genesis 1:26-27. It is a consistent understanding in Scripture.

All the other endeavours of our God, the Lord Jesus and of the Ecclesia of God, are to enhance and forward this Divine objective. The primary reason then, for our existence at all, is for God's glory. Hallelujah!

The term 'separate' is often used in our western ecclesial community to identify any of the many worldly activities, pleasures or pursuits that are not compatible or consistent with the NEW Life in Christ. This presented to me, as a young brother, a mostly negative outlook on living the Truth. Christadelphians were to stand apart from many things. This may well be true, BUT there is another and wonderfully positive side to, and reason for separateness!

We are not just separated from the world – but separated to and for God!

The term 'Ecclesia' we like to use, actually carries this very concept. It defines a gracious and undeserved invitation to, "Come to the Father through Jesus, His Son," and to form an integrated part of the very family of God Himself - to take on His Name. This is a great honour extended to 'all flesh' (every human being) that should choose to respond to His great love. At the first, this call was extended to the descendants of Abraham's natural family, but is now expanded to embrace the worldwide spiritual family in Christ - taken out from every nation. The Power of God (Elohim) is behind this purposefilled work of the LORD (Yahweh).

The Pharisees of Jesus' day were termed 'separated ones' and basked in the glory of men, assuming a self-generated status and a role reserved for the true sons and daughters of the Living God. They were very mistaken.

Let us see the proper role for separateness in joyfully responding to the call of the Gospel. They stood apart from the misery and needs of the nation whereas our Lord entered into and engaged fully with every human weakness and wonderfully fulfilled the needs of many. He is still doing just this – and more!

Jesus of Nazareth, then, is our ever-living example.

To follow Jesus is to be fully dedicated to His service as Gospel preachers, teachers of the truth, helpers in the ecclesia, servants to all, in every way possible that will glorify 'our Heavenly Father' in the eyes of the world. What a lofty ideal to strive for!

Time for the unproductive, unsatisfying and worldly life we see around us to be 'swallowed up' and re-directed into faithful activity. This is 'living for the Lord' as distinct from living for self.

There is another beneficial aspect to this change. Physical and mental health, simple, personal well-being is often an attendant outcome, I believe this to be so, for many believers.

Following Jesus then is not about what, "Christians can't do," but much more about what active believers in Jesus are doing!

Bro Neil Todd (New Zealand)

Widows in Christ

Sis Annet Malonka suggested to Sis Beatrice Milimo that she organized a meeting for the widows to get together.

Sis Annet emphasized that those now without husbands, should feel they have a husband in Christ, who is coming soon and will live together for ever with them.

* * *

Turbo, Kenya

Our Sister in Prison

I feel privileged to be able to correspond with Sister D, a 29-year-old part-Maori girl from New Zealand, in a women's prison in Japan. The rules there are very strict, as she is only allowed to correspond with blood relatives and have visits from them. So when she asked for baptism, it was a sheer miracle that after a wonderful confession of her faith, through Bible Basics, and further correspondence with Duncan and Cindy, that arrangements could be made to facilitate this. As the prison's rules are so strict on visitors, Bro Duncan's visit was by pure grace. Our combined fervent prayers were answered, a sheer miracle happened, and Duncan was able to take the long trip to Vladivostok, and then to fly across to Tokyo. Sister D was so joyous at this event, that she wept all through the visit with sheer joy and happiness in her heart.

As she comes from the same town as I do in New Zealand, after three applications personally from her, the prison gave their permission for me to be able to correspond with her. We have become very close. Her letters are all prettily framed with hand drawn colourful flowers, stars, hearts beautifully shaded in, by coloured pencils. These are the only tools she has, and she makes my letters look beautiful. She says that she needs Christ so much in her life, she can't even breathe without Him now.

She says that she felt her life was over when she was first imprisoned and she found herself in a pit of despair and desperation – that death seemed her only option. She said that she found the Lord, crumpled up in the corner of her cell. She was pregnant and felt absolutely hopeless with her situation. Then she says she found the Lord and she has never ever looked back. Her Grandmother (not a Christadelphian) in New Zealand, had sent her a copy of Bible Basics which

she had come across somehow by the hand of providence, and she got her Bible from Marcus in England, and started studying and writing to Duncan and Cindy. She studied passionately, and when her baby boy was born, her wonderful father travelled from New Zealand to pick him up as a newborn and bring him home to the “Whanau” (family). She says that they love and cherish him, and he has just turned 3 years old. She now has seven further years to serve in prison.

Sister D says she now has a deep seated peace in her life. She told me that she can't stop smiling all the time under such dire circumstances, and she says that other prisoners ask her why she is smiling all the time, and she says it is the peace of God in her heart, knowing about God's plan for salvation.

She works in a sweat shop sewing, and has recently been promoted to the position of “Kakari”, which is the head person of responsibility in her workshop, and so the Lord is blessing her for her upright walk in life, and a willingness to do what is right. She says that this position is unheard of in a person so young, and especially as she is still learning the language. She really is a wonderful Sister, and for one so young she has matured quickly beyond her years. In her last letter she says her sleeping accommodation has also been upgraded, and she is now in a nicer space to read and to study in her spare time, even though she has little space to put things. The rules for behaviour are very strict, with severe punishments for misconduct, so she strives to live a godly life before her Maker and those in charge. She says these things are a great blessing to her. She had only been writing to me for a short time, when she asked my permission to call me OKASAN which means in Japanese “Spiritual Mother”, which is an honour for me. Although her letters are full of news, she is very spiritual and has an enquiring mind.

The summers are very hot in Japan, and the winters are perishing cold. Her diet there sounds strange to us, but she copes well and is used to the regime. She has become like a member of our family and speaks of everyone in her letters – our son Jonathan who recently passed away, now sleeping in the “Hope of the Resurrection”, our little Meetings at home here, and places in our country that she remembers so well. I am able to send her newspaper clippings and postcards of familiar places. She says in her own words, that her comfort in her affliction has come from the Word of God, and it has revived her and given her life – Psalm 119:50. She says.... “Wow Lord, your ways are breathtaking and are incomprehensible to us mere humans”. I also send her verses to keep close to her heart such as Psalm 34:7... “The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about all those that love and fear Him...and delivereth them”. She loves the book of Isaiah and finds it comforting many a night when she feels tearful and in need of a hug.

To quote her letter she said “My promotion over the other Japanese women was a Godgiven blessing, I can't believe I have been chosen as I had been hoping and praying for this for so long. I am speechless that God has so blessed me in all areas of my life here...I can see it is the work of God's overruling power caring for me – I can't help but see the Lord's hand at work...just as He looked after Joseph whilst he was imprisoned in Egypt all those years ago. I have only been in this new role a few weeks, but every day I am praying and giving my thanks to God, and also that I can perform my duties and responsibilities well up to standard. It is a real honour for us prisoners, and makes a real difference to how we are viewed, ranked and ultimately paroled... I want others to see Christ's love shining in me, and I hope to become a true disciple of Christ.”

In her last letter of a week ago, she sent the words of James 5:7-8... “Brothers and Sisters be patient until the Lord comes again. See how the farmers wait for their precious crops to grow – they wait patiently for fall and spring rains. You too must be patient. Don't give up hope. The Lord

will soon be here". Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.
Sis Helen Pyper (Hibiscus Coast, New Zealand)

A Human Tragedy (Genesis 3:6)

Evil holds the human race in its grip. The story of the Garden of Eden and the fall of Adam and Eve is really the story of every human being. Eve stared at the fruit: we do too. We look at that which is evil; we let it stir our imagination and take hold of our attention. If at the first glance we were to look away, it would hold no more attraction for us. Then Eve saw that it looked beautiful. Evil usually comes dressed in an enticing package: it never looks ugly. Thus the fruit seemed on the surface to be attractive. It also looked as if it was tasty. Since it looked to be good for food, she convinced herself not only that she needed it and that it would do her good. So she ate some, she got her husband to have some as well.

Somehow our responsibility seems less when others are involved. They share something of our load of guilt. But when we get others to take part, we do not only add evil to evil: we multiply it! There is solidarity in sin. Yet each one is guilty. Only God can forgive your sins. Come and let him pardon and cleanse you and give you a new start.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Resettlement of our Refugee Brethren ~ The Purpose of my Appeals

The purpose of my appeals is to inform as many as possible in the brotherhood that there are brethren residing in refugee camps, and alerting them to the undesirable conditions under which they live. I was quite shocked when I learned this information a few years ago after reading an appeal from one brother to be resettled away from that environment. Upon enquiry I then understood that CBM was involved with them, and was relieved that they were not entirely on their own. CBM personnel were too busy to provide information, and I did not feel comfortable to turn away, doing nothing, with the knowledge of this distressing situation. I also felt that had any of my relatives been living there, I would have had to do my part too, to get them out. Hence my appeals.

My suggestion then and still is, that we should get together to:

- **Initiate an ongoing resettlement program specifically geared towards moving our brethren out of these camps to stable regions in their own country, ideally close to established ecclesias.**

Because of the magnitude of this undertaking, and the fact that we are all brothers and sisters, I do feel that we, who are willing, should all join in the implementation of this program, and it should not be left to one group.

Most importantly, this is a practical way of applying the second greatest commandment – “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”, hence we can therefore approach this with the confidence that **our Heavenly Father gave His only Son also for them as His children, and will therefore**

bless and empower our efforts, if we involve Him, beginning and carrying out this matter in prayer. As shown in numerous scriptural examples, He will take over this project, perfect it and bring it to the desirable conclusion. Other suggestions put forward, **must involve, above anything else, getting our brethren out of those camps.** The reason for this priority is that generally, our brethren are entirely dependent on various organizations for their upkeep in the kind of living conditions that we would find quite unbearable, with no control over their lives, because they are not permitted to work to maintain themselves. There are families with children in this horrendous situation, (babies in dire conditions in refugee camps) elderly brothers and sisters who would find this physically taxing, younger sisters and brothers exposed to the kinds of abuse that exist in these environments.

I was told by a brother, a father of a refugee family, that the stress of living under these conditions, and at times the fear of random outburst of violence that occur in the very camps, disintegration of family life resulting from the desperation of need, were considered the cause of the early deaths of many unable to cope, and he told me he felt that had he and his family not been rescued from their condition at that time, he did not think he would have survived for as long as two more years. He was then in his early forties. His advice is as follows - "I think the best way to help brethren should be to work out a durable solution so that they can resettle somewhere and work for their living. My case is a good illustration; like a troubled sea, I went from country to country without rest, but now I am settled and my children can go to school and I can serve my Lord." Providentially this family was resettled in what is considered an undeveloped country and by working diligently at helping themselves, and assisted by the ecclesias around them, has done remarkably well in their new life.

The following are thoughts and fears recently expressed by some of our brethren in the camps:
"As we look around at our present situation, generally our:

- Thoughts are that we pray to be helped from the undesirable conditions of the camp to a place away from this environment.
- Concerns are how will we fare to start life afresh with our families.
- Anxieties are that we need to be resettled in stable areas where there are jobs opportunities to work in order to meet the family provisions.
- Fears are that we do not know how long we will get over with this distressing refugee life? Also some of us would not like to return back to the areas they lived in before. In our present situation, we see that the future for us and our families is completely dark. There is not any prospect, and it is difficult for us to handle this because we are extremely poor - we do not how and with what to start?"

This revelation is heart rending. I think there are capable individuals in our brotherhood worldwide who may be able to spearhead the undertaking of resettlement, using their expertise and available tools to great advantage if approached prayerfully with the blessing and power of our Heavenly Father.

Sis Esther Worrell (Canada)

Evil

A Bible talk about the word 'evil' is worth considering. Paul tells us to "abstain from evil". Jesus Christ in his prayer says; "deliver us from evil". Moses in the book of Genesis chapter 6 described the world before the flood as being full of evil, corrupt and deceitful people. The God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob punished these wicked, 'evil' people because they never listened to his voice given at different times through prophets, disciples and Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Today, in the Christian era, the same thing is happening: people are evil, wicked, corrupt and deceitful but they still have the opportunity to believe the gospel and be saved through the abundant love, mercy and grace from the God of Israel through our Saviour, mediator, High Priest and Advocate, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

In Genesis chapter 4, Cain versus Abel is an example of why we should note the word 'evil' in our everyday life, along with temptation, test and trial and the kingdom of God. Cain murdered his brother because of an evil mind (thought, heart) while his brother had a righteous mind. In Hebrews 11:4 God commends Abel as an example of human nature following in the way of God and Jesus Christ (1 John 3:11-12).

So my appeal is to be aware of evil thoughts (mind, heart) because they are a threat to salvation. Instead, let us follow the mind of Jesus Christ: "Have this mind in you which was in Christ Jesus ... that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5,11).

I was baptized on 21st August 1976 by Bro David Rowley of England (38 years in the truth in Kenya), the same day as Bro John Muraya of Bungoma who is also still alive, living witnesses for Christadelphia in Kenya. What is the secret of such existence? My success by reading the Bible every day to strive for the mind of God and of Jesus Christ and to be a strong witness of the truth to all we meet. I do not know when God will stop my life, but I keep my lamp full of oil like the five wise (Matthew 25:1-13). Jesus' parable tells us to "Stay awake, for you do not know the day nor the hour." We must always remember our first love for Christ that we had at our baptism. When we accepted the gospel message, we agreed to walk with Christ, to bury the old man of the flesh and to walk in the new spirit of love. Only death should separate us from the truth (Romans 8:38-39).

Bro John Onani (Sinda, Kenya)

Squeezing into the Kingdom of God

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven, and again I say to you it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard it, they were surprised, saying, "Who then can be saved?" (Matthew 19:23-25).

The needle gate was the small gate in a city wall through which only people could walk. For a camel to go through, it had to kneel down after having all its baggage unloaded, and even then it could only just squeeze through. We should shed our own wealth and thoughts, and humble ourselves if we are to enter the kingdom, "Enter in by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and

broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate and straight is the road that leads to life, but few are they that find it” (Matthew 7:13).



Pictured above: Brothers and Sisters at the Bible School for North Nyanza Area at Bro James Milwanda’s home after the Memorial Service. Bro Raphael Aimo is on the left, while Bro Milwanda is third from the left.

Bro Raphael Aimo (North Nyanza, Kenya)

Giving Christ His Titles

Giving Christ his titles is one of the ingredients when making our prayers to our Father powerful. Let us bear in mind the titles of Christ and use them with full meaning. Christ’s full name is: The Lord Jesus Christ. He attained the titles attached to his name on his resurrection. In preaching to the Jews, Peter declared: “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). It is pleasing to hear the full name and titles of the Lord used in prayer.

Jesus signifies ‘Yah shall save’ and proclaims his mission as Saviour. Christ is the Greek form of ‘Anointed’ and implies the wonderful unity between him and the Father, by which he was enabled to overcome and through which he was clothed upon with divine nature. Lord is ‘Master’ or ‘Owner’. It states his pre-eminence over the ecclesia.

The prayer acknowledges the full measure of his mission, his unity with his Father, and his status over the ecclesia. Paul recommended that prayers be offered “unto God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20). We cannot improve on that manner of approach.

Bro Lazarus Kingoo (Yatta, Kenya)

Repentance, Confession and Forgiveness

The Biblical record of the life of king David illustrates two things – the depth of iniquity and triumph of faith, or in other words, confession and forgiveness. Each aspect is presented to teach those who come that repentance and confession are essential for forgiveness.

In 2 Samuel chapters 10 and 11 when David went to war with the Amorites, he committed a heinous act against an innocent man in an effort to cover up his own iniquity. The record of David’s sin with Bathsheba is a bold and stark record of iniquity. Here we find “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and pride of life” (1 John 2:16).

2 Samuel 12 – Nathan is sent to confront David and bring his sin into the open. I assume this happened after the baby had been born. 2 Samuel 11:27. For all this period David concealed his iniquity from the people and did not seek forgiveness from God. In 2 Samuel 12:1-4 we find injustice, in verses 5-6 we find David a man with strong commitment to justice. I just think that his mind went straight to the Law of Moses ... Exodus 22:1. Nathan's response was "Thou art the man". What a stinging and direct rebuke!

God gave David all he needed, yet he conspired to rob Uriah of his life and wife. In 2 Samuel 12:9 David is accused of two crimes that were punishable by death - murder and adultery. Even though God forgave David, in a sense he suffered the death sentence through the death of the child and the sword that highlighted his household afterwards.

In 2 Samuel 12:13 David acknowledges his sin. All sin, no matter who the victim is, ultimately is a sin against God. James 1:14-15 reminds us of how sin is conceived.

2 Samuel 12:15-17 – David poured out his heart to God, but the die had been cast and the child had to die. Psalm 51:1-3 reveals David's thoughts at this particular period of time. We need to be washed by God, washed in the blood of the lamb and this is only possible if we confess our sins and repent. Psalm 51:4 – All sin and transgressions are against God.

There were two ritual offerings for sin after David had confessed his sins – although the bullock and lamb were offered on the altar, there was the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart.

Psalm 32 related to this period in David's time. It speaks of sin which is concealed for a period of time. For all those months while Bathsheba carried their child David concealed his sin but it gnawed at his very being. He would have no peace. He was tormented by his secret. When finally exposed, David was able to confess and experience the wonderful relief that comes with forgiveness. Psalm 32:5,10,11 - Uriah's conduct shows an austere soldier-like spirit that guided his conduct and character and the discipline of David's officers. It is one of the touching parts of the story that Uriah falls unconscious of his wife's dishonour – Bathsheba herself was a woman of extraordinary beauty – is she partly to blame for placing herself in a position where she could be seen by king David?



Bro Gordon Ochieng (Manyanda Ecclesia, Kenya)

Those Editorials

As is usual with human memory, we read and forget. Re-reading articles we read previously makes the ideas we imbibed some time ago fresh in our minds. It would be a worthwhile habit if we from time to time fall back on old copies of 'The Gospel News'. We can sample again the great exhortations that those copies convey. As Christadelphians we choose to read the Bible daily to keep in touch spiritually with our Maker and Saviour. Most of the chapters we read, on reflection, have relevance to our current and past life experiences. As we read and re-read them, spiritual consolations emerge in our minds and we are better for it.

The editorial of July-September 2009 has much to give us in respect of sins we commit or of omission, that is failing to act when we should act. April-June 2006 has spiritual growth as its caption. As one goes through it, 'self' was decried but selflessness is upheld, and this should be the badge of brethren and sisters in Christ. Jesus Christ displayed the greatest selfless trait – to die for the sake of the world (sinners). Reading through this would remind and ignite our minds to what we should aspire to in lending helping hands to the brotherhood and to others when the need arises.

Sister Ludmilla's great effort of reaching the areas of Kazakhstan to take the word – light to the people, and to teach about Christ Jesus who is light and everlasting life for brothers and sisters to emulate. Do we get any encouragement from her work and that of others? I do. Please read through the May - June 2002, issue page 10.

The Gospel News magazine, in addition to spiritual uplift, serves as my TV since its pictures bring home to me the great things that Carelinks does in the spreading of the gospel. It is my world geography and atlas. I learn of places that I have never heard of before, even in my life in Africa. I see houses and other projects set up to sustain life. Horrors which brethren in Christ undergo are not left out. They expose the heartlessness of the rulers of this wicked world. Sister Aleksandra, July-September 2006, page 41, and the chilling story of the brutal murder of Bro Glen Isaac, page 72 of July-August 2000, and March-April 2002.

The efforts of Carelinks has been unquantifiable, only the Almighty God can recompense adequately. May the living God strengthen those who produce Gospel News. Brethren and Sisters worldwide who are privileged to receive the magazines should pray earnestly on behalf of these who, I know, undergo great difficulties physically and mentally in the performance of their duties. May the peace of God that passes understanding be with you.

Bro Ileanaccho Ilejinka (Owerrinta, Nigeria)

(Psalm 105:3)

“As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”

(Isaiah 62: 5 NIV)

Jesus said: “Ye now therefore have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.” (John 16:22)

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1-2)

“In that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy, the wives also and the children rejoiced so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.” (Nehemiah 12:43)

Bro Green Mumbelunga (Ndola, Zambia)

Very Good Work (Genesis 1:1-31)

Some Christians believe that work is bad, that it is a curse brought about by Adam and Eve’s sin left uncorrected. This mistaken belief can cause people to feel that what they do in their jobs every day is not important to God, or at the very least, is not as important as the work of missionaries. This is not true as Genesis 1:25-31 teaches us.

First we learn that God Himself works as evidenced by the labour involved in creation and the fact that He rested on the seventh day. Then we discover that man was made on the sixth day in His image (v 26) and that he was granted dominion over creation. This means that man has to work to tend creation. Clearly the tending of God’s creation is work, noble work, for God looked upon His labours and declared them “very good” (v 31).

It must not escape our notice, either, that work was declared good before sin entered the world, in other words, work did not result from the fall and therefore is not a curse. We see this idea again in Genesis 2 when God “took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it” (v 15).

Let us approach each day’s labour, whether at a job or doing activities to help our family, with our awareness of the dignity and nobility God granted in creation. May God give us work till our life shall end, and life till our work is done, and may God take our life after the work is finished. Amen

Bro Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)

Men at The Gate ~ 2014 Report

Every opportunity in these closing times of Gentile times has merit to strengthen our faith.

This year 'Men at The Gate' was held in Durban at the Ecclesial Hall and Bro Anthony Oosthuizen was the presenter dealing with the theme of "Responsibilities of the Man of God in the Family." The outline of the presentation was well planned and illustrated in book form for everyone who attended to take home.

Bro Anthony dealt with the main topic under three sub titles:

1. The importance of our Private Worship
2. The real purpose of daily readings
3. Marriage; a gift from God for Life

These were all timely reminders to brethren. It was emphasised how private worship of prayer and meditation is important for the continuity of the body of Christ. This was supported by many scriptural examples.

Under the topic of the purpose of daily readings, we were reminded of how important this is. We live in an age where, according to statistics, fewer and fewer daily readings are done in the brotherhood. We have to be imitators of God, just as Jesus was, and this is only possible by daily reminders from the Word. It was emphasized that the Truth is a "Bible Culture" and not a "European Culture".

The third part dealt with marriage. It was a timely reminder to be made aware of the basic principles of marriage, because they are currently under threat.

We broke up into discussion groups at the end of the meeting and a report back was given.

May it be that the coming of Christ will soon put an end to the rulership of man in this time of perplexity.

Bro Lothar Kassier (Pinetown, South Africa)

We, Too, Can Be a Chosen People

Moses spoke to the people of Israel: "The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth, not because you are more in number than any other people" (Deuteronomy 7:6). He reminded them that numbers have never mattered to God, but quality is more important than quantity. "It is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath which He swore to your fathers!" (v 8).

Israel, a choice nation

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Israel, a choice nation

The idea that God has a special relationship with the nation of Israel does not go down well even today. Why should God choose one nation out of the many that fill the globe?

In summary

Now, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, let us look and read the following events for us to be very sure that we, too, can be a chosen people like the children of Israel:

1. Abraham, the father of all nations: Genesis 15:7-8
2. The twelve tribes from Jacob: Genesis 12:7
3. The blessings and cursings: Deuteronomy 28: 1-14
4. The son of David: Luke 20:13-15
5. The purpose of God in His Son, Jesus Christ: Isaiah 53:3; Acts 2:23
6. Has God rejected His people?: Romans 11:2-5
7. The return of Israel to their land: Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Ezekiel 36:24-26
8. The future outlook: Malachi 4:1
9. The transformed wilderness: Isaiah 65:22; Psalm 72:16
10. The coming Kingdom of God: 2 Timothy 4:8

What is so special about that tiny strip of land between the continents, for which God seems to have such a deep regard and love? The answer is very simple. It is because God is the Creator and we view God's work from a very short time span compared with the eternity through which He operates. We must always be prepared to wait for a very long time if we want to know why God does things in a certain way.

God designs His work (creation)

If we look through the Bible, then we shall see from God's point of view and see what has been happening in the 4,000 years before Christ. Let us read the book of Romans where Paul says: "The Jews were beloved for the sake of their forefathers. Did God reject his people? By no means!" (Romans 11:1, 28-36).



Bro Joseph Mulawo Members of Tongogare Refugee Camp Ecclesia

Bro Joseph Mulawo (Muzoka, Zambia)

Tongogara Refugee Camp Ecclesia

First of all, I thank Almighty God for giving me this opportunity to send this news. Secondly, I thank the CAT for the great work it has been doing for so long. We have received English and French NEV Bibles, but we still need Swahili Bibles as new members join our ecclesia. We also received copies of 'The Real Devil' and 'The Real Christ' plus discs – but we have no electricity in the camp.

In the refugee camp we started with three brothers and one sister, and now have nineteen baptized members and still growing.

We thank CBM for what they have done to support the building of our new meeting hall. We are very happy to announce that we have baptised three new sisters: Emerance Mulumba, Jacqueline Asende and Maombi Ali.

We also have a good number of students who have decided to follow our beliefs. Many come from Pentecostal churches who believe that when somebody dies they go straight to heaven, they also believe the devil (Satan) has supernatural powers to deceive the world.

“Therefore go into the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). God wants all people to be saved through believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

The effort that CAT put into trying to make sure the gospel reaches every corner of the world is very great, and gives us strength and courage to continue speaking to many people from many different beliefs and languages in Tongogara Refugee Camp.

Last year we had Sis Ruth and Bro Steve Moore at our ecclesia and we had a goodly number of 85 listening to the preaching. The day was awesome and many people have started making a decision to follow what the Bible actually teaches, not what man teaches. We believe that many will come to our ecclesia to learn more and accept the true gospel.

Bro Patrick Simbo (Tongogara, Zimbabwe)

A Sacrifice of Praise

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15). Since the beginning of time man has had a desire to sacrifice something to his Creator. Cain brought “of the fruit of the ground” as an offering to the Lord. Abel brought “of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof” for a sacrifice to God. Upon emerging safely from the ark, Noah took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl and offered burnt offering to God. Even today, people in many parts of the world bring sacrifices or gifts to God. The desire is there and the sacrifice is made.

What should we offer to God? Indeed, He deserves great things. The prophet Micah grappled with this question (Micah 6:6-8). He tells us that God does not desire burnt offerings of calves a year old nor thousands of rams, nor ten thousand rivers of oil and especially not our own offspring. Perhaps God wants us to be more diligent in attending ecclesia, or maybe that what He needs is more dollars (naira) from our bank accounts, or more of our time in acts of service? Yes, God deserves great things. But these great things in themselves do not please Him. What

does please God is a proper attitude, a right spirit. Micah said: “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to be contrite before him.” He does not simply want us to give some of our things to Him; He requires that we yield ourselves to Him completely.



Romans 12:1 calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, continually yielding our total selves to God including a life of praise and adoration to Him. Hebrews 13:15 says that it is by him (Jesus) that we can offer the sacrifice of praise to the Father. This is the kind of sacrifice that God wants today. He does not require that we offer turtle doves or lambs or calves or bulls on literal altars. He does request a life that honours Him. And He loves hearts that well up in singing, i.e. one way in which we offer the sacrifice of praise collectively when we sing with other brethren / sisters in a worship service. We bring the sacrifice of praise individually when our hearts burst forth in song as we go about our daily duties.

The nature of a tree is revealed by the fruit it bears; in the same way the nature of a person is revealed by what comes out of him. A brother or sister who has a heart filled with praise for God will spontaneously and freely bring to Him a sacrifice of praise with their lips. The sacrifice of praise should be careful and earnest. God requires our best. The Old Testament speaks of bringing the first fruits of the land into the house of God. It speaks of bringing animals that are without spot for burnt offerings unto the Lord. In the same way, now in the New Testament era, we give our best as a sacrifice of praise to our Maker, but singing carelessly and half-heartedly is not bringing our best in sacrifice. The sacrifice of praise need not be something that is difficult for us to give. In fact it should be something we love to give to our Lord. We bring it joyfully: we bring it cheerfully. “God loves a cheerful giver” applies to bringing the sacrifice of praise, as well as giving in other ways. The greatest sacrifice of praise is a life that matches our profession, for then others will see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Bro Uka Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)

Carelinks | Ukraine and Ukraine Bible School



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

Please do continue praying for Ukraine and our brothers and sisters there. The situation is truly tragic, as a nation divides against itself, Russians against Ukrainians, young pro-westerners against older folk who look to the East rather than the West. Several thousand people have been killed in the violence, many thousands injured, homes and villages destroyed, over a million refugees as families divide, as some take refuge in Russia and others flee to safer parts of Ukraine. These events have touched many in our community in Ukraine. Sister Elena attended the Bible School, having fled Kramatorsk after her apartment block was shelled and glass knocked out of the windows. Please pray that when she returns, it will be habitable. And please pray, too, for those younger and middle aged brethren who are now receiving their call up papers to fight for the Ukrainian army. The situation was such that the sanatorium we were planning to use for the School had to turn us away at the last minute - it is filled with injured people. We were really blessed to find another sanatorium at short notice.



Viktor being carried to the water for baptism

Despite all these problems, we held a very spiritual Bible School, attended by a total of 70 brothers and sisters and their friends; some only came for a day but it was a wonderful experience and we thank you for your donations which enabled it. Brother Andy Taylor from the Windermere UK ecclesia, came out and gave some talks and spent time pastorally supporting our new brothers and sisters. He is a very mature and spiritual brother and we loved his company. We also had a group of six African visitors, the fruit of the work of our Brother Samuel in Odessa, and one of them, JACKSON, was baptized by brother Andy.



Our new brother emerges from the waters of baptism and is tenderly greeted and dried by his wife and son

We rejoiced in the baptisms of NASTYA (daughter of sister Marina from Kharkov), NADEZHDA, VIKTOR and TAMARA, ANDREJ (a direct fruit of our Bible distribution program) and VIKTOR, husband of sister Vera and father of brother Denis. Further, one contact from our work with ex-JWs, DENIS, was visited and baptized, with our brothers Sergej and Vitaly assisting greatly. Especially moving was the baptism of Viktor, whose wife and son have been baptized many years. He is really very ill and barely able to walk. He was literally carried by our brethren to the

lake, carried into the water and, despite great pain and difficulty, was immersed - and greeted and dried with such tenderness and care by his wife and son.

Brother Andy wrote up his impressions: "Apart from the mosquitoes, I can't recommend the Ukraine Bible School highly enough. Never having been to Ukraine before and not speaking a word of Ukrainian (or Russian, apart from nyet which I didn't need anyway as the experience was yes, yes; not no, no) the welcome from the Eastern European brothers and sisters and those from other climes could hardly have been warmer. Study sessions, mainly led by Duncan on the daily readings, were lively, and translations willingly provided for those with English as first language including a number of Ukraine-based Nigerians.

The accommodation being in a Soviet-era sanatorium was interesting, set in extensive grounds in a wooded village setting to the north of Kyiv. The nearby lake yielded a more than adequate setting for the baptisms that took place at the School. These were indeed joyful occasions and we hope that the recreational bathers enjoyed the musical accompaniment as much as we did. The last evening saw an emotional breaking of bread service which was most moving and helpful for all, including, of course, our new brothers and sisters. After the final study session covering Romans chapters 10 and 11, in which Duncan further reflected on the possible nearness of our Lord's return (one of the strong themes of our time together), we concluded the evening with a talent show; some exhibited more talents than others, but I have to say that the language 'barrier' did little to detract from our enjoyment of the varied items.

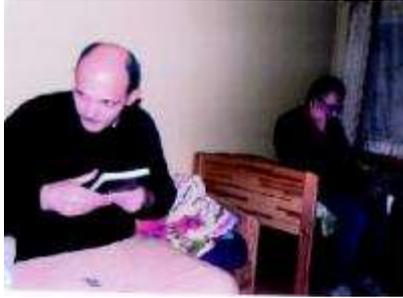
As I mentioned I had not been to Ukraine before, but definitely do hope to be asked again. I would recommend this to anyone who needs uplifting in their faith and who would like to enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters in this part of the world which has not had things easy in the last several months. It was especially good to see the loving relationship between people of different ages and backgrounds, and the renewing of friendships that had clearly lasted many years, in contrast to the spirit of breakup in relationships which there is now throughout Ukraine."

Carelinks | Latvia

We have mentioned in previous reports the amazing witnessing work achieved by brother Ivar in the isolated care home he lived in in rural Latvia. Many were baptized there as a result of his witness - a man who can barely talk, whose speech is hard to understand, who is not online and yet who uses hard copies of our publications to preach to all and sundry. Our brother has been moved from that care home to another one.

It was a joy to visit him there and baptize his room mate ROBERTS. His clothes are provided by the institution and have holes in them, and yet our brother's deep, almost trembling respect for God's word is the main thing in his life.

We plan on giving them a laptop computer - there's no internet, but in response to the previous appeal, some old computers have been loaded with video, MP3 and text files of our various materials in Russian. This could really open a new life for them. We've heard from brother Shurik in far Eastern Latvia that he has received the laptop sent and is busy trying to figure how to use it. He too is in a care facility.



Brother Ivar, left, with his room mate and new brother, Roberts

Carelinks | Women and Children's Camp, Latvia

This was a great success and was held at the housing project in northern Latvia. It was great for city folk to get out into the countryside to learn and respond to the Gospel.

Cindy writes:

"I recently organized a children's camp in the housing project in Northeastern Latvia for four days where we recorded three new Bible songs in Latvian which were written especially for the occasion with the help of Sis Anna Ryder from the UK. Four whole families from my Mums and Toddlers group came from Riga, as well as many of the local children. Recently baptized Bro Indars was there with his wife, Silvia, and their lovely little daughter. Each day we had exercises and activities for the kids which were themed around the Bible verse for the day. This year we also visited local farmers who kindly showed us how they milk the cows, and even let the children drink warm, frothy fresh milk which the city children loved! We also visited a sheep farm, had rides on a horse and cart, went down the river on a barge and visited the local ice cream factory.

The children loved listening to Bible stories in the evening and playing with each other all day long in the fresh country air. There was also opportunity for some good conversation about more serious Bible matters - please pray that it will bring forth fruit. I'm really hoping that the three unbaptized but interested Mums will want to get more serious about their faith. Everyone really enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to next camp, God willing. Thank you for your prayers!"

Carelinks Reports continues later

CENTRE SPECIAL | Soweto News June/July 2014

We are delighted to start our news with the baptism of Vusi Tshabalala. Bro Vusi has been a student since 2010 having heard about us in the newspaper. He has to work over weekends so before our Tuesday Bible Class he was baptized in the bath in Bro John Shezi's flat and after that we broke bread together in our classroom and he was given the right hand of fellowship. We rejoice as we welcome another brother into God's precious family.

June was a busy month on the outreach preaching and pastoral front. Bro Ollie Mahopo went to visit the brothers in Kroonstad, followed a few weeks later by Bre Paul Verster and Emmanuel

Mphambo. Bre Daniel Makhado and Austen Mataka went to Limpopo to encourage Bro Charlie Golele and visit students. Bro Paul and Sis Leonie Verster visited the Maputo ecclesia with Bro Gary Smith of Yeoville who gave a very good seminar on the Saturday afternoon and which was very ably translated into Portuguese by local Bro Eugenio. It was a special treat for Paul and Leonie to visit, after a gap of 12, years, and meet the new members. It is so encouraging that many brothers are keen and able to take on these preaching activities and come back excited and even more fired up to share the gospel. Much to our surprise and delight we witnessed another baptism despite the day dawning at minus 5 degrees. Sis Kim Buthelezi, however, was resolute in her desire to be immersed in our portable pool at the school. We rejoice with the angels that another young person is remembering her Creator in the days of her youth and has committed to a purposeful life in Christ with the amazing hope of the Kingdom before her. She heard of the truth from Bro Lucky Sekhasembe while both were attending a school to improve their Matric results. Sis Kim asked Bro Lucky to help her with her Maths and was intrigued when Lucky offered a prayer before starting the lesson. Our prayers are that both Bro Vusi and Sis Kim grow in grace and remain steadfast till our Lord returns.



Sister Kim's baptism



Brother Vusi's baptism



The Soweto Fraternal Gathering

On Saturday 5 July we hosted a special fellowship study day to which we invited all the local ecclesias and some brothers from isolation. At this school we are blessed in having the use of a double classroom when needed and that day with 84 in attendance it was certainly a blessing. Our guest speaker for the weekend was Bro Barry Van Heerden and it was a wonderful day of fellowship and study. We thank the Yeoville ecclesia especially for their great support and it was encouraging, too, for our local students. Our Sisters did a sterling job of catering and providing teas and a hot lunch, though we don't have kitchen facilities. Bro Barry did the exhortation and study on the Sunday and we all very much enjoyed and benefited from his ministrations over the weekend.



Bro Barry Van Heerden speaking at the Fraternal Gathering

Sis Leonie Verster

Carelinks | China

Brother Donald reports the baptism of brother HE; and our new brother wrote an interesting testimony:

“I was born in a Christian family, in the mountains of the Zhejiang rural area, our family comprising my father, mother, sister and me. I grew up with the great support of my parents; my sister and I would often listen to the Bible on our father and mother's knee. My parents guided me to know the existence of God, telling me God loved the world, taught me to pray and to rely on the Lord. I accepted all they taught me, and at times it moved me even to tears. However, not many people in our village believed, most people laughed at my parents' beliefs, my sister and I tried to keep our faith private, because with China's atheistic educational background, people don't believe in the existence of God, they consider such faith to be superstitious, faith is seen as a shameful thing, and so without faith, there is left for the people just the pursuit of money, fame and wealth, status.

When I was 6 years old I began to go to school, elementary school. I had good grades, my parents hoped I could be admitted to the university in the future, they wanted me to get on in life and get out of the mountains. So in 2001, I was sent to a boarding school, only coming home at the weekends. But there, with a new learning environment, campus, teachers and friends, my heart began to gradually change; “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know?”

In high school, I became a materialist, I chose to aim for money, fame and wealth, status. I moved away from God, I couldn't withstand the temptation of material things and entertainment, I began to slip, began skipping classes, having friends who do not love learning, bad friends; my academic performance began falling, often I told my parents at the weekends false results to deceive them. But finally my parents learnt of my bad grades and I was in disgrace. I fell into extremely low self-esteem and self-pity, I lived every day in the melancholy, finally I quit school, the dream of entering university shattered, and I fell very low. But when I was at rock bottom, then God could begin again with me. Truly “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps” Proverbs 16:9. The year before last I experienced the pain of having both my parents die in a car accident. So after a lot of pain, I concluded that maybe God is letting me return to Him as the prodigal son. I now believe that Jesus is the only truth in my life, he is innocent, and the only way to forgiveness because He was of our nature! Thank God that He let me know my own smallness, weakness and sin. He wants to make me to be a child of God, to enjoy true peace and joy, I felt the truth set me free, it let me rediscover myself, I face life no longer confused, for the future road I face full of confidence. Regardless of what happens now in life, our loving heavenly Father will be faithful to His promise to me, and his righteousness and mercy help to build my confidence. I feel humble before the Lord, the leadership of my life is with him, I want only to proclaim him and serve him! I would like to feel as Paul who pressed towards the prize before him (Phil. 3:13-14). I hope I end my race like Paul at the end of his life, with a clear conscience, feeling I have run a good race (2 Tim. 4:7).



Brother Donald, left, with our new Brother HE

Carelinks | Armenia

Over two years ago Carelinks produced a video about baptism. Part of it was shot in a park in Paris, France. Brother Edgar's grandmother, RAISA, was visiting and we interviewed her; she explained she was baptized as a baby in the Orthodox church, but as we chatted she expressed doubts about it and was open to the idea that perhaps indeed adult baptism is needed.

Over the last two years we have kept in contact and it was a great joy to visit and baptize her and her husband SERGEJ. So from a chat on a park bench in Paris, where she encountered, really for the first time, the idea that she had yet to really connect with Christ, the Lord led her to baptism.

We have put together a three minute video - comparing her words at her interview in the park two years ago with her position now, just moments before her adult baptism. Please see the [YouTube link](#).

Raisa explained that their pension is only 40 euros a month whereas winter heating for their flat costs far more than that. Life is really very hard for many in Armenia. Whilst in Armenia, there was also the baptism of ARSEN and also ZHANNA, a lady with a wonderful knowledge of the Bible for whom the Scriptures are truly her study all the day. She lives with her husband in a tiny room of just a few square metres which literally has enough room for a bed, a small table and a chair. The kitchen and toilet is shared with others.



Raisa and Sergej with Duncan following their baptisms



Raisa chatting with Duncan in Paris over two years ago

Carelinks | Riga ~ Winter Welfare

It is December 2014 and Bro Jim and Sis Anne Barton from Canada have been hard at work this week in Riga helping with the Winter Welfare Scheme. Here are their first impressions after a week:



Cindy takes Sisters Hannah and Anna and Bro Jim through the kitchen hygiene training

“It was with some intimidation that we inquired about coming to Riga to help out with the Riga Bible Centre operated by Carelinks. After reading so many Carelinks’ accounts over the past years about the people who use the centre, it left us with an impression that it was a society that was predominantly indigent, living in dire circumstances and perhaps it was even dangerous for westerners to be here. After some comforting discussions with Duncan we were able to step out of our comfort zone and come here to help out.

We do meet many people in the Bible centre who are living poorly, but there is a range of poverty. Some have regular apartments but after paying utilities, can’t afford enough food. There are others who use night shelters to survive most nights; there are others who just have to find anywhere to sleep, which in some cases may be at a bus station or under a bridge. Last night we went to deliver firewood to a woman who was squatting in an abandoned building for lack of anywhere else to live. We entered her home through a window off of the hallway. There was one candle for light, which left the room rather dimly lit. She had no power, no water, no bathroom, no toilet, only a small opening in the chimney where she could maintain a small fire to provide a minimum of heat.



The entry to Sis Brigita’s room through a window - she has quite a style to doing it by a swinging motion!

There was a mattress in one corner, the sum total of her furniture. She had been breaking up a cupboard to provide herself with firewood. It was notable that she did a remarkable job of keeping it clean and as organized as one can under such circumstances.

It’s a sad commentary on a place that fails to provide minimal support to those most in need. For many if not most in Riga and Latvia life is much better. There is a significant middle class and apparently a wealthy class too, as evidenced by some of the luxury cars we see on the streets. They have a rather sophisticated public transportation system and shopping that rivals most stores you might find in the west and the prices are lower in many cases. The scene is not too different from what you might find in most western nations. Most of them go to work everyday and come back to their homes at night. Housing appears to be somewhat different as there are many, many Soviet era and style apartment blocks, not always appearing to be in very good repair but quite functional. It’s sometimes interesting to see upscale cars outside these apartment buildings. One thing I did seem to notice about the society, not just the poor, is that they seem somewhat dour. They rarely make eye contact, when they do they quickly look away and usually down. Their faces appear sad, sometimes even a bit angry. If you nod to them as you walk by they almost never nod back or reply. I’m not certain if that’s just a Latvian or Eastern European way but it seems a bit sad. There’s a gloom in the air that feels somewhat disconcerting but not threatening.

Working in the Bible Centre has been so very fulfilling. Most days involve going to a market called “Maxima”, which is a large superstore much like a super WalMart, with groceries and department store combined but more heavily proportioned to the groceries than dry goods.

Most days so far we make Borshch soup. It's a comprehensive meal that includes a balance of vegetables, meat, dairy and liquid. It's quite tasty and the guests enjoy it very much and almost always come back for refills, usually several times. Tomorrow we're changing things up with some Split Pea soup. I've been ladling out the soup each evening at 6pm (after an hour Bible Study) and they consume about 50 litres per night, sometimes more. Typically there's between 60 to 100 souls to feed (spiritually and physically). At first it didn't seem like they ever smiled much but in the last few days as they've seen us there a few times, they seem to warm up to us and show much appreciation for the efforts made for them and finally a warm appreciative smile on their face makes our day. Anne helps by handing out the bread and spoons. When they arrive there's always plenty of hot coffee and tea to warm them up.

"The time here has its challenges but none that match the fulfilment one feels by helping out their brothers and neighbours in need."



In just a few minutes first, second and sometimes third helpings are served up to anywhere between 60 - 100+ people

The language is a barrier that can be overcome. Sometimes it's frustrating and sometimes it's downright amusing. We spend a large amount of time with Maxim, a wonderful brother from the Ukraine who has problems with military service there. He speaks Ukrainian and Russian and almost no English, although he knows more English words than we know Russian or Ukraine. He attempts to teach us some key Russian words but we don't seem to retain them very well. We can usually sign something to indicate what we want, other times we make use of Google Translate, which works pretty well but not always perfectly, sometimes providing a rather amusing interpretation of what we said. We also spend a lot of time with Hannah, a lovely young sister from New Zealand staying here for her Summer (southern Hemisphere) break, three months. She's quite energetic and cheerful and so very pleasant to be around. Together with Maxim, we prepare the food from raw ingredients each day, preparing, cooking and cleaning and sanitizing. When we're done, the kitchen, dining hall, meeting room and washrooms are all clean, sanitary and ready for another day. I can't close without mentioning how nice Duncan and Cindy (and their three little children) are to be around. They constantly open their home to us all for fellowship, prayer and encouragement in the scriptures. They make a significant difference in countless lives every day to help advance the Gospel message. The work being done here in Riga is a very special mission and well organized in accordance to the word of God."