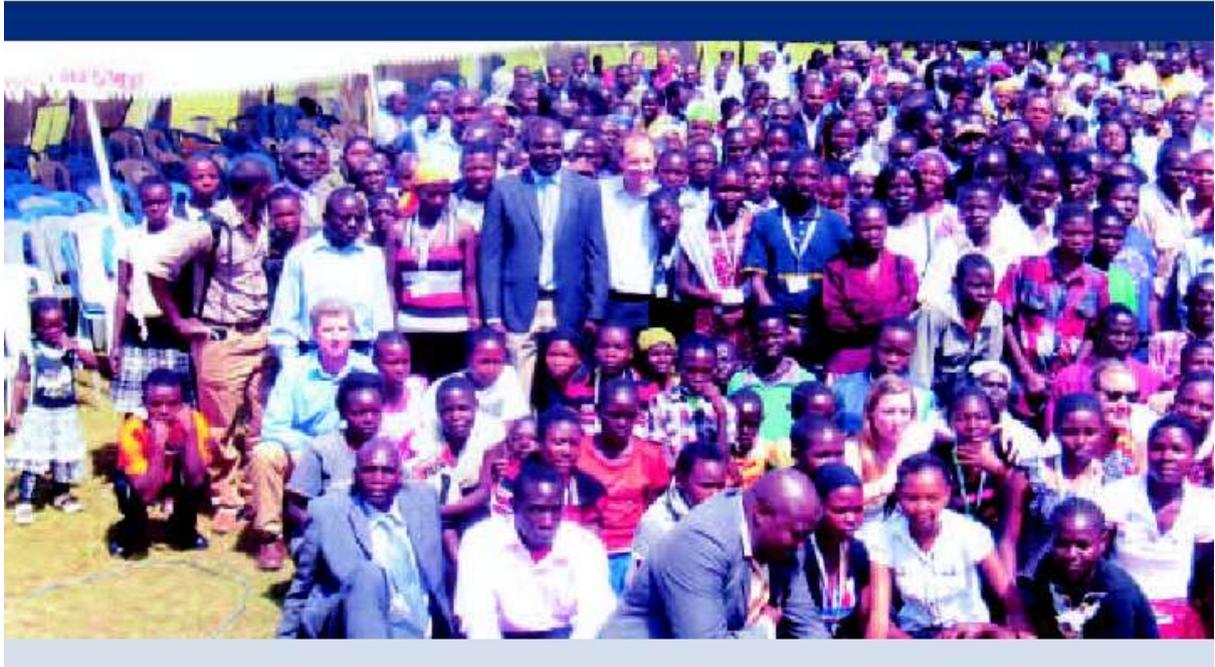


# *The Gospel News*



*"To all nations"*



## **Editorial | The Life Eternal**

By God's grace, we shall live for ever. We need to regularly think of it, the life eternal, endless, infinite, without end, on and on and on and on, a line without end. Yes, we need to close our eyes and wilfully think of this until the mind trips and we are left with a breathless sense of wonder. That I, the little boy from a south London suburb, with glasses and a mole on my lip, shall never die. For salvation, as Robert Roberts said so long ago, is personal. You, me - we - shall live for ever. There are times when a man comes down very small before God - and such moments of realization are one of those times. And the art of spiritual life is surely to live daily life, hour by hour, in the spirit of those moments of realization, of feeling so very small before our Maker and our Saviour. For life lived in this spirit, of humility, of smallness before God, is perhaps what He seeks from us above all things.

The eternity of the life ahead dwarfs all daily problems, the crises of life and death, into very small size. Hovering over all those worries is the fact that all this shall not last long, in fact it lasts only a moment - in the spectrum of infinity. "For our slight momentary affliction accomplishes for us an eternal weight of glory beyond comparison; whilst meantime we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:17,18). God doesn't have long to prepare us for eternity - even a lifespan of 100 years is nothing compared to infinity. He therefore is very intensely at work in our lives to prepare us for the eternity ahead. Although day follows day and even year follows year in an apparently similar, repetitious style - through all that, He is very intensely at work. We may not always be able to attach meaning to event, but rest assured that there is huge significance to every moment and every event in daily life. It's a sense of meaninglessness, of insignificance, that is the root of so much depression. But for us, we are freed from that by realizing the brevity of our lives compared to the eternity ahead; and reflecting that therefore every incident now is of eternal moment and intense significance. We will not focus upon (the idea behind the Greek translated "look at" in 2 Cor. 4:18) the temporal things, but upon the things of the life eternal.

But every human being fears death. Everyone lives their lives in fear of death to the point of being in bond-slavery to it; yet in Christ we have been delivered from that slavery (Heb. 2:15). Whilst we may fear the process of death, just as the Lord did in Gethsemane, we are free from the fear of death which enslaves other human beings throughout their lives; it's rather like being unable to enjoy a holiday because from day one, you are fearful about the holiday coming to an end. But the believer lives without this fear of endings, this unspoken angst about death itself. Like David, we can walk through the valley of the shadow of death without fear (Ps. 23:4). Our interest in spiritual things and in the Gospel doesn't just give us knowledge of the possible chance of eternity. The good news of the Gospel is that we have been given it, that we will be there. Otherwise the message of the Kingdom is hardly Gospel, good news, if we have no guarantee that we shall be there. To be freed from the fear of death, this is good news so dramatic as to radically transform human life and thinking in practice, and turn the world around us upside down.

## **Living Eternal Life Now**

But the life eternal is not only ahead, at some point further up the road; it's not all jam tomorrow. The Lord was asked what to do, "that I may have eternal life" in the future (Mt. 19:16). His response was (as so often with Him) to attack the terms of the question and invite the listeners to redefine them. His response speaks of how "If you will enter into life, keep the

commandments. (then you will have) treasure (right now) in Heaven. Follow Me” (Mt. 19:17,21). The Lord is effectively saying that our life of obedience now to the commandments, our following of Him today, is already entering into the life eternal. Instead of seeing ‘life eternal’ as some far future experience, He speaks of how we are to start living today the kind of life which we shall eternally live. We shall live for ever in obedience to God’s principles / commandments - and we are to seek to live like that today. We will spend eternity following the Lamb wherever He goes - and we are to start doing that today. This is precisely the way John’s Gospel uses the idea of ‘eternal life’. We can right now start living the life eternal; we shall die, but the gift of the Lord Jesus is the empowerment to live today the kind of life we shall eternally live. In this sense we ‘have eternal life’ here and now, in our mortality. And a glance at the Greek confirms this approach the life aionos is the life of the aion, the age - the Kingdom age. In this sense we ‘keep’ our present spiritual life ‘unto life eternal’ (Jn. 12:25). The future reality of eternal life therefore ‘abides in’ we who live in love and have the spirit of Jesus (1 Jn. 3:15).

The Lord Jesus was the essence of Kingdom life, the life we shall eternally live. “The kingdom of God” was amongst Israel in the sense that He personally stood amongst them (Lk. 17:21). The parables of the Kingdom had their living exemplification in Him, the word of the Kingdom made flesh. “The life” is a title of Him (Jn. 14:6) because His character and being were the definition of the type of life we shall eternally live. Whoever, therefore, eats His flesh and drinks His blood, absorbing the essence of Him into themselves, has eternal life now as well as the guarantee of bodily resurrection at the last day, when this will all be articulated in material, physical, literal, bodily terms: “Whoso eats My flesh and drinks My blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (Jn. 6:54). Eternal life is not, therefore, the reward for simply getting straight ‘A’s in our Bible study. The Lord criticizes the Jews for thinking that their searching of the Scriptures would give them eternal life, rather than coming to Him to find that life eternal which is in relationship with Him (Jn. 5:39); and it would seem Peter had the same mistaken thinking when He said that Jesus had the words of eternal life (Jn. 6:68). Indeed He does, but the life eternal isn’t a future reward for having got our theology and Biblical interpretation correct. “This is life eternal, that they may know” (in an ongoing sense, the Greek implies) the Father and Son (Jn. 17:3). Life eternal isn’t a reward for simply figuring out that God is one not three. It is about knowing the Father and Son in terms of having a relationship with them. It starts right now, insofar as we find and know Him, and the spirit of His living becomes absorbed into our own. We express this in physical symbolism when we take the bread and wine and those symbols of Him become absorbed into our own bodies. Living ‘in Christ’, seeking to think as He would, act as He did, feel as He does, is to live the eternal life (1 Jn. 5:11,20). And if we do it now, there will be a seamless continuance of that life when He returns, for ever and ever and ever, world without end.

**| Duncan Heaster**

**News from Africa**

**NEWS FROM BURUNDI**





Nkanda Sunday School

## NEWS FROM KENYA



### **BUNGOMA | Bro Martin Sibolo Situma**

I was pleased to receive the current Gospel News and of course also the Logos magazine. In our ecclesia we have six students who are preparing for baptism and other Sunday School readers who are quite familiar or acquainted with reading Swahili. So we shall be happy if you will send us Swahili New Testaments and if possible include two copies of the whole Bible either in Swahili or English and also a copy of the Christadelphian hymn book if available.

The Lord Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few and that is the situation we are in. It is of course the Lord himself that gives the increase to our labours. So it is appropriate for us to pray always for help from the Lord and the Lord will one day say, “Well done, faithful servant, since you have been faithful in the small things, I will make you ruler over many” and so the Lord will give us finally the required recompense.

Many people are disturbed at the troubles in the world at the moment but we do believe that these are just indications of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. He is soon coming in order to establish the Kingdom of God as predicted by the prophets of God.

### **SANGALO MARKET | Bro Fred Comfort Namunju**



The church I started at Sangalo Market is continuing and we have started to raise a meeting place for we have been worshipping our God under the tree. Pictured above: The Church meeting under a tree

### **BUNGOMA | Bro Laban Kisaka**

Much greetings in the name of our Master soon to reign on earth. I am very much grateful for the Gospel News that you keep on sending to me, actually I lack words to express my deep sense of gratitude. I am looking for a way of sending you some photos that were recently taken during the Bible Class at The Progressive Centre in Nairobi.



Sisters' Camp at North Nyanza

### **DAGO | Bro Raphael Joni Aimo**

Jesus told his followers in John 16:16, "A little while you will see me no more and then a little while and you will see me." It does not matter how many years the Lord has been absent, to God a thousand years is the same as one day and we know that Jesus will return one day to establish God's Kingdom.

So our discipleship is a journey which we must undertake for us to reach our destination safely. Paul told the Galatians not to grow weary of doing good as in due course they would reap rewards if they did not give up. It is applicable to us as well as the Galatians, Gal. 6:9-10.

So let us be steadfast and obedient to God's Word without murmuring, and show our faith which we have attained in Christ, our Lord, to others too.

The Bible tells us that the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil (1 Peter 3:12).

Our Lord's coming is near indeed as we see events unfolding now. Rev. 3:20 tells us, "Behold, I am standing at the door and knock." May He find us worthy of the Kingdom when He returns. May God bless us all as we journey towards the Kingdom.



A group of brethren after the Memorial Service. Bro Joshua Ooma Ayul, one of their oldest brothers and a great defender of the Scriptures, in the centre with open Bible

### **ELDOROT | Bro Jacob O'Koth**

It is our earnest expectation and cherished hope that through our Lord's victory on the cross we may, through repentance and baptism, obtain salvation in the Kingdom.

I would congratulate CAT on the good work it does, its stand and hope in reflecting the great certainty about the coming Kingdom. May our Lord lead you to understand our situation economically in Kenya, especially our work in the vineyard. I pray and am still eager, that I may be able to run a rabbit and chicken project as I have told you before.

### **KISUMU | Bro Richard Oduma**

Gospel News is really enjoyable. Thank you for the hard work of CAT making sure that the Word reaches every corner of this world. In Kisumu Ecclesia we have a number of contacts who are not able to read or understand English, mostly the street boys who are getting instruction and some are nearing baptism. I hope that these translated Kiswahili Bibles will be of great help to them. Please send 20 copies of Kiswahili and 10 copies of English if possible.

My brother there has no way opened up to us to assist helping these needy kids who are attending our services and their number is increasing following the interest they have to know the truth. We still seek your prayers and advice to help solve the little we can do.



Bro Richard Oduma



North Nyanza Youth Camp



North Nyanza Elders Forum

### **MADIANY | Bro Gordon Ochieng**

My spirit is still with those in Riga, Latvia. Even though I might not be able to join them in person, I do remember them in my prayers. I would have joined them to teach, cook and clean but resources are unavailable. Pass my warm regards to the entire team in the Lord's Name.



My wife, Sis Mary Ochieng and our daughter Macrine

The North Nyanza area has 14 ecclesias – 214 brethren, 186 sisters, 110 friends and 347 Sunday School children. I am writing to you voluntarily after the elders pleaded to me that most of their members don't get Gospel literature. They asked me to take this up and communicate with the Trust over this. Of late they have benefited from NEV Bibles, leaflets and books like The Real Devil and The Real Christ, but only a few ecclesias have received a copy of these books. Please

take this into consideration since my aim is to let the Spirit Word concerning God's promise of eternal life in the soon coming Kingdom reach as many as possible. In this area (North Nyanza) we speak three different mother tongues – Luo, Maragoli, Kalenjin. The two unifying languages are Kiswahili and English, so there is need for more Kiswahili Bibles since we do conduct our fraternals, Sisters' Conferences and Bible Schools together.

### **MBITA | Bro Daniel Ogembo**

I was born in a family who were Pentecostal and was baptized when I was 5 years old. When I was old enough I joined a Spiritual Church (Roho-Roho Israel) and I was crowned a bishop and I was called a prophet. In 1996 I visited Bro Samuel Matete Masawa and he started teaching me the gospel and I found that the things that I had believed were not the true gospel. So Samuel introduced me to a tutor who was the late Sis Julia Mebey. She taught me and I was baptized in 2000 at Kabubu Ecclesia by Bro Oderi from Kiagware Ecclesia and interviewed by Sis Tania. Now I am waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to give us eternal life.

### **NAITIRI | Bro Masong'o Harron**

Brothers, CAT is doing a great job, especially bringing light to people who had not known the true gospel. I am grateful for the book you sent to me "*Teach Me Thy Way*", which is great and I know it is going to be helpful to us as an ecclesia. I have begun reading it and I know it is going to help others too.

### **TARBO | Sis Beatrice Wanjala**

Thank you for the book "*Teach Me Thy Way*" which is a very good book. Please send 18 more copies which will help our youth and friends.



Sis Beatrice Wanjala (in white suit) with some of the young people of the Tarbo Ecclesia.

### **SINDO | Bro John Owalo Onani**

I am happy that what God required from us is not money but being faithful, obedient to the truth, listening to His voice, to have a good relationship with the Heavenly Father, to love Him with all our mind and heart, and to love our fellow human beings, walking with the word every day (Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

God wants us to fear Him and keep His commandments, because whatever good or bad we do is written in the book of life. Why are we weak to respond to what our Father in heaven wants? The Bible reveals that our mind, thoughts and heart are evil, corrupt and deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). I therefore exhort my brothers/sisters in the world to be strong and courageous and read the Word daily for spiritual growth (Joshua 1:8).

Every minute, hour, second, day, week and year, whatever you do is what makes your entry in the book of life. If you relax, you might think of a murderer like Cain, but it is much better to

concentrate and for your thoughts to be of love, like Abel, then the righteous God will accept you into the kingdom (Genesis 4; 1 John 3:11-12).

### **TURBO | Bro Emmanuel Milimo**

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your family's photo. It was received with both hands by my family, and the whole ecclesia. The work you are working is very great in these last days to spread the true gospel. Much thanks, particularly for the Swahili New Testament edition. My ecclesia is very happy, especially as the aged brothers and sisters can read only Kiswahili, for it is the national communication language in our society. These Swahili Bibles will help them to study well and understand what they can tell their families and friends.

We pray that our Almighty Father in heaven may give you blessings so that the whole Bible can be translated. In Kenya, the Bible is very expensive so many brothers and sisters cannot afford them. Those who are in need are 8 brothers and 14 sisters, making 22 in total.

I enclose photos of our recent activities. We had a Youth Camp in our R/Valley area, with 460 youths from all our ecclesias. On the closing day, brothers and sisters joined them, making 1150 in total. It was something that had never been done in Kenya before. I would like to thank all.

*Photos of the Youth Camp are on the front and back covers and page 22.*

### **TONGAREN | Bro Isaac Kapa**

In one way or another we can all relate to Psalm 86:1 when David says "I am poor and needy." Even the richest among us should understand that poverty needs relate more to spirit than to the wallet. Even millionaires should often say, "I am just a sinner saved by grace." Psalm 86 tells us that the help God provides is not measured by money. When we acknowledge that we are poor and needy it is not so that God will lavish material riches on us, we do so to open the doors to other, more valuable treasures.

Here is what God does for the poor and needy; "He will preserve our lives and save all those who trust Him." (v.2). He will be merciful and ready to forgive, (v.3,5). He will listen to and answer our prayers, (v.6-7). We ought to take God's blessing with giving back. We have responsibility to learn God's ways, walk in His Truth, fear God's Name "praise the Lord and glorify His Name" (v.1112).

Do you consider yourself among the "poor and needy"? If so, welcome to Tongaren where the poor and needy are many. Let's not forget the spiritual blessings God has for us and the godly response we should have toward his generosity.

The poorest man is he who lacks God's words in his mind.



Bro Isaac Kapa with Agape sponsored children

**CHIKWAWA | Charles Moses**

One day, I visited my relatives who live in Ngabu. There I saw a certain man was reading a book called 'Bible Basics'. I begged him to lend me the book for one day so that I could read interesting topics for myself. Fortunately he permitted me to do so. The book explains the principles of the Bible very clearly without hiding truth and makes them easy to understand. I am sure that if you send me that book and other such books for spiritual growth they will elevate my spiritual life.

As for now, I am looking for a Christadelphian church around my home area to join and start worshipping the Heavenly Father in spirit and truth.

Finally, I will be very glad if my requests are considered and responded to rapidly. May God bless your ministry even more. I extend my greeting to each of you.



Charles Moses P.O. Box 145, Nchalo, Chikwawa, Malawi

**BALAKA | Bro Lyton John**

The present balance of power in the world is split between many nations, some strong and some weak. Daniel saw a little stone hit the image on the feet, destroying it and itself growing into a great mountain which filled the whole earth. This stone represented Jesus. The mountain which He will create all over the earth represents the everlasting Kingdom of God which will be established at his second coming. This prophecy is in itself proof that the Kingdom will be on earth and not in heaven.

**CHILEKA | Bro Kenneth Maganger**

Many thanks for the Gospel News magazine you sent to me which I am enjoying reading. Please keep it up! The material you send us is encouraging us in our spiritual life as the name Barnabas means "Son of encouragement" or "Son of consolation", (Acts 11:22-23). Therefore we are to encourage one another and even to comfort each other in times of difficulties.

We are now in the summer season when we experience hot temperatures. The sun is now overhead and we have long days and short nights.

I would like to let you know that we have received the gift of a baby boy, our fourth child. His name is Patison and he is growing well. God is looking after him well. This means we have now three boys and one girl.

## **CHIMIMBE | Sister Maicook**

Bricks were finished to mould, preparing for the erection next year of our Ecclesial Hall. Fields are also finished for cultivating, where we will plant maize, groundnuts and soya beans. Money from crops like these will provide money for iron roof sheeting for the Ecclesial Hall and also food for the children at CBCC. Some maize will be the start pack for all sisters, brothers, elderly and disabled who have joined us in our church.

Half an acre of maize needs four large bags of fertiliser, weight 50kgs each, 1 seedling of maize per planting station, 25cm apart. Every church member will donate 3kgs of fertilizer.

We need your best wishes therefore by buying two bags of fertilizer which will mean that you have built the Ecclesial Hall with us, the brethren and sisters at Chimimbe. The following are some verses about, **“COME SUDDENLY”** (Malachi 3:1) Come suddenly again, O Lord, Your temple waits for You today. Come in accordance with Your Word, Come suddenly even when we pray. O blessed, blessed Christ bring the revival we need most.

Most graciously our hearts prepare for your great work in this our day. Help each of us to do our share, remove each hindrance from your way. O Jesus our hearts inspire, descend in all your holy fire.

We need you more than we can tell, we need you more than we can say. Our worldliness and sin dispel, come cleanse and fill us all we pray. O Jesus, come on us now as we in need before you bow.

We pray Lord, light the flame once more of Spiritual revival fire, Come now as in the days of long ago (yore) for we wait with great desire. Come suddenly upon your own and make your presence known.

Come suddenly and do much more than we can do in months and years. We plead your mercy, ever we praise you that revival nears. Come Jesus, descend today come suddenly on us, we pray today.



Bro and Sis Aaron James

## **DZALEKA | Bro Shadreck Ngambi**

Job said, “I know that my redeemer lives and at the end he will stand upon the earth.” He said this after he had lost all his treasures, his children died, his body disfigured and even his wife told him to curse God and die. A redeemer is someone who can rescue your life from a dangerous situation or even from death. I believe that I can imagine the situation that Job was facing at that time was more than death. With his great problems, a very bad situation, Job spoke words of faith and said, “I know that my redeemer lives and at the end he will stand upon the earth.” And really at the end God remembers Job.

My brothers and sisters, if you face problems, bad situations, people break your heart, don't worry, know that your redeemer lives. If he remembered Job, he will remember you, if he rescued Job, he will rescue your life.



Bro Shadrack Ngambi Dzaleka Ref. Camp, P.O.Box 31711, Lilongwe, Malawi

### **KASUNGU | Sis Bertha Khonje**

I am concerned that I have taken so long without writing to you. This was because of the pressure I had on postal services. We were told that there will be no more services through Bua which we have used for many years. I have now arranged to use Box 190 at Kasungu, but it is a long way from where I live.

May God bless you and all the Trust with all the good work you provide to all nations for the truth about salvation.

With love in one hope I remain your sister in Christ.

### **Sis Bertha Khonje**

### **KADEWERE | Bro Kenneth Maganger**

Thanks for the two CDs which contain the gospel information. The two Gospel News books you enclosed are also helpful. The DVDs are useful for listening and I would like you to send a higher quality version as you mentioned as I find them very helpful, so please keep it up. The postal charges here have increased and it is difficult for me to send letters to you due to financial problems but sometimes I will try to do so.

Heavy rain caused floods in some parts, in some districts. Due to the floods crops were swept away such as maize, rice and many more. Some domestic animals were also swept away. My house top also collapsed and now I am planning to build another one.

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

### **LILONGWE | Bro Samson Makina**

I am pleased to report the baptism of Brothers DZIWANANI MIPHERD and BOTCHA SOSOLA both from Mtenthera Ecclesia and Sisters DANJANA BAYSON from Kadase Ecclesia and VERONICA MWANA from Falls Ecclesia.

God bless them and us as we walk patiently towards the Kingdom of God coming soon.

## NEWS FROM MOZAMBIQUE



### **Bro Emmanuel Maugenti**

The Mozambique Government was preparing to go for a national election so postal movement was restricted. Right now I am in Zimbabwe where I am visiting my wife and family. My wife was not feeling well of late but thank God is recovering now. So I will be going back to Mozambique soon and would like to take this opportunity to ask you if you could possibly send us literature for the Sunday School and some Portuguese hymn books as some of our brethren and sisters speak Portuguese. Right now we are mostly using Shona hymn books which I requested from Zimbabwe. Kindly send us more literature to help us in the work of following up Gospel proclamation.

## NEWS FROM NIGERIA



### **IBADAN | Bro Timothy Temilola**

I am most grateful for all your continued fatherly help with your emails and Carelinks Updates and the sound expositions in the Gospel News Magazine, Bible Basics and other literature.

Thank you so much for the very old copy of the Christadelphian Magazine and booklets received - I am still finding them all very helpful to me in my personal study of God's word, thereby enhancing my grasp of some Bible passages tainted by translator's bias and encouraging me in my daily Christian walk with God.

### **IKWUEKE | Bro Friday Enyiogu**

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

If our individual meditation produces concrete action, we shall make up the bride of Christ in that age soon to come.

But let virtue not beauty be the primary object, set true happiness against charm. Remember that external choice was the cause of the destruction of the world (Gen.6:2-7). So don't let that choice destroy your world.

### **MBAISE | Bro Blessing Mwigwe**

Thank you for your letters and books like Gospel News, Teach Me Thy Way and Demons which I received today. God bless you and the work you are doing. Last time I wrote to you about problems facing us in this world like virus diseases, Aids, Sass. Laser fever, Ebola, for which there is no cure for some of them or way to prevent them, and in which WHO is talking about stopping treating those affected. This Ebola virus is in West Africa. Others like earthquake, war – which are in Syria and Iraq. Bombing attacks as in Nigeria like Bokoharam in Northern Nigeria etc. We are praying to God not to allow these to affect any of our brethren and sisters worldwide.

We are living in the last days waiting for the return of our Lord to this earth to establish his Kingdom. We in Mbaise ecclesia are praying for you and your ecclesia, family, country etc. Try to do so for us.

### **MBAISE | Bro Adolphe Effiony**

The Gospel News of September to December 2014 with Editorial “We must change” is very interesting. I thank God for you so much for the strength He has given you for the great work you are doing for all nations. May the Lord continue to strengthen and protect you and your family. It is only the Lord that can reward you. You have opened the eyes of people to know things concerning the Kingdom.

### **OHAFIA | Bro Gaius Uka Egwu**

Thank you so much for the Gospel News this month. It is always so good to read such encouragement and uplift from brothers and sisters across the globe. In fact, it is a wonderful way we are preparing for the soon coming Kingdom (the new Jerusalem). My prayer is that we shall all behold each other face to face in the Holy City. Please let us not grow weary in doing good as we see the day approaching.

I am asking if there is any way we can help our young ones from watching today’s movies (worldly films). It would really help our future community. Mostly we in this remote third world area really need your help to guide our children from such things. Meanwhile, I am strongly appealing to you to send more messages/films on C.D/D.V.D. or memory cards which we can play and watch on our T.V./USB. We must be really careful (Psalm 101) and be watchful for the spirit of Sodom and her sister Gomorrah is all over the earth again.

Finally, my outreach programme will take off this October to December. I will be visiting inmates (prison/hospital) schools, motor parks and market places; therefore kindly please join me in prayers and send materials like Bibles, books and leaflets.

### **OWERRINTE | Bro Iheanacho Ihejinika**

I am extremely happy with the latest book, “*Teach Me Thy Way*”, which you sent to me. Any book which directs me to the knowledge of God has an unqualifiable value for me. The other enclosures were also very useful to me in my sincere quest to come close to God through His Son Jesus Christ.

Each time I recollect how I came in contact with the Christadelphians I feel happy. I term it God’s Will. Their publication in the Reader’s Digest of September 1980, page 40 paved the way for me to behold a greater light. Since then I have been channelling my life to do what is expected of me. It has not been easy as the warfare between the flesh and spirit is constant. God has been taking the glory.

My daily prayers have been done to include those who spread the Gospel throughout the world. In this wise you are remembered. The work in Carelinks and the publication of Gospel News are pointers to the selfless work being done to help humanity and to bring people to know and worship God in the true way.

It is utterly unfortunate that the degree of godlessness in our society is great. Very few people read the WORD and this has chained them to ignorance of God which is darkness. People who study the Bible daily would not be terribly afraid because godlessness is one of those things which heralds the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The violence in Nigeria is fuelled by those who hope to gain by it. Unfortunately what they expected to gain by slitting the throats of Christians and the Ibos appears to elude them. The Almighty God has been protecting us

despite the evil minds of those who refused to know God and abide by his directives. Remember us in your daily prayers.



Bro Iheanacho Ihejinika

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



Our beloved Sister Maria Makhado

### **SOWETO | Sis Leonie Verster**

We are a people in mourning, for our beloved Sister Maria Makhado, the wife of our recording brother, Daniel Makhado, who died on the morning of Sunday 29 March. Sis Maria was involved tragically in a taxi accident whilst going to a funeral which left her very badly hurt. She was in ICU on life support before she died. We sat in stunned silence grieving together at the Breaking of Bread, while Bro Lucky Sekhasembe comforted us by reading “Brothers we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.” Till we meet again dear Sister.

Sister Maria was a lovely, gentle and committed sister. We pray that God strengthens Bro Daniel and his family in this time of their tragic loss. The funeral will be held, God Willing, in Taung in the North West province on Saturday 4 April. About 45 brothers and sisters from the four ecclesias in Gauteng will, God Willing, make the five hour trek to Taung to support Bro Daniel and pay last respects to this much loved sister.

A frightening statistic was given recently. An average of 47 people die on the roads in South Africa DAILY.

## NEWS FROM TANZANIA



### **MBEYA | Bro James Mwangomo**

Warmest greetings in our Christadelphian hope and the saving Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All the members of my ecclesia are greeting CAT for the kind help towards the meeting. We are also very glad for the missing Bibles that you sent. Brother, don't get tired with us whenever we request you. "A hand that gives is better than that which receives." Again, thank you for your kind help.

### **MBEYA | Bro Edwaldi Mushi**

Receive many greetings from us, your fellow Christians from the southern highlands of Tanzania. We have received the box of Swahili New Testament Bibles in good order.

What a joy, laughter and shoutings from the Brethren and Sisters when they saw them. We bowed, prayed and thanked God for enabling for them. I assure you they will be used as you intended.

### **MOROGORO | Bro Moses Ndaki**

Thank you for your letter and the Gospel News you sent me. I hope you are doing well. I also thank you for your close friendship.

Since my conversion into the Christadelphian fellowship, after I learned the truth I have become an enemy of the Anglican church where I have been. Let me tell you what happened to my family.

On January 15th 2014 I lost my daughter, and leaders of the Anglican church came to see me and to observe what would follow for the burial service. I knew that, because my family are the Anglican subjects, they could bury my daughter. I heard one of the counsellor's voices saying, "Let us see how the Christadelphians bury their dead, we are not burying his daughter due to their disobedience to God". I summoned the Anglican church and told them that Christadelphian brothers and sisters from here and from neighbouring villages would do the work. At the burial there were many Brethren and Sisters from the nearby Ecclesias and the Anglican Church were mighty impressed at the care shown to each other by the Christadelphians.

### **SINZA | Bro Ayubu Suzi Kilumbi**

I am very grateful since I put off my "old man" and then was clothed into Christ Jesus by baptism, twenty years ago. I then became a new man in Christ. My full instruction took five years under the instruction of Mrs Iris Cook, U.K. Also I cannot forget all who encouraged me during my Bible course. I was baptised and became a member of Dor Ecclesia and now Sinza Ecclesia. My family and I live about 18 kilometres from the City centre. As I belong to Christ Jesus I also manage to spread the Word to my neighbours, friends and near relatives, my family. As I am a teacher, I also teach a few of my students who are interested to understand the Bible. Some of them succeed and are now brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, including my wife, Anna. I am now nearly 60 years old, with three children, Winnie Ayubu (19), Nancy Ayubu (16) and Marilyn Ayubu (10 years old). My wife is 45 years old and became a Christadelphian fourteen years ago. Before that she was a Catholic. God willing my two daughters will become Christadelphians soon. Sometimes I face difficulties in this life as a retired teacher, but this situation cannot stop me spreading the Word of God to anyone who is interested to understand the Bible. It is the command of God and the Lord Jesus as well. No person or authority can stop us, see Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 5:27-30; Acts 4:19. The Bible tells us plainly that neither

politics nor wealth can cure the problems of this world, but by obeying and believing what God promises us. Meanwhile we are waiting our Master's call on his return. Brothers and sisters in Christ, wherever in this world of chaos, let us wait for our Master "...and a new heaven and a new earth..." who shall wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, no crying nor pain any more. The first things are passed away. He that sits upon the throne said: "Behold! I make all things new." Let us wait continuously until He comes.



Top: Bro and Sis Sazi Kilumbi



Above: A Preaching meeting in Hombolo Do Doma



The Hombolo meeting room and mothers feeding their children outside

### **SINZA| Mr Matey Desdery**

I am pleased to tell you that I am being instructed by Mr Ayubu Kilumbi and pray that once I have completed my studies I will be baptised.



We meet every Saturday evening and would like to receive any helpful literature you can send me.

## NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



### CHINSALI | Bro Edwin Mfula

I love reading Gospel News and articles from different brothers and sisters from all over the world. God willing, please send me 8 Bemba Bible Basics and the Holy Bible, New European Version.

\* \* \*

Most people at some time have tremendous problems. But for us in Christ, everyday things are set in our life in relation to the noblest doctrines of our faith.

But when death comes to our family members, relatives, close friends (or even an unknown person), even we tend to fear death. We can become fearful, even desperate, even though we have made a declaration of the best faith there is. So because of the atonement and the pardon from sin, death as part of the natural order of things is put into context by our spiritual life. The highest doctrines of our faith give us a confident relationship with death, measured by the full light of the Lord Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus Christ has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10; 1 John 1:2). He is the author, of eternal salvation. In the days of his flesh, "Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death" "And he was heard because of his reverence" (Hebrews 2:10; 5:9). Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered (Hebrews 5:8), and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him (Hebrews 5:9).

### CHINSALI | Bro Edward Mutale Choko

Thanks to God I am still breathing, but physically I am suffering but I hope that nothing can separate me from the love manifested in Jesus Christ: as Paul mentioned in Romans 8:38, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord."

### CHIPATA | Bro Alfred Bwalya

Thanks very much for the Magazine which always reminds one of our brothers and sisters who we don't even know where they are, of the good news in it. We thank Bro Glen Mitchell for sending us the Bibles. May our Almighty God continue to stretch your hands and help those who are in need both spiritually and physically, God bless.

Romans 12:10 and 13:17 and Galatians 6:2 says: 'Carry each others' burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ and in Ephesians 4:1-4.

My house at Glens is about to be complete and it just remains to put a roof on. The rain is about to fall any day so things will be back in a good situation. Let us keep on encouraging one another

through the Word of God. My family send greetings all over the world where there are brothers and sisters.

### **KABOMPO | Bro Godson Kafuna**

The Bibles that you sent have reached our brother Reuben Kambeu. Now I gave the Bible which was supposed to be for me to our newly baptised brother who came from Watopa area which is a long way from us here in Kabompo. We gave it to him because he said he had not any Bible version to use so I thought on Christian lines and remembered the words of Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good to them that love God." So I took my Bible which you sent for me and gave it to him. I knew that I could ask you for another and you would send one for me so please help me. I find the New European version clearer to understand than the King James version and the second hand Bible I am using now has some pages missing because it is some time since Sister Josie Walker gave it to me. Also if you have a copy of 'Wrested Scripture' could you please send it for me.

### **KAFUE | Bro Lotson Kayuni**

It doesn't have to be a perfect day for you to accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, and you don't have to be perfect either. All you need to know before you start praying is that you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The first prayer you may need to pray is to ask Jesus to come into your life, talk to Jesus like you would a good friend and tell him that you have made some mistakes, let him know that you can't live without him, ask him to forgive you and come into your heart. Tell him you receive him as your Saviour and don't forget to thank him for his love, forgiveness and eternal life.

### **Bro Emerson Ntebeka**

I wrote to you about my life. At the present moment I am retired from employment and I am still waiting for my pay benefits which takes 2-3 years here in Zambia. If one is not working and has responsibility looking after a family it is definitely hard.

### **KAPIRI-MPOSHI | Bro Austen Mwaka**

It is good that in isolation we receive the Gospel News magazine. For now and as a matter of urgency I am requesting a Swahili Bible as I have someone who is interested in our faith but doesn't know any English but only Swahili.

### **KWE KWE | Bro Melusi Ndlovu**

"Then having anointed the eyes of the blind man, he sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam, and the man's sight was restored. 'Is not this he that sat and begged?' 'He is like him'. But he who had received the great blessing settled the question by saying, 'I am Bro Godson Kafuna standing with his baby in his garden at home, together with his wife, Sis Dinah and their friend, Patrick Luyako, who is a refugee from Angola he'. He then told them of Jesus, and by what means he had been healed and they inquired, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I know not'. The Pharisees asked the man's parents, 'How then doth he now see?' 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But by what means he now seeth, ask him, he shall speak for himself.'" The blind man was filled with joy and gratitude, he beheld the wondrous things of nature, and was filled with delight at the beauty of earth and sky. The blind man answered, 'Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not. One thing I know: whereas I was blind now I see'. God helped him to show by the pointedness of his replies, that he was not to be ensnared.

### **KWE KWE | Sis Rosemary Mukarati**

“In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”. Jesus’ disciples are to live as he lived, and work as he worked, because they depend on him as the great master worker. Courage, energy and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are to go forward. Instead of deploring difficulties, they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing and to hope for everything. With the golden chain of his matchless love, Christ has bound them to the throne of God.

It is his purpose that the highest influence in the universe emanating from the source of all power shall be theirs. They are to have the power to resist evil: power that neither earth, nor death can master, power that will enable them to overcome as Christ overcame.

### **MUFULIRA | Bro Fred Mumba**

At the Mufulira Ecclesia we are doing fine although the number is declining due to the trials of the last days. We held our Copperbelt Fraternal Gathering in Mufilira on 24-26 October 2014 and below a photo of Mufilira brethren and sisters having lunch on the first day waiting for the arrival of brethren and sisters from various places, Ndola, Chingola, Kafue and C/Bombwe.

### **NDOLA | Bro James Mwanga**

How are you? Me, I am fine. I am happy to receive Gospel News. I do enjoy the Magazine and I learn a lot from it. Keep on sending it to me.

In the world today and in my country there are a lot of problems going on. In Zambia, my country, we lost our President last year (November 28, 2014). We are going through a transition time. This is not a new thing for us, so far we have lost three Presidents. It is written “It is appointed for a man to die once, thereafter judgement” (Hebrews 9:27).

### **SERENJE | Bro Chrian Mambwe**

I am requesting 40 copies of the New Testament in Swahili as we have students in prisons who understand Swahili. I also request 10 copies of Bible Basics, 10 NEV Bibles in English and 4 DVDs.

## **NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE**



### **BANKET | Bro David Yelulani**

We need God to guide us both in the big affairs of national life as well as in our private day to day walk with him. What a priceless source of hope and inspiration the Bible is, speaking to the heartaches of ordinary people and influencing the destiny of nations. May God bless and guide you as you turn to him each day.



Bro David (left) some years ago enjoying fellowship with Brethren and Sisters.

### **CHINHOYI | Bro Moses Aajiweka**

Many thanks to Brothers and Sisters for the encouraging articles in the Gospel News. With different hardships we encounter in our different places we are witnessing the fulfilment of scriptures, now that the Saviour's return is so near, let us hold fast to our beliefs. I am requesting audio and video cds of gatherings, exhortations and hymns.

### **MAGUNJE | Bro Nice Yotamu**

On the early hours of 4 January this year around 1 am, I heard women and children, goats, cows, chickens etc. screaming and crying. That night it was really drama and it was raining heavily. Hunyani River was really angry. The waters were advancing towards the village and at the opposite village the other side of the river people crying, houses all covered by water and as such being trapped during the night really they were nowhere and the only action to take was to find the means of escaping just to save life. Back to our side, facing such incident we started packing our goods, opening doors of cattle, chickens, goats houses for them to move to higher places. We people as we were busy packing, the waters were also advancing towards us. Also having seen the other village being washed away, every thought that it was our turn. Truly trees could not be seen all covered by water. Water everywhere and do not forget that it was raining heavily and all the goods that we were packing was all wet. We had targeted a higher place in a government farm. When it was almost five metres left to start washing our village it suddenly stopped. Truly that was the hand of God. All the crops gone. We do not know maybe the floods might happen the second time this year alone. Moreover, will our plants germinate and be harvested? All remain in the hand of God. Moreover one brother and sister lost their Bibles and two Shona Bible Basics. If possible you may send the four books that is if God willing.

### **MAGUNJE | Bro Stanford Kuuzha**

I am very pleased to receive the books called 'Teach Me Thy Way'. They are very good for study and understanding God's word. Thank you. I have passed a copy to my friend with whom I am working on his farm. I am requesting more copies to give to other friends and their families, together with some leaflets as usual. Thanks.

### **MT DARWIN**

Bre Sylvester, Patrick, Walter and Ignatious acknowledge thanks for meeting Bro David Smith, and Bro Jeremy and Sis Jean from the UK with Bro Johannes and Sis Nosisa of Harare. We met at the Russell Hotel from midday till sunset studying the word of God.

Our prayer is that God will enable us to believe what we discovered in His word, and then to use what we learned to make a difference in these last days, when many have lost their way and God's respect. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be" (Matthew 6:21).

## News from the Americas

### NEWS FROM JAMAICA



#### MORANT | Sis Joan Samuels

I am still a member of the Christadelphians in White Horses and live in the Parish of St. Thomas. I am a Sunday School teacher with five children to teach on Sunday mornings. We are still small in numbers here. I was baptized in July 1979 in Portland. Please send me more Gospel News magazines. We are still praying for you that the gospel should be preached all over the world. Take care until I hear from you again. Please write to me as soon as you can.

### NEWS FROM ST LUCIA



#### CICERON | Sis Gulie Gonzague

I am looking forward to the next visit of Brethren and Sisters as this encourages us all to meet together and be spiritually upbuilt. I always like to hear from you and the books you send me.

\* \* \*



Sis Gulie at work in her kitchen

\* \* \*

## No Right To Glory

Ought a man, it may be asked, have credit for the results of the pains, precautions and knowledge he has? Within certain limits, God Himself recognises the affirmative answer, but in the meaning in which we are looking at the matter, the question does not go deep enough. If a man has wisdom enough to adopt wise measures, who is to have the credit for that wisdom, the man who has received, or the God who has given?

### The answer is one that cannot be evaded:

“Who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou, that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory as if thou hadst not received it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7). There is one legitimate and rational subject of ‘glory’, and we have special permission from the Creator Himself to indulge it. That permission is conveyed in words which may seem childish to smart superficial modern civilization, but which actually tell us the real truth:

\* \* \*

“Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom: let not the mighty man glory in his might: let not the rich man glory in his riches. Let him that glorieth glory in this: that he understandeth, and knoweth me, that it is I the Lord which exercise loving kindness, and judgement, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things do I delight”

**(Jeremiah 9:23-24).**

\* \* \*

*Bro Friday Enyiogu (Ikwueke, Nigeria)*

## **Peacemakers**

The word ‘peace’ is mentioned many times in the Bible. In our daily lives, Christians strive to have peace with friends, neighbors, relatives and to have peace of mind. All know the importance of peace. For the nation without peace, its economy will decline or become unstable. Without peace there can be no democracy or even education.

Peace is what we all desire in our lifetimes, then we can do what is good and right - not in our sight, but in the sight of God Almighty. As the Psalmist says: “Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and do it” (Psalm 34:14).

Peace is a treasured quality and must be sought after, implying that it is not always readily available. As Christians, let us make peace with ourselves first by considering how true and loyal we are to ourselves. We must review how we eat and drink, how or what we feed our minds, what we do for a living. Do we practice corruption or do we hate corruption and such-like acts? This will help to show us the direction to achieve peace. In contrast, we know, “There is not peace”, says the Lord, “for the wicked” (Isaiah 48:22). So we must be righteous to obtain peace from God.

As the times of the Gentiles are drawing to an end, nations strive to have peace, yet nation is rising up against nation; war, calamities, hunger, epidemics and all sorts of tribulation are causing people, leaders and nations to seek peace. Though they are using all means possible, still no peace can be attained unless we all turn to Almighty God. He is the one who will give us peace.

It is important to know that we cannot achieve a peaceful state of affairs whether in our families or in ourselves if we are wicked. No corruption, selfishness, hypocrisy, bad morals: we need to stay clean from these. Yes, no-one is righteous but let us try to follow the example of our elder brother, the Lord Jesus Christ. If we go astray, let us be ready to go on our knees, accept the mistakes we have made, ask for forgiveness and try not to make the same mistakes again. Also, we must ask the Lord for guidance in our daily lives so that we do not fail him. Let us try to be peacemakers: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

How lovely to be called a son of the Most High. If we want to achieve this, we have to stop loving worldly pleasures and start looking for the precious pearl that is treasure for us. It is Christ who will give it to us if we are good ambassadors, if we proclaim his word amidst affliction and

suffering to attain peace. Peace will only come if people understand, follow and practice the true gospel from the Bible. Once we begin doing what is right and just, then peace will come our way. We shall not strain to look for peace, but peace, grace and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ will start following us.

Let us not tire or struggle looking for peace through wars, arguments and such-like things. The only power that can create or perpetuate true peace is the grace of Christ. When this is implanted in the heart, it will cast out the evil passions that cause strife and dissension. This is a great challenge. Brethren and sisters welcome the one who is peaceful, who brings peace into the hearts of others, and lives so that he/she is a peacemaker in a world in need of peace.

In our wishes and desires to be peacemakers we personally need to be role models. For the right prescription, we must emulate Christ. Christ must be the centre of everything. Challenges to peace are in every corner of the world today. Families are breaking up, corruption, tribalism, racism: we face strife in our congregations, through individual and community differences. Let us recognize that Christ is the only source of the peace that we need so much. The will of God is not hidden. We need to listen to God's word and put aside our own agendas and follow God's will for our salvation: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

We are Christ's, let us not be afraid of proclaiming his word. We need courage, we need to stand strong and speak out the truth from the Bible. Those who hear and follow will have peace from our Master, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace, and be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

So let us cast aside every burden of life and strive to obtain the eternal peace of our Lord. It is Christ who will give us that peace. We shall celebrate the end of evil and have all the spiritual things we desire once we believe that Christ is King of kings and the giver of peace. How I pray for that peace to guide us in our lives through eternity! Let us be peacemakers now, as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Bro Nasongo Harron (Naitiri, Kenya)*

### **"You Can Also Be Delivered from Evil"**

The order to kill Jews had been sent throughout the empire by the king and could not be reversed. So the king had Mordecai writing another order that the Jews were to defend themselves and to send the notice throughout the worldwide empire (Esther 8:9-12 illustrated below). The new order was effective (9:1-5). Most of the Jews' enemies were afraid to do anything to hurt them. The local government officials understood that the king's favor had turned. They supported the Jews instead of carrying out the original order. The Jews themselves took courage and fought against those who still tried to attack them (v 5).

Mordecai established a new holiday to help the people to remember what God had done (v 20-22). The name of the holiday is Purim, named for the Pur, the casting of the lot which Haman

had cast to set the day for the destruction of the Jews (v 26-28). The Jews were to celebrate joyfully, to remember the reversal of sorrow to joy and poverty to plenty.

While we are waiting for God's deliverance, Esther's story can really inspire us. When we experience God's deliverance, we too, should celebrate.

All believers must face difficulties, such as money problems, emotional crises or relationship troubles. In these times, we need to remember God's faithfulness. You can cheer others with the story of Esther, encouraging them to trust in God as deliverer. "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom should I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom should I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). "Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When you said, 'Seek my face', my heart said unto you, 'Your face, Lord, I will seek'. Hide not thy face far from me. Put not your servant away in anger. You have been my help, leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation" (v 7-9). "Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path, because of my enemies. Deliver me not over unto the will of my enemies, for false witnesses are risen up against me, such as breath out cruelty" (11-12).



*Bro Jacob Okoth (Eldoret, Kenya)*

### **Stay Connected to Your Source**

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23). Every part of God's creation must remain connected to, and fed by, its source for it to remain alive and well.

God said, "Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life" (Genesis 1:20).

He spoke to the waters to produce fish and other aquatic creatures. That is why the fish in the seas, oceans, lakes and rivers have to remain in the water to survive, because that is their source. If you were to take a fish out of water and put it on a beautifully wellstocked table, it would die because it is cut off from its source.

In the same way, God said: "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind, cattle, creeping things and beasts of the earth after its kind, and it was so" (Genesis 1:24). So all land animals actually came from the earth and that is why they must remain on the land in order to stay alive. No land animal can successfully live permanently under water.

Even though man's physical body came from the ground, his breath came from God. Any man who is cut off from God, his source, is actually spiritually dead. That is why Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). If you are born again, the Bible says you are born again by the word of God. As such you must remain connected to your source which is the word of God, which itself is God. By not staying in the word, you are starving your spirit of the material needed to survive, grow and function normally.

It is therefore time for each of us to make a quality decision to remain connected to the word of God at all times, which is all the nourishment we need. We must read and study God's word every day, meditate on it, keep speaking about it and putting it into practice and then we will be sure by His grace of eternal life.

*Bro Stephen Ogenga (Kampala, Uganda)*

### **Kakuma Ecclesia (Kenya)**

Members of the Kakuma Ecclesia held a Bible School from 23-24 December, at Kakuma Ecclesial Hall in the refugee camp. We invited friends in the Truth and some people from churches of various denominations to come and listen to the living God's word of eternal life.

While we were making arrangements, a sudden ugly clash broke out at Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya between refugees from the Sudan tribes of Nuer and Dinka, spreading to other refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The troubles lasted three weeks and many sought refuge in schools and police stations, leaving their belongings behind which were plundered. Other refugees from Burundi and D R Congo were scattered in towns away from Kakuma in order to save their lives. The fighting caused at least 14 deaths and many injuries from machetes.

We thank our heavenly Father for his powerful protective hand that there were no Christadelphian casualties, and that a sister from our meeting took care of some of our members and their families at her home during the difficult time.

Seeing that the situation had improved and it was safe in Kakuma 2 camp where our Ecclesial Hall is situated, and refugees had been told by the authorities to return to their houses in the camp, members of the ecclesia took the opportunity to contribute food from their own food rations received from the WFP (even though it was reduced by 50% because of lack of funds). We received the following food: maize flour 4 kg, beans 5 kg, wheat flour 80 kg, sugar 7 kg, small fish 4 kg, cooking oil 8 litres. They were used for meals during the Bible School around the theme "Behold Our King":

- 1) Jesus Christ the prophesied, promised Saviour of mankind, and King of the future world (Bro Isidore Mwibeleca)
- 2) The Future: God's glorious kingdom on earth (Bro Byaombe Lumona)
- 3) The last enemy to be destroyed (Bro John K Lwamba)

Thirteen members and 8 interested friends attended together with 30 children, all sharing teaching, fellowship and hymns of praise to strengthen our faith as the day of our Lord approaches.

Our sincere thanks go to the CBM and CBM Kenya for prayers and support, CAT and the Refugee Support Project, Carelinks for NEV Bibles in English and New Testaments in Kiswahili and booklets, Bro Mike Harris (Evesham UK) for prayer, and writing materials we used for Bible study at the Bible School, Bro Rob Fling (S Australia), Bro David Emmerson (NZ) and Sis Deb Flint (Agape in Action) for prayer.



The Kakuma Ecclesia

### **Let God Be the Judge**

Over the centuries terrible acts have been committed by people who appear to have escaped punishment. The world has experienced slavery on a large scale: genocide, wanton destruction and cruelty of an horrific nature. In some cases the perpetrators were brought to justice but in many instances those responsible for these dreadful acts against humanity would appear to have avoided the consequences of their misdeeds. As a result, there are many people who question this and wonder why God allows this to happen.

It must never be forgotten that the Lord is the ultimate judge in everything affecting mankind. It should also be remembered that, as Paul has written, “Each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). When, in your estimation, evil would seem to have won the day or that a wrongdoer has gone unpunished, do not lose faith in the goodness and power of Almighty God. The day will come when those responsible will be judged according to the manner in which they have lived their lives.

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## Great Celebrations

It was 7th November 2014 in Uyo, the State capital of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. There were gathered three Presidents of West Africa and one former head of State of Ghana for the opening ceremony of the new 30,000 seat Sanctity Stadium built by the state Governor (pictured right). As I sat to watch this programme on TV, many things came to mind. The first was to wonder if a good thing of this nature can be produced by a human government with such an earthly ceremony, then what a contrast it will be with the great wedding day, when Christ marries the saints - his bride, which by His grace will include you and me. I sat and meditated for over two and a half hours. I asked myself how well my mind was prepared for such a great occasion, one which will be incomparably higher. To attend such a heavenly marriage ceremony, we must strive to overcome our common enemy (that is sin). We must take the shield of faith wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (Ephesians 6:16). After this, we will be glad and rejoice: "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb" (Revelation 19:9).



Going back to the Stadium ceremony with the Presidents of Nigeria, Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire, the former Head of State of Ghana, Pele of Brazil, former players of the Nigerian national team, top Nigerian musicians, leaders of culture, dance and football academia: everything was bungled! Two Nigerians lost their lives, and many were taken to hospital as a result of a stampede. This also reminded me of Herod's birthday when John the Baptist was killed (Mark 6:21-27). Do we, as Christians, attend such ceremonies as a form of worship of sport as those in the world do? "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). "Shun profane and vain babblings for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (2 Timothy 2:16). "Refuse profane and old wives' fables and exercise thyself rather unto godliness, for bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Let us always use our time and prepare for the coming heavenly wedding, not to worship sports. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out, and I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God and I will write upon him my new name" (Revelation 3:12).

Among the decoration of people and places as the crowd acknowledges the leading personalities by waving hands and banners, how does our spiritual banner look to those around us? Do people see Christ in us? Have we really decided to be a true disciple and follow the prince of peace? World leaders are helpless, but under the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ we will be at the actual marriage supper of the Lamb. Let us make sure that the Lord Jesus Christ is our banner for all to see. "I will sing of mercy and judgement, O Lord unto thee. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within thy house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. I hate the work of them that turn aside: it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me. I will not know a wicked

person. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off. Him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me. He that walketh in a perfect way he shall serve me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house. He that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord” (Psalm 101).

We need to take a long term view in the things of this life, for it is not a matter of making progress like the athletes who compete for earthly glory. We must focus on the coming holy wedding ceremony, of which we will be an important part. Self-discipline, commitment and dedication are very important if we are to succeed and attend that royal marriage supper of the Lamb. If we admire earthly things and earthly leaders of every sort, ask yourself, how ready and how steady am I to meet the Lord?

The believer is to be humble in spirit (1 Peter 3:8). He is to be characterised by lowliness and meekness (Ephesians 4:2).

### **The idolatry of sport**

To many young people as well as to professional players, sport has become an idol. Whatever we serve, even worship, whatever consumes our highest interest and devotion becomes our god or idol. The baptised Christian has turned to God from idols (1 Thessalonians 1:9) and is admonished to guard himself from any other idols (1 John 5:21). Although in context this may have reference to actual graven images of stone, wood and metal, the principle is the same (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5; Philippians 3:19). We must flee from all types of idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14). We must have no-one and nothing (including sport), as the chief object of our attention, other than Christ himself. He must receive our highest commitment, greatest interest and total loyalty. Sport is undeniably the idol of both many young people and adults today. Listen to their conversation and you will inevitably hear sport discussed.

### **A spirit of pride**

Our pioneer brethren put it in this way: human nature or sinful flesh has three principal channels through which it displays its waywardness against the law of God.

a) The lust of the flesh b) The lust of the eyes c) The pride of life

The common, if not the inevitable, result of winning in a sport is pride. Pride is inconsistent with the way of humility taught by Christ and his apostles. Paul admonishes the saints, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than themselves” (Philippians 2:3). One sports writer states, “Unless a player has confidence in himself, who else will? A little cockiness will not hurt you.” Yes, cockiness will hurt you, for athletic cockiness is a form of sinful pride. The old covenant writings are as clear as the new covenant that pride in heart is an abomination to the Lord - he shall not be unpunished (Proverbs 16:5,18; 18:12).

### **Greed and exploitation**

Sport is gambling as well as idolatry. The problem of greed is one which permeates the professional and collegiate athletic scene. We should be reminded that a covetous man is an idolater and has no inheritance in the kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5). We are to put to death covetousness which is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Jesus said that it is impossible to serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13).

On this subject, as a football coach myself, I am an insider - but ready to drop the job. So any brother or sister who can help me find work anywhere else, I am ready to relocate.

To the Pharisees, who were covetous, lovers of money, Jesus said: “God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15). So nothing you give up for Christ in this life is worth comparison with what you will gain one day (Mark 10:29-30; Romans 8:17-18). Paul issued a solemn warning against greed (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Indeed, sports and money have led many into the path of ruin and destruction (2 Timothy 3:1-2).

Finally our lives are to be totally given over to the Lord Jesus. As Paul said: “For me to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21) and he affirms that Christ is our life (Colossians 3:4). Christ is to be the centre of all we do and say. Our plans are to focus on him and the work of the kingdom.

*Bro Gaius Uka Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)*

### **The Danger of Success**

We live in a success-orientated society. If someone has succeeded in business and climbed the social scale, he is labeled successful and wins the respect and admiration of his fellows. Success can be a wonderful experience. If it has been achieved by hard work, the acceptance of responsibility brings a sense of deep satisfaction seldom coming in any other way. But one of the dangers of success is that, apart from pride, snobbishness can develop; it can even turn a positive and radiant personality into one who disowns humble beginnings and refuses to acknowledge those who helped him to achieve his high position.

Success, therefore, must always be handled with care for, however successful, the possibility of later failure, perhaps through circumstances beyond our control, is ever present (remember Haman in the book of Esther!). So it is a sobering thought that however successful you may be, there is always that possibility of ultimate failure. The important question is, has your success equipped you to handle failure?

Wise is the person whose success is founded on spiritual principles and who is constantly reminded by prayer and meditation that all achievements are given by God, to be held in trust and used for His glory. Whatever comes our way, success or failure, we will be able to meet it with the guidance of His wisdom.



Bro David Banda Yelulani

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## **The Resurrection of the Sleeping Saints**

The voice of the Son of God is heard calling forth the sleeping saints and, as the prophet beholds them coming from the prison house of death, he exclaims, “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust, for thy dew is as the dew of the herbs, and the earth shall cast forth her dead.” “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing” (Isaiah 26:19; 35:5-6).



In the visions of the prophet, those who have triumphed over sin and the grave are now seen happy in the presence of their Maker, talking freely with Him. “Be glad - the Lord bids them to rejoice forever in that which I create, Jerusalem will be a rejoicing and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people, and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. The inhabitants shall not say, ‘I am sick’; the people therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.

In the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and from the thirsty land springs water. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called ‘The way of holiness’. The unclean shall not pass over it; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, for she hath received of the Lord’s hand, double for all her sins (Isaiah 65:18-19; 33:24; 35:6-7; 55:13; 35:8; 40:2).

*Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)*

## **Repentance**

We are fortunate in that we have literature to enable people to understand the Gospel of salvation and to realize that they are sinful and need to repent and seek forgiveness, so that they may escape the consequences of sin and have a place in God’s Kingdom to be established soon on this earth, at Jesus’ return. Fortunately “The Lord...is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Repent means we have to be sorry for the wrong things we do, to change our mind, “For godly sorrow produces repentance, leading to salvation” (2 Corinthians 7:10). The gospels repeatedly tell the hearers to repent. John the Baptist commanded them to “repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt 4:17) Jesus came to call “sinners to repentance” (Matt 9:13). When they heard Peter preaching the Gospel, they asked him what they should do he said “Repent and let everyone of you be baptized for the remission of sins”. So baptism is necessary after true

repentance of our sins and when we fail after that we have to seek for forgiveness through Jesus our advocate before God. So Brethren and Sisters, we have to try to do the things of God and, where we fail, repent, as the day of opportunity will soon be over and we have to stand before the judgement seat of Christ. God is so merciful to us. “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

*Bro Joseph Mulawo (Muzoka, Zambia)*

### **Our Calling and Its Object**

We have been called to follow Christ, for it is written, “No man can come to me except the Father which sent me, draw him”. It must have been a great privilege to have heard the audible voice of the Master in days, calling them to be his disciples. We know he called first one, and then another, to leave their various associations and follow him, and many were obedient to the call.

Some, however, were of a different mind, and allowed the gracious invitation to pass unaccepted. We have an example of such in Luke 18: a young ruler received the call to follow Christ and when he enquired the terms of discipleship, he received what to him was a staggering reply, “Sell all thou hast, and distribute to the poor and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come, follow me”. But when the man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had “great possessions.” To him the world was an easy place; he possessed the golden key that opens all doors. But remember the parable of the sower: “The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”



Bro Friday Enyiogu

*Bro Friday E Enyiogu (Ikwueke, Nigeria)*

### **Is Christ Divided?**

If the question, “Is Christ Divided?” were put to one who is not a Christian, it would probably be answered in the affirmative. In view of the efforts which are being made by the various ‘orthodox Christian’ bodies to effect a “reunion” it could hardly be otherwise. There are numbers of

churches and denominations all mutually recognizing one another as Christians, whilst at the same time they are not prepared to “have fellowship with one another”.

When the name “Christian” was first applied to the brethren of Christ at Antioch, Paul could say to those in Corinth, “We, being many, are one bread and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread” (1 Corinthians 10: 17). But in course of time, divisions occurred and various communities came into existence which, whilst each church claims to be a member of the “one body” itself, were separated from the successors of the true gospel.

This is the condition of orthodox Christianity today, a condition we rightly term “a scene of confusion”. But are we always united together as one?

*Bro Friday E Enyiogu (Ikwueke, Nigeria)*

### **Today**

Today is the day of our salvation. Today is a special day to give praise and thanksgiving to the God of Israel. Today we pray for our daily bread. Today we do our daily ‘Bible Companion’ readings: “This is the day that Yahweh has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 3:7). “Today if you shall hear his voice harden not your hearts, as in the rebellion like the time of testing in the wilderness”. Let us learn from the children of Israel (Hebrews 3:12-13). “For whatever things were written previously were written for our education that through the patience and comfort of scripture we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). “In hope of eternal life which God who cannot lie promised before time eternal” (Titus 1:2, and see Numbers 23:19).

Bro Marcus and fellow readers, today I am filled with a great joy to talk to you while somewhere else in the world, and I am in Kenya. We are together in God’s spirit. We are saved through hope, belief, baptism into Christ and obedience of faith until death. We hope to join together in God’s kingdom on earth and to be given eternal life by Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Lord and Saviour (Romans 2:7; Revelation 22:12; 1 Peter 5:4).

God’s Word is full of examples of men and women who devoted their lives to serving Him. Hebrews chapter 11 speaks about the heroes of faith that have not received their reward yet; because of you and others they have to wait. We have to accept the love of God, the grace of God, the mercy of God to us. Let us make use of today to praise and give thanks to the God of Israel (Hebrews 11:39-40).



*Bro John Owalo Onani (Kaksingri, Kenya)*

## **Blessings of the Faithful ~ Psalm 1:1**

We are always being reminded by the word of God to consider our ways and fellowship and never to sit in the seat of scoffers. Our faith is to meditate on the law of God day and night and not change because of tests or temptations. If our faith is deep, we see visions of victory and find encouragement in all our trials. Then will come the fruits of victory.

The wicked are not so. They always think they are right and hate being corrected. They have no desire to change, improve spiritually or learn from mistakes. They refuse to turn from evil and enjoy doing wrong. They do not care if their sin causes trouble, they are even attracted to it. They have bad relationships with their parents, and have no focus or direction. They spend money as fast as they get it and are caught by their own actions, ruin themselves - and then blame God!

*Bro Stanford Kuuzha (Magunje, Zimbabwe)*

## **The Kingdom of God**

In all God's doings there is a purpose. Everything is planned and happens as planned. So whatever the kingdom of God is, it must have been the perfect subject for the apostles and the Lord himself to talk about. What then is the kingdom of God? Different people will give different answers, but to ascertain the true meaning of this term, we must look at it from its origins.

We find the kingdom of God used in contrast to the kingdom of men in the book of Daniel. The kingdom of men consists of the aggregate of human governments, the rule of man by man. Good news of God's kingdom was preached to Abraham through promises concerning eternal life on earth. God is frequently described as the "King of Israel" (Isaiah 44:6). The Israelites became God's kingdom after the covenant on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:5-6). As God was their King, they were ruled by judges like Samson and Gideon. The judges were not kings but divinely guided administrators. The last judge to guide Israel was Samuel. The Israelites pressed him to appoint a king for them like the neighboring nations had (1 Samuel 8:7). So Israel rejected God as their King. God gave them various kings such as Saul, David and Solomon who ruled on God's throne.

Israel failed to live up to the Sinai covenant and slid into apostasy. God then rejected them and eventually the kingdom split into two: ten tribes (Israel) and two tribes (Judah). The last king of the ten-tribe Israel was Hoshea. The last king of the two-tribe Judah was Zedekiah. Due to apostasy, God exiled both Israel and Judah and announced the termination of this type of kingly relationship (Ezekiel 21:25-27).

Prophets lamented over the rejection of Israel and Judah (Hosea 10:3). God had given Israel laws that touched on all aspects of life e.g. religious, social and agricultural. When Israel had been the kingdom of God previously, the duty of the priests had been to teach the knowledge of God (Malachi 2:5-7).

The priests were placed in various towns for this purpose. In the future the saints will take over the priests' function in God's future kingdom (Revelation 5:10). At present this is not possible (Luke 11-27).

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “Thy kingdom come”. It is not yet come. If it were, then the kingdoms of men would not be in existence. When it comes, every aspect of human life will be affected: social, economic, moral and religious. They will come under a new directing power. In chapter two of the book of Daniel, we find the history of the world condensed in prophetic form. The dream prophesied what will happen in the latter days (v 28); ‘the latter days’ refers to the closing period of human affairs.

Having prophetically outlined the world’s history to our days Daniel prophesied, “In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44).

Now what does the setting up of a kingdom mean? What does a kingdom constitute? A king, a people, territory, laws, aristocracy. It is a new order of things which shall have a God-appointed king, a God-constituted aristocracy, God-selected people, a God-chosen land and God-given laws. God chose the Jews to be a special people unto Himself (Deuteronomy 7:6) but the subject inhabitants of the earth of the future will come from “all peoples, nations and languages”. They will be to that kingdom as Kenyans are to Kenya.

God promised Abraham the land of Palestine. The Israelites occupied it temporarily under Moses on condition that they obeyed the Law. The land of Palestine is the natural centre of the earth. It has witnessed God’s operations in the past and the sending forth of the gospel.

When is this Kingdom to be established? At the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Amos 9:11; Isaiah 9:11; 2:2-4). At first, after Christ’s return, the human arrangements of things political will be broken up.

There will be the resurrection of the responsible at his coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Revelation 20:4).

Those found worthy will be given immortality to help Christ govern the world for 1000 years. Having received God’s nature, they will be unable to die. They shall be kings and priests and shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:10).

During the millennium, the 1000 years period, mortal people will hear the gospel and be responsible to God. During this period, their life span will be much longer than now (Isaiah 65:20).

The land will have increased fertility.

The 1000 year period will be transitional. At the end, those who died during that time will be raised to appear before the judgment seat of Christ (Revelation 20:11-15; John 5:26-29; 7:22). The wicked will be destroyed and the righteous rewarded with eternal life. Afterwards, Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father, marking the end of these things. What follows after God is all in all, we are NOT told. All we know is that we shall have attained eternal life, God’s nature and we live to please and glorify God.

Brothers and sisters wherever you are, whatever you are doing, the times are significant. The issues are so vital that we owe it to ourselves, our families and our ecclesias to earnestly seek and pray for God’s kingdom. May God bless all the readers.

*Bro Gordon Ochieng (Madiany, Kenya)*

## Children of the Truth

Today we are so conscious of different people having different perceptions about things that we seldom talk of the truth as if it were a definite open and closed matter. We want to know where people are coming from on any issue. We usually finish up agreeing to differ.

For the people of the New Testament, it was simpler: Jesus was the truth. To follow Jesus and live faithfully in him and his ways, was to walk in the truth. The truth was not something that had to be struggled with. It had to be lived.

The truth was whatever was right in the light of Jesus' life and teaching. To be a child of the truth, therefore, is to live as Jesus wants you to live. Of course, the surrounding culture was very alien, and frequently hostile. Clear boundaries existed. It was fairly straight forward then to know what the truth was although it was frequently costly to do it. What seems strange to us was that the more they lived the truth, the more they understood what it was. Doing the truth came first: truly knowing it followed as a consequence.

It is still a fact that when you follow Jesus faithfully and sincerely you get a better handle on truth. You see the world as it really is. You understand problems with greater clarity. Solutions which are loving, honest, sincere and good come more easily. Jesus still comes to us first in the demand for obedience. Intellectual understanding follows.

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## Meditations from Lamentations 3

“The Lord is my portion’, saith my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him’. The Lord is good to them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him” (Lam 3:24-5). In what circumstances did the prophet pen these words? Were things going well for him? Did the people to whom he prophesied heed his message? Was Jerusalem prospering under the evident blessing of God?

NO! The prophet wrote these words while in the depths of despair. The prophet complained of his dark situation. Open your Bible and read Lamentations 3. Perhaps this message will grip you as it often has me. I have shared this chapter with inmates at our local jail, and it seems to register with them. I suspect people in various situations have experienced such feelings.



At first, the prophet's words are shock mockingly strong. How could he dare to write this? Yet in our affliction we, too, can turn against God in our pain-distorted vision. God Almighty seems to

loom over us with a rod of wrath. Even the bitterness of our heart seems as if it were put there by God (v15). Why is He doing this? Our hope is perished!

Do you know that the prophet found hope in his distress? In verse 21 we see a 180 degree turn in his thinking: “This I recall, therefore I have hope.” Did the prophet just want to fool himself with happy thoughts so that he could feel better? No. What we see is a manifestation of faith. Hebrews tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. That is especially true when you feel as this prophet did. And when he found faith in God, he found hope.

We also see the prophet choosing to be thankful. Instead of counting his wounds, he rejoiced that he had not been consumed.

Really, God had been merciful to him. From this vantage point, the prophet suddenly saw himself as privileged, not as treated unfairly. Verse 24 shows us that he chose to hope: “The Lord is my portion,’ saith my soul, ‘therefore will I hope in him’”. Maybe the prophet found this an easy choice after experimenting with the alternative. When he had turned against God, what hope was there? Bitterness may have given him a sense of security for a while but it was not enough. When he let go of his bitterness, he found hope in God.

The next three verses each use the word ‘good’. Again this was not a mental trick. The prophet was not ignoring the yoke of affliction. Instead he recognized that God is good, no matter what. Now it didn’t matter what he was going through. He would wait until he saw the good that God had for him. No longer were life’s circumstances clouding the prophet’s outlook. Instead, his renewed vision of God was shedding light on the scene. God does not delight in inflicting pain. He wants to use the things we face as a means to a merciful end. “Who is he that saith, and it comes to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not? Is it not out of the mouth of the Most High proceedeth both good and evil?” (v37-38, compare with Romans 8:28). The prophet decided he had best admit it: he could not control the events of life. Instead, his job was to control his response to the events as God allowed them. He said, “Let us search and try our ways and return again unto the Lord” (v40-41).

In the last part of the chapter, the prophet poured out his heart to God. Through a proper view of God, the prophet had found One to whom he could bare his heart. He found hope instead of despair.

*Bro Gaius Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)*

### **Israel in The Wilderness Are Our Warning ~ 1 Corinthians 10:1-12**

With careful reading of this chapter we find the following teachings:

- ❖ Israel’s slavery in Egypt represents us in the world before baptism.
- ❖ In the Red Sea they had water on both sides of them and a cloud (also water) above them. In this sense they were surrounded by water, and so Paul saw it as a symbol of baptism.
- ❖ After coming through the Red Sea they had to walk through the wilderness (our life in this world after baptism).

- ❖ They were fed on daily manna (God's word, Jesus Christ) until they came to the promised land (the kingdom of God when Jesus returns).
- ❖ Israel failed in the wilderness and wanted to return into Egypt. We must learn from their example so as not to fall under temptation as they did. Let us not fail to receive the things we are promised in the kingdom when Jesus returns.



Bro Julius Ongyango of Mahaya/Olello Ecclesia giving the right hand of fellowship to the newly-baptized Bro Ben Nyakure of Dago Ecclesia, at Bondo, while other members are witnessing the occasion

*Bro Raphael Joni Aim (Bondo, Kenya)*

### **For Others ~ 1 John 3:16**

The normal human way of life is to grab what we can for ourselves. We get money, power, skills, land, resources and tools for our own enhancement. We expect others to do the same. If someone else gets in our way whilst we are grabbing, then conflict ensues with the fight going to the strong. Sometimes we will band together with others for our mutual benefit.

The way of Jesus was to turn this whole scheme upside down. He gave himself for others. He made himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7). He set an example for his disciples to follow. They set out to tell the world of his sacrificial love. Some of them died doing it. Some of the arenas in which they were sent to the lions are still there. Others spent long, wearying years trudging the roads of the Roman empire to get the news of that love to others. Some suffered imprisonment in the cause of spreading that love. Some wrote at great length and fought bitter controversies to ensure that the love of Jesus would still be known.

Later, others went too far distant continents, braving nasty weather conditions and extreme loneliness for their brothers. Yet others faced angry mobs and other physical dangers to get the message to those who needed it. Some renounced wealth, family love, and personal independence as they obeyed the man from Galilee and gave themselves without ever thinking of the cost.

What are we laying down for others?

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## Holiness

What is holiness? If asked we will quickly reply, "Set apart for a special purpose." Although it is true that we cannot finally realize complete holiness until Jesus comes. There is no other rule of righteousness than that: God's commandments are unmistakable. They are so very simple that we are liable to forget them - and if we forget them, we cannot be saved. We must keep them in remembrance and act upon them. It is not sufficient just to acknowledge them, we must act upon them (Luke 6:46).

Now Jesus our master says that we are to be kind to one another. If we are not, however much we know the truth, we do not belong to him. Our knowledge would then be to our condemnation: "If any man has not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (James 4:17). Now besides kindness, the spirit of Christ was a spirit of worship. He often retired to pray.

What did he say to the Samaritan woman in John 4:24? What is the worship of God? It is the deferential and reverential concentration of the mind upon Him. Intelligently, consciously, lovingly, adoringly, trustingly and prayerfully with a deep sense of things disclosed concerning Him to us in the truth. That is the worship of God. It is an attitude of mind requiring the highest abstraction from the things of this world. Merely to continue in sins and to dance as people in the world do, that is not to worship, nor is it to deliver a well-worded address to God when it is not backed by a spiritual mind.

There is such a thing as drawing near with our lips, while the heart is far away. Yahweh does not like it. As He hated Israel for this, so neither will He take it from us. We require to abstract our minds from our surroundings and to fix them on the Almighty, in whose hand even our breath of life is. The worship of God requires our attention: a complete fixing of our mind upon Him, knowing that His ear is open and that His eyes are upon us - hear David (Psalm 139:5,12).

Now our meetings are designed for a collective exercise of our thoughts, and those who possess holiness will be full of response to this supreme object of our association. We must pay attention to all that we do during worship such as singing. Our mental attitude should be such that when we stand up to sing, we sing to God not merely go through a performance.

In this life, the present is all-important to us. It will be too late to mend our ways when Christ comes; remember that Christ's coming is not far away from every one of us. This statement is true from the time of the apostles (2 Corinthians 5:8-9). To be absent from the body means that our next conscious moment will be with the Lord. What does that mean? In death, one ceases to live and knows nothing any more (just like a night's sleep). So, practically, it means that Christ is standing at the end of our little career, as it were, and that at the end of that career, we shall stand in his presence. In that sense, he is not far off; he is waiting at the end of our journey to receive us, although the reception does not take place until he comes. To summarise, if we are to die in the coming week, practically the coming of the Lord is only a week away from us. So whatever may occur, to us the Lord is at the door. And this thought has the power of giving the truth a reality in our lives. We may fail to have this thought if we consider that there is a long time period before Christ comes. It helps us to surrender our lives, our espousal to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2). We are entirely his. We don't possess the liberty the world claims.

Our position is that we must deny ourselves, and all ungodliness and worldly lusts. We are not our own (1 Peter 4:2). To do the will of him who lived and died for us, seems only reasonable. We shall find out about ourselves when the Lord stands before us. Among all the masses who will

stand before him, none will be selected for his companionship except those who answer the description given to us in scripture, that is those who have been faithful stewards of his trust.

Just imagine the Lord in the earth again, and ourselves summoned to meet him. What will be the great anxiety of every one of us? Only one thing. All the fears and anxieties of a lifetime will be replaced by what determines Christ's opinion of us. What determines his opinion is what we are now because he has made known the principles of his judgment (Revelation 20:12-13). So now is the time of action. Let every person look to what they are doing. We shall be judged by the simple judgment: have you done what I commanded you? All the commandments have to do with practical daily life. With knowledge of truth, this is true holiness. The practical management of daily life is the main question if we are to follow in the footsteps of our master. Then we shall be assured of rest with him (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).



Cotonou Ecclesia, Bro John Aduje in centre

*Bro John Aduje (Cotonou, Benin)*

### **Don't Deny or Mock Your Lord**

“And they seized him and led him away, and brought him into the high priest. And Peter followed from a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat among them. And a certain maid, seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire and looking earnestly upon him, said, ‘This man also was with him.’ But he denied it saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ And after a while another person saw him and saith, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man I am not.’ After the space of about one hour, another confidently affirmed, saying, ‘Of a truth, this man was with him. For he is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you say.’ And immediately, as he spoke, the cock crew and the Lord turned and looked on Peter. And he remembered the word of the Lord that he had said to him: ‘Before the cock crow this day, you shall deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.” But, because of Peter's repentance the Lord saved him.

*Bro Joseph Kaliyaya (Kidatu, Tanzania)*

### **Discipleship**

When I was doing the Bible correspondence course, “The New Life in Christ”, in Lesson 12 I came across the word ‘discipleship’. I learnt that true discipleship demands discipline and determination. It means a sacrifice of self-interest and a willingness to follow Christ in spite of

any opposition from enemies. We must be prepared to make an all-out commitment to follow him. It is essential that we grow in our relationship with the Lord Jesus and seek to follow him daily. As the word 'disciple' means a learner, we must therefore accept the teachings of our Master and practice them.

Christian discipleship is unique in that it starts with Christ's call to us, not that we call Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22). The call has been made to every disciple who follows the Lord Jesus Christ. Our response to the call must be one of willingness, a total surrender of our will to him. We must follow the lifestyle of Jesus as our pattern and example, for true discipleship means being bound firmly to the one who calls, and submitting to his plan and purpose. Our personal relationship with the Lord is so much more important than anything we could achieve in any other way. We serve him wholeheartedly: "Remain in me and I will remain in you" (John 15:4-5).

The cost of discipleship is to deny ourselves, deliberately choosing the way of the cross by following Jesus. We must totally reject selfwill and allow Christ to rule in our lives. Discipleship gives us a new purpose by living a life free from sin. Jesus will make us what he wants us to be.

Therefore, by choosing the way of Jesus and the cross, we must be prepared to endure whatever comes, simply because we have made the decision to follow Christ. It signifies the utmost in self-denial by obeying his word, and giving a public acknowledgement that we belong to Christ whatever the consequences of taking a stand against sin and resisting its influence on our lives.

As Christadelphians, we can be compared to a marathon runner who strives to win. We must make every effort to abandon anything that drags us down. Let us throw off everything that hinders. We are imitating our Lord Jesus who was meek, kind, faithful. God wants us to show devotion to Him and respond to His word because He wants to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

*Bro James Mwangomo (Mbeya, Tanzania)*

### **"Find the Book" ~ 2 Kings 22:8-23:3**

One Sunday at the ecclesia during Sunday School lessons, I invited three children to find a Bible which was hidden among other books. I told them that once they found it and read the word Bible aloud, I would give them a prize. They ran and started sorting the books. Their hunt for the Bible was intense, and exciting. Their diligent search and subsequent discovery of the Bible led to joy in the children, and a renewed sense of the importance of the Bible as God's word.

In the reference in 2 Kings 22:8-23, we read how King Josiah and the people of Judah discovered the joy and importance of God's word. When they were repairing the temple, Hilkiah the high priest found the book of the Law. It must have been hidden during the reign of Manasseh. Then when the scroll was read to King Josiah, he listened and responded to it (v10-11). He sought their understanding of it (v12-20). And he led the people to renew their commitment to its importance in their lives (23:1-4).

Many people today have unprecedented access to God's word. Let us renew our commitment to search the Bible every day and, by our lives, show its prominence.

**"To know Christ is to know the Bible"**

*Bro Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)*

## **Believe in God Even When He Is Silent**

Troubles come upon all of us. Sometimes it seems as if they will overwhelm us. Everyone sooner or later has such moments of crisis among the thousands of natural shocks that the flesh is heir to. They can even be so bad that we just want to escape from the threat of being overwhelmed. David expresses this emotion in Psalm 55:45. The desire is to just get away from it all. People can feel like Job who could not escape from the troubles that had come upon him. He opens the cycle of speeches with a cry of anguish (3:3-4).

We pray about our problems seeking God's guidance (1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 34:7). Many have lost their faith, asking 'How could there be a God who would allow anyone to suffer like this?' But we as Christians day and night gather our strength to follow the steps of our Saviour Jesus Christ who faced the crucial death on the cross. As the Almighty God had said, "Surely you shall die" (Genesis 2:7). Every human being born of woman shall die (Genesis 3:19).

Death is faced for what it is. Job calls it the king of terrors (18:14). Paul speaks of death as the last and great enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). Humanity lives all their lives in fear of it (Hebrews 2:17). The fear of death grips our society more than we like to admit. But for those in Christ, at the harvest at his return and judgement, all those who have laboured in the gospel will rejoice together (Matthew 13:39; John 4:35-36).



Bro Edwin Mule with his son Boyd Mule kneeling

*Bro Edwin Mule (Chainmail, Zambia)*

## **The Joy of Remembering ~ Psalm 104:1-14**

My father, Francis Kapa, is 90 years old. At times, when he was sick, he usually described it as a time to remember the days of his life when he was still young. He called it the "Grace of Remembering". It is so easy to forget all the way that the Lord has led us. "Forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2). This is typified by my father whom I have known and admired for 65 years. Rather than reviewing disappointments, his talk is filled with thankfulness and praise to God.

First, he recalled with thankfulness God's thankful mercies: his good health, the enjoyment of his family (for he had 27 children), the joy and success of his work, his enriching friendships and the opportunity to serve God. He considers them all gifts - none deserved, but all gratefully received.

He is a model we should follow as his children on a regular basis: the joy of remembering. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name, for he knoweth best!" His will for me is better than my plans. Do not all good gifts come from the Father's hand? Give loving thanks for the Lord's lavish gifts.

*Bro Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)*

### **Youth Camp (Kenya)**

We had a Youth Camp at Kamukuywa Ecclesia and I enclose a photograph of some of those who attended. It was such a camp as never had been held before in Kenya, sponsored by the brothers and sisters in Australia. The Kiswahili language is most popular and can help people of all ages to understand the gospel. Unfortunately, Bibles are very expensive here and many of us are poor, so this was an especially important occasion to help to spread God's word.



Above: Brethren, Sisters and Youth at the Camp where 1,150 praised the Lord for the Truth. More pictures on front and back covers.

*Bro Martin Chemiati (Kitale, Kenya)*

### **Take My Yoke upon You**

Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you" (Matthew 11:29). The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labour and the yoke is essential for them to work together effectively. By this illustration, Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life will last. We are to take upon us his yoke that we may be coworkers with him.

The commandments of Christ form the yoke that binds us to his service. God expects us to do His will, which is high and noble and elevating. He desires that we will patiently and wisely take up the duties of service, which Christ himself has borne. He said, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yes, thy law is in my heart" (Psalms 40:8). The hearts of some are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standards. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, and adopted its customs. Our Lord desires us all to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He invites us all to accept his yoke: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." He bids us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, with His promise that all things needful to us for this life will be added (Luke 12:31). So, brothers and sisters in Christ, let us all be co-workers with Christ by taking his yoke upon us.

*Bro Green Mumbelunga (Ndola, Zambia)*

## Kinshasa (Congo)

At the moment all is well in Kinshasa and area (Congo). We have had a ten day visit from Brethren Steve and Jenkins from the UK. It was great to have good news from them which has strengthened and encouraged us. They travelled extensively and the photos give an idea of how the truth is in Congo.



Above: In Kwilungongo Bro Steve goes through some questions with a new Sister.

Below: Bro Jenkins shares the Gospel News with the young of Kinshasa Ecclesia and gives soft drinks and food to orphans and street children (rice and beans). Thanks to Meal-a-Day.



*Bro Kims*

## Carelinks | Riga ~ Feeding Scheme



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

There is the possibility of continuing the feeding scheme throughout the year - if enough volunteer workers can be found. Hopefully these reports will help you understand the nature of the work and encourage you to come over and help:

“I have to admit to being intimidated by the prospect of functioning in a location where I could not speak or read the language. When I actually arrived I was faced with several situations on a regular basis.

First challenge was the large supermarket where I had to purchase groceries for the feeding scheme at the Hall. In many ways it was much the same as any store in my home town. The produce department was familiar: potatoes, carrots, onions, beets no problem. Canned goods

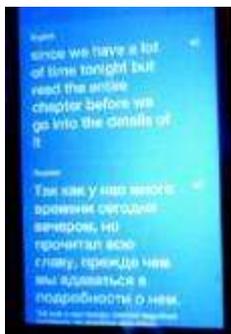
like kidney beans all had pictures on the label ... no problem. Tomato paste, sour cream, seasonings were more of a challenge but with Duncan's help I managed. On future trips I found there was English on some labels, similar root words that were familiar, and helpful store staff who spoke English or could find someone who did. My best resource was a helpful young man in the dairy aisle. The best discovery of all was an App for the iPhone that you speak in English and it would display the translation in Latvian. We could find all sorts of things after that.

At the hall I met brothers and sisters who had a variety of language skills. Sometimes I just couldn't make out what they wanted and turned to others for help. Sometimes gestures got the message across or someone was available to translate. All it took was patience on both sides and some creativity sort of like playing charades or pictionary. Many young Latvians learn English in school so they are usually the best ones to ask. I just wanted to share my experience so that others considering coming to Riga won't let language hold them back. Some things just don't need translation, they are universal. Ladies walking their dogs in the park, boys playing hockey on the ice, children making snowmen and parents walking with their children. The opportunity to meet brethren and sisters from all over the world is an added bonus."

Sis Anne Barton

Brother Jim and other speakers type out their talks into Google Translate and print them out or get them on the screen - and then a local brother or sister can read them out correcting the errors, in the local language. You can see how Jim and Maxim managed to thus give a series of talks on the letter of James, with neither of them understanding each others' language. The recording is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGI4zkD799I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGI4zkD799I)

Pictured here you can see how the screen looks on a smart phone with the app mentioned by sister Anne - you speak your words into the phone, and out comes the translation, either on the screen or by audio.



Sister Hannah Aldersely describes her work: "This week I had the chance to join Duncan, Maxim (a brother from Ukraine) and Jonatan (a brother from the UK) on a short drive through Riga to deliver firewood to Brigitta. Brigitta is a sister who regularly attends our meetings and feeding program at the hall. She also never fails to help with the cleaning up afterwards. The drive to Brigittas was made a little longer by the darkness and heavy snowfall. I was excited, but a little nervous, as I'd heard it was a rough area of town and we had been told not to speak loudly when we reached her apartment as it might cause trouble for Brigitta if people living nearby knew she was getting help from foreigners. I felt a bit like an undercover agent as we quietly climbed the dark stairs with broken windows and no lighting carrying sacks of firewood, and swung through a broken window into her small room as the door couldn't be opened. There was snow on the stairs due to the broken windows. The room was lit by a few candles we had given her and she had even made it quite homely with a mattress; there was no electricity, water, sewage or toilet.

Although she is alone and has next to nothing to her name, she is always so thankful for everything and so willing to serve and help us out at the hall.



Another sister, Tanya, who attends the meetings and often does the readings at the hall, fell on the ice and broke her arm. Duncan, Jonatan, Deb, Cardia and I visited her in the local hospital on New Year's Eve to encourage her and give her some company.



Sis Hannah, Bro Maxim and Sis Brigitta Sis Deb, Bro Jonatan and Sis Hannah with Sis Tanya in hospital on New Year's Eve

She was in a lot of pain but very happy to see us as she has no family. Tanya and Brigitta have challenged me a lot with their content, thankful nature and truly live by the verses from Philippians 4:11-13 "...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Sis Hannah Aldersely Bro David Corbin from Brooklyn ecclesia USA writes: "I am very impressed and excited about what's going on here at the Riga centre in Latvia. Truly it's an oasis of blessings both natural and spiritual to this community. First, the energy and professionalism of the sisters (Vanessa, Rachel, Hannah) involved in the cooking and catering. Secondly, the great condition of the facilities, thirdly, the marvelous and almost unbelievable attendance from local brothers, sisters and the visiting public. And fourthly, Bro Duncan's guidance, coordination and mentoring of the process. natural food, which was extremely delicious, but for the spiritual food also.

Afterwards we took one of our sisters home, getting her five bundles of firewood on the way to her home. It is heartbreaking to see what and where this poor sister calls home. No heat, light, security, absolutely none of the comforts associated with a home. In an abandoned apartment block, this sister is squatting in a room on the second floor. Access is through a broken window from the hallway, which she covers with pieces of plastic, discarded lumber and cardboard boxes. Yet for all the sad things going on in this sister's life, she exudes happiness, gratitude and faithfulness. She conceals her sorrowful condition with a joyful and positive attitude. What a noble sister.

The success of the days efforts belies the struggles, anxious moments, cost, manpower shortages and the long hours that goes on behind the scenes. I say that this is evidence of God's blessings and help to prosper his work".

Bro David Corbin

Bro Nathan Badger of Ontario, Canada continues:

*"I have wanted to visit the Riga Bible Centre for several years, so it was exciting to finally witness this Latvian light-stand first-hand.*

*Jesus has asked us to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and that is the focus of the Bible Centre: Firstly, to teach the riches of God's sound doctrines, agape love, and eternal hope with poor and under-privileged people, and secondly, to warm and fill them (James 2:16) with a healthy meal, clothing, and refuge from the elements year round. I would love to return and spend several months helping and teaching, God Willing. It is especially inspiring to see that these efforts are resulting in regular baptisms and opportunities for brethren, sisters and young people worldwide to contribute to the spread of the Gospel."*

Bro Nathan Badger



Brothers Dave and Nate about to give talks at the Bible Centre; Brother Maxim at the computer

#### **Bro David Corbin had a final report:**

*"2/2/15: 104 in attendance at the Bible class at the Riga Bible Centre. We witnessed the baptism of NIKOLAY. This made the fourth baptism in the last three days. Two in Kiev on 1/31/15, another one outside Kiev on 2/1/15 and today 2/2/15. Truly, as in the days of the apostles, the Lord added unto the ecclesia daily such as should be saved. An observation: In the western ecclesias the rear seats are the first to be filled and are the seats of choice. Over here it's the opposite. You have to rush to get a front seat. With 104 in attendance the Lord blessed the stretching of the food, as Sis Hannah and Bro Andy were in full panic that we were going to run out. I certainly thought so as well and was consulting about contingency plans to feed the remainder, when word came that everyone was fed and some were welcome to get a second serving. It was the third time I've heard Bro Nathan speak on lighthouses and I can say it gets better each time. He really applied, from the construction to the design to the purpose and management of lighthouses, to both the believers and unbelievers lives. Great job Bro Nathan may our heavenly Father continue to bless you to do his work. ... I've arrived back in NYC, safely thanks to our heavenly Father and the prayers of the brethren. I had a wonderful time there and can't wait to visit again, perhaps for a bit longer. All near and far will be hearing from me of the wonderful and exhausting work you are doing over there and the great response we are still getting from the public. May God richly bless each and everyone of you who labor on in his service. May he prosper his work. I will never forget the faces of those poor souls who visit the centre each day. I look forward to when we can offer the opportunity to them 7 days a week. The brethren in the Ukraine will always be in my prayers... And Bro Maxim, a bastion of faith and goodwill to serve. May the Lord take care of his situation soon. Give him my love.*

Love in Christ, Bro David Corbin



Sis Vanessa, Bro David and Bro Nate serving Sis Tanya, now out of hospital, is helped by Bro Andrej to re-arrange her scarf-sling for her broken arm before she returns on icy paths to the night shelter

### **Carelinks | Ukraine**

It was a great inspiration to have over Bro Jon and Sisters Deb and Cardia Cwiecek from the Erith UK ecclesia - they showed an amazing commitment, maturity and zeal for the Lord's work whilst in Latvia and Ukraine.

#### **Sister Deb relates the story:**

*"We met Artem in a snowy bus station and, after having a quick bite to eat, we took a taxi to a Sauna where they had a big enough pool for his 6ft3 frame. The one we visited was plush but rather dangerous as the shallow end of the pool was about 8ft deep and cold! Thankfully Jon, Duncan and Artem can swim and are all around 6ft or over but this test showed us again how desperate Artem was to be baptised.*

*God's hand was clearly at work in our lives today as we were not sure he would take the arduous 6 hour journey to meet us, he must have thought the same thing! Artem must have a fairly deep conviction of the truth to make such an effort. He seems sincere about his new journey despite his family disowning him. Although born in the Ukraine, he lived in Israel (Nazareth and Jerusalem) as a Jew with the rest of his Jewish family until he started to read the New Testament and found a love for Jesus. His family rejected him when he left the synagogue and he felt persecuted by family and friends so he decided to move back to Ukraine where he is currently unemployed due to the economic unrest. He stumbled upon the Carelinks websites when scouring the internet for answers. He found what we were teaching was closest to what he reads in the Bible. Duncan, Maxim and Artem exchanged messages and Artem completed the entire Bible Basics course before he asked to be baptised.*



*In Kiev and Odessa, we have seen many off duty soldiers grouped in the train stations and streets. It does seem a country at unease so we ask for prayers of safe keeping for our brothers and sisters here. We spent a whole day distributing about 2500 leaflets. We took a tram, just any tram, and waited until it reached an area with high rise blocks. And then we walked to another such area that we saw on the horizon. Most of the blocks were locked but we got quite good at following old people as they approached the blocks, and slipped in with them. Inside we found racks of many letter boxes and we were spurred on by the thought that each leaflet might be the difference between eternal life and eternal death for these people in their rather sad lives. So many times we found the locked doors opening for us. God was really with us. We must have walked around 20 miles that day. As Paul says in Galatians 5:25, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit". This slightly mad journey full of waiting in 'cheap and cheerful' cafes, blizzards, hotel rooms and dodgy saunas has taught me to be more aware of God working in my life and to trust in Him as He has certainly provided for us".*

Sis Deb Cwiecek



Our new Bro Artem, centre, with Sisters Cardia and Deb and Bre Jon and Duncan

### **Carelinks | Ukraine Bible School**

We conducted a Bible School and pastoral visit to a brother on a collective farm, resulting in the baptisms of ALEXEI, LUBA and TAMARA. We were graciously looked after on our journeys. But the plight of our brothers and sisters, especially pensioners, is very bad. The Ukrainian Grivna is now relatively worthless, but pensions and many wages have hardly increased - whilst prices have at least quadrupled. Infrastructure is broken down, with the Government bankrupt, economy at a standstill and the roads outside Kiev covered with serious potholes; health care is now extremely expensive. Several at the Bible School have various health issues which they need advice and help with. Others were desperately worried about sons and grandsons who are now at the front; another was terribly upset at having no money to bury a relative. Unless the war finishes soon, there are going to be really major needs for our brethren and sisters in Ukraine, many of whom are pensioners. Many of military age have received callup papers, as the Ukrainian military seeks to raise an army of 200,000 men to take control of the country from the rebels, who have claimed to be raising an army of 100,000. These are big figures. With the West supporting Ukraine and Russia supporting the rebels, poor Ukraine is caught in the middle of a terrible conflict. The Police are going around to the homes of those called up and taking them away to the barracks if they don't report themselves. And nobody who has been called up can now leave Ukraine. Please do pray for this terrible situation and for our brethren who are now in hiding. With Ukraine now filling up with tanks and all kinds of military technology, the largest scale war in Europe since 1945 is now underway, with East pitted against West with Ukraine in the middle, including over 200 of our brethren and sisters. We were able to distribute welfare to those in need.



Bro Artem follows the study with brethren and sisters who had made long and difficult journeys to be with us

It was good to see brethren present at the Bible School who were baptized over the last year, and everywhere there is evidence of the great spiritual blessing of the Russian NEV Bible with commentary - thank you all so much for enabling it.

Bro David Corbin describes the Ukraine Bible School: "On the 28th January, Bro Duncan, Bro Nathan Badger and me boarded an Air Baltic plane heading from Riga, Latvia to Kiev, Ukraine. After we cleared customs we thought to get some Ukrainian cooked food. Well we soon found out that was not going to happen. Apart from a couple coffee stalls, there was no cooked food anywhere in this sprawling airport to be found. We walked with our luggage to the nearby airport hotel and was told that due to no guests, they had closed the only restaurant in the hotel. So we headed back to the airport. On our way back Bro Duncan was able to negotiate with a taxi driver a reasonable price, to take us to our destination at a Ministry of Defence sanatorium building in the suburbs of Kiev. We arrived around 9:00 pm (I am still curious how the driver found the location with no visible signs on the secondary roads, minimal lights and rain - but again, God was in control). After Bro Duncan checked us in to our rooms, I guess he had enquired of the caretaker about some where to eat, honestly I had given up finding anything to eat for the night ! My reasoning was that if there was no restaurant around the main airport in Kiev, then surely there wouldn't be any in what seems like an abandoned town. But were we in for a surprise... About a third of a mile walk down some deserted roads patrolled by an army of stray dogs and the occasional person walking by, there was a restaurant that served some of the best salads and pizzas! On Thursday morning, 29th we were up by 8:00 am, so we could have some good Ukrainian breakfast and be ready to share the daily readings together at 9:30 am sharp. I was surprised by how many brethren had trickled in overnight and during the morning, despite the war in the east. With Bro Duncan translating, I heard of many twenty plus hour rides by bus and train to reach the Bible school venue. It's really inspiring and an exhortation in itself to see what these mainly elderly brethren are willing to go through to share fellowship together for a few days. The first two and a half hours were spent doing the daily bible readings each day which was led by Bro Duncan. After the daily readings we had three classes each day. Two by Bro Nathan and one by me. After dinner we had another class by brother Nathan and finished the rest of the daily readings. Each evening we finished around 8:30 pm. A full day of spiritual fellowship. This was also my first experience of fellowship with baptized Jewish sisters, well educated in the law and the prophets, and boy do they know their Bible and the Hebrew root words and meanings! For me this was a glimpse of the kingdom. Natural Israel finally embracing their Messiah and the gospel of the kingdom and name of Jesus.

I had to ask why there were so few young men to be found around Kiev. All the military aged young men are either in hiding, have fled the country or are at the warfront in the east. This war is seriously under reported in the west. Please be not discouraged from visiting because of this

war, as I was at first. Here in western Ukraine, where the capital is located, it's as quiet as the proverbial church mouse. I haven't encountered any problems. The weather was great, even much warmer than in USA. I seriously over packed, expecting Siberian like weather conditions. The prices are much cheaper here if you have Western currency because the Ukrainian UAH has lost much of its value. So please make your next vacation here in the Ukraine and help with the spreading of the Gospel.

The next Bible School is scheduled for six months from now. Flights are cheap, no visas are necessary from the US and European end. The brethren here are so happy when they get visits from western brethren. They appreciate that we choose to share fellowship with them rather than the beaches of some tropical area. These brethren are our family also and they spend almost the entire year in isolation from the brotherhood. Those who do the will of God are our REAL FAMILY and Christ family (Matt 25). Nathan and I left for our respective homes from Riga, Latvia on Tuesday. The joy and pleasure we shared with our brethren in eastern Europe will not be soon forgotten. Two lessons I learned from my visit is that there is so much that can be done even if you don't speak a word of Russian. The second is the extreme amount of work involved in running the centre in Latvia, answering and contacting requests from interested persons and co-ordinating a brotherhood in isolation.



Bre David and Duncan giving a class

Thanks Bro Duncan for all the good you have done and keep doing in the eastern European vineyard. May God bless you and all the helpers of the missionary work here. God willing, yes I will be back. Love in Christ, Bro David Corbin

Bro Nate Badger reports on the journey to baptize Tamara: "Part way through the 2015 Winter Bible School in Ukraine, we received a call from Bro Alexei to baptize his grandmother who had been studying Bible Basics with him for several months. With only a couple of days left in the Ukraine, it became evident we would need to make some creative plans to reach her.

We hopped in a taxi, spent 1.5hrs fighting through traffic to Borispol airport, and then rented a car for the remaining 8 hrs southeast. With the recent fighting in Ukraine, the country's rural roads have not been maintained and the majority of the trip was tediously slow as we dodged thousands of large potholes in the decaying asphalt. Several times, we considered turning back Bro Alexei was so full of joy as he welcomed his grandmother into fellowship but we persisted, believing God had sent his angels to guide our journey. Late that night we arrived in the general vicinity of the Soviet-style 'collective farm' that Alexei and his grandmother live on. The farm was located in the middle of nowhere. With no streetlights or street signs we were fortunate to have limited access to a mobile WiFi and could vaguely find barren country roads using Google maps. Eventually we found Alexei flashing his flashlight at a crossroads in the

middle of farm fields where he led us the remaining miles to their apartment, in the worker's accommodation of a crumbling collective farm.

The joy of sis Tamara and her grandson bro Alexei was so great it turned from deep smiles to tears of joy ...

Bro Alexei was encouraged to research Christadelphians by Messianic Jews, whose doctrines he disagreed with. He discovered the Bible Basics website and read through the book slowly using his cellphone. He was baptized in August 2014 by Bro Maxim and has since been teaching the Truth to Tamara, his grandmother. Thankfully, he has now purchased a very old computer (intact with a floppy drive!) where he is able to Skype with other brethren and sisters and join in breaking bread online in Russian. Sis Tamara welcomed us into their one-room flat and provided us with a bowl of mashed potatoes, beef and sweet-bread. After discussing her convictions, she was baptized in a tub of warm water in their bathroom. We then shared in a breaking of bread and were inspired by talking to Bro Alexei about his enthusiasm for the Truth and the ecclesia he dreams of developing in that remote place. He is isolated from other Christadelphians in Ukraine and has little means to travel around. He is, therefore, very excited to now have his grandmother to break bread with and share the Truth. After 2am it was time to leave. We drove home, dodging potholes like we were playing a computer game. Then, just as the sun began to rise, one of our front tires collapsed after hours of pounding on the bumpy, unlit roads. We managed to change it for a spare and find a 24hr tire repair shop to see if we could salvage the tire. Around 11am we arrived back at the Bible Centre. We were very excited that Sis Tamara and Bro Alexei are baptized. God had blessed our journey and the persistence of us all. Given the current uncertainty in the Ukraine, we don't know if this would be the last chance to baptize our new Sister. Alexei as a farm worker and with health issues currently has been exempted from military service but that could easily change as the demand for young men becomes more acute."

Bro Nathan Badger

We don't consider a trip to Ukraine unduly dangerous as long as one doesn't go near the front line nor into the East. We plan to continue with the **July Bible School**, God willing, and to afterwards go visiting our brethren and sisters and practically assist them with things like repairing homes against the Winter, and simply encouraging them. This would be a great adventure for younger folks especially - do contact us if you'd like to come.