

# *The Gospel News*



*"To all nations"*



## Editorial | Christ is Real

“Christ is real”; so Robert Roberts opened his biography of the Lord. And so He is. Beyond the steely silence of the skies, there really is Jesus. He is there. He who was born on this earth, who had our nature and experiences, really did die for us. Two thousand years ago, on a day in April, on a Friday afternoon, on a hill outside Jerusalem, a perfect man died... and after three days, the graveclothes stirred, a young man walked out into the early morning mist, with the lights of Jerusalem shimmering in the distance... then 40 days later He ascended up vertically into the sky and somehow got taken to Heaven, the very centre of the cosmos... yes, it demands faith to grasp the personal, actual, concrete, historical reality of it all. It's so much easier to shrug it all off, to walk away from the challenge of faith, by saying that this is myth or that actually, He was God.

First century Israel stumbled at the humanity of Jesus. “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James? And they were offended at him” (Mk. 6:3). In essence, the same is happening to those like Trinitarians who respond: ‘But could a man have done all these things?’. They just can’t hack that Jesus, Son of God, perfect human being... was truly human, with a human mother and relatives. And so they have stumbled off into various wrong theories and theologies about Jesus to try to rationalize and spiritually legitimise their lack of faith in Him as a human person. The early Christians must likewise have struggled with the questions- how could a man have done all this? How could this be true of a man? Could one of us really have pulled this off? And so in time, they took the easy way out, flunked the issue, by deciding that Jesus must’ve been God. Likewise there is the challenge of the fact that Jesus is explained in Scripture as our representative; but that requires a lot of faith from us, and so Christianity generally has ditched that demand and replaced it with a pagan notion of substitution. Yet the Lord Jesus set us a pattern- humiliation and suffering, followed by glorification. Yet the common conception of Jesus gets this all the wrong way around — pre-existent glory in Heaven followed by humiliation, then a return to glory. But the Bible clearly teaches that the glory of the Lord Jesus was earned, it was His reward, and we with all our hearts say “Worthy is the lamb that was slain!” to receive that glory- knowing that we too have embarked upon a similar path to glory, with every experience of humiliation in this life understood in that context.

Don’t underestimate the act of faith you have taken in believing that the Lord Jesus was indeed one of us, a man amongst men, with our very same flesh, blood, and plasm... And thinking about these things can make us start to feel strangely uncomfortable. It’s perhaps why so many of us find prolonged contemplation of His crucifixion- where He was at His most naked and most human- something we find distinctly uncomfortable, and impossible to deeply sustain for long. But only if we properly have in balance the awesome reality of Christ’s humanity, can we understand how one man’s death 2,000 years ago can radically alter our lives today. We make excuses for ourselves: our parents were imperfect, society around us is so sinful. But the Lord Jesus was perfect- and dear Mary did her best, but all the same failed to give Him a perfect upbringing; she wasn’t a perfect mother; and He didn’t live in a perfect environment. And yet, He was perfect. This is why we find sustained reflection upon His humanity so challenging- for it bids us quit our excuses and follow Him.

But His reality and humanity is also the profoundest comfort. In his time of dying, Stephen saw the Lord Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55). But about 13 times in the New Testament, the point is made that the Lord sits there, unlike the Mosaic priests who stood (Heb. 10:12). The Lord Jesus was passionately feeling for Stephen; He stood up, genuinely engaged with the situation on earth and the life of His servant Stephen. And He just as emotionally and

passionately feels for us in our struggles. This alone should lift us out of the mire of mediocrity. Prayer will have meaning and power. It won't just be the repetitious conscience-salver it can descend into. For we have in Heaven the Lord Jesus interceding with the Father for us. His intercession isn't merely a disinterested translation of our words from one language to another. His intercession involves appealing to the Father for us on His own agenda, seeing our needs better than we do ourselves. Thus He prayed for Peter, that Peter's faith would not fail (Lk. 22:32)- at a time when Peter was assured that such prayer was unnecessary. In our hard times and low moments, we need to remember that the Lord Jesus is passionately interested in us. He is on our side. And He is now the King of the cosmos. The King of the world... is our friend. On our side. Truly nobody and nobody can touch us without His express planning and permission.

It can be that we are interested in the Bible on an almost hobby level. Understanding its background, fascination with its interpretation, attendance at Bible study meetings within a culture and ethos we find comfortable and have perhaps grown up with... this is all one thing. But the whole purpose of the Bible is to bring us to Jesus as a person; for He is the "word made flesh". We must give full weight to the Lord's warning to the ecclesia of His day: "You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of me; but you will not come to me, so that you may have life" (Jn. 5:39,40). The tension is between 'searching the scriptures' and on the other hand, 'coming to Me'. They were Bible centered; but not Christ-centered. It is of course far easier to "search the scriptures" than it is to forge a living relationship with the Lord Jesus, with all that it requires. But this is what we shall eternally be involved in- not an eternal Bible study, but an eternal relationship with a person, Jesus, the real Christ.

| **Duncan Heaster**

## **News from Africa**

### **NEWS FROM KENYA**



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

We are doing well spiritually in Kisumu despite the restriction of law through our Kenyan government that we cannot access things happening in our own country via the media.

Let me take this wonderful opportunity on behalf of the entire Kisumu Ecclesia to say thank you to the Trust for their support of our project of caring for the street kids, a wonderful success in early 2015. We fully appreciate this help and may our Heavenly Father bless all those concerned. Gradually, our work is really changing the character of these kids and we have managed to baptize some others too. We are looking forward to baptizing others soon if our Master still remains away.

#### **KITALI | Bro Martin Chemiati**

We are very pleased to have received more Swahili Bibles which are so important to our members, especially to our Youth and the Sisters class. We need more for our Ecclesia and the new Ecclesia recently established in Bavato, the teachings from the NEV Bibles has widened the

eyes of many people and changed their lives. Some for several years have gone on without really knowing the Truth, but now do though the NEV Bibles.



**Bro Martin Chemiati Sis Judith and Bro Emmanuel Milimo**

#### **LURAMBI | Bro Martin Chemiati**

I am sure that when our Lord returns we shall meet together. We are happy that you sent us the New Testament Bibles and I have sent you a picture of part of Lurambi Ecclesia which I would like to be printed. Please, kindly send me 12 more Bibles.

The Ecclesia has asked me to request also that you send us more Bibles, especially the whole Bible, which will make us very happy.



**Lurambi Ecclesia being given Kiswahili Bibles Front left, Bro Martin Chemiati and back left, Bro Chrispas Muranga with part of the Lurambi Ecclesia**

#### **RAPOGI | Bro Mike GO Juma**

I am fine and my family. I have not regretted the service that I render to the Lord. I am always ready to confess and repent of my sins. May you forgive me for staying silent for quite a long time. I had some unavoidable commitments that could not allow me to communicate.

#### **SHIMO LA TEWA | Bro Anthony Kafula**

We send much greetings from our Ecclesia. We are all fine in the Name of Our Master, who is helping us day and night.

I would like to apologize for delaying replying but all in all God is good who guides us from last year unto this year 2015, the year we expect His Son to return to this earth and establish God's Kingdom.

For our church we are very happy to hear that you are going to assist us with the Kiswahili New Testament Bible. May God bless you and open your doors and treasury. I have received 25 requests - from brothers and sisters (13), friends who are about to be baptized this year, God willing, (5), youths (4), Sunday School scholars, (3). These will assist them to read and understand the Scriptures. Thank you for feeding us with spiritual food through sending us Bible Basics , Middle East pamphlets and Gospel News.



**Pictured top: Group of Shimo la Tewa Youths**



**Pictured above: Sis Madeleine Wamalwa being sponsored to an academy by Agape**

**TONGAREN | Taken during visit of AGAPE IN ACTION sponsors**



**The visitors came from Canada and America and have sponsored more than 40 children in Tongaren. For this action we will always praise God. Those in school uniforms are sponsored candidates now learning in high school. On their knees are Bro Isaac Kapa and Nancy, his sister-wife. In our ecclesia we have started an academy of pre-primary school known as “A.A. ACADEMY”.**

**SONGHOR | Bro Alex Abuya**

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the Kiswahili versions we have received and may the Almighty God bless you in this wonderful work as we continue to wait for the return of Our Lord Jesus.

**TURBO | Bro Emmanuel Milimo**

I am so sad to inform you that Beatrice my wife, who is a sister, fell asleep 4th December 2014 due to the breast cancer. I am hoping that we are going to meet on the day of resurrection soon.

I am very thankful for the New Testaments. These will be very helpful to our youth and others who cannot understand English. We are praying that God will give you long life so that you can complete the whole Bible soon. Brothers and sisters are very happy even though I would like you to send me greetings monthly.

I would also like you to pray for me so that God can help me with young ones that our Sister Beatrice has left me with.



**Sis Beatrice and Bro Emmanuel Milimo**

## NEWS FROM MALAWI



### **BALAKA | Bro Harry Benito**

Firstly, I would like to inform you that we Malawians are happy and we are blessed because God himself has given what we wanted through CAT, so because of that we are happy and blessed too. Everything you send us is not only from your mind but that mind comes from God who gives you what you need to help us.

Secondly, I want to thank you for responding to what we asked for. I think that everything done through God; if it is His Will, nobody can say no. Thank you for the six New Testaments you sent which have made more people happy as they can be used for preaching to students. More people love us for our work done in preaching to them.

### **BOLERO | Bro Luke Chawinga**

Many thanks for your continued contact with our Bolero Ecclesia. We have run short of books and other Bible literature. An ecclesia without books is like a body without soul.

This year we have not had enough rain. We thank our brethren and sisters of Mzuzu Ecclesia for inviting us to their Fraternal. Bro Nyomiro of Nkhamanga Ecclesia is very sick.

### **DOWA | Bro M J Wandawanda**

First I wish to apologise for my delay in informing you of my loss of PO Box 47 which I used before. Today I am at Box 254. I fear that I have lost some scriptural letters.

I have a word to say. It is that Malawian readers of 'Gospel News' send their articles to this magazine, but I would be grateful if their Post Office Box numbers could be shown in their articles because I wonder if I could communicate in writing with them.

### **MZUZU | Bro Sylvester Tembo**

Many thanks for your two letters plus a parcel of Bibles. I always appreciate the care and support that you give me. It is nice to hear that Duncan might join you in the U.K. to assist with the Truth's work, knowing that you yourself are of age nowadays.

## NEWS FROM MAURITIUS



## | Bro Herold Lafrance



Greeting in the name of Jesus. Many thanks for the parcel of french Bibles which I received safety and your contribution will be a great plus for the preaching of God words. Above is a photo of myself distributing these french Bibles in the Victoria Hospital in Quatre Bornes together with my wife sister Lalita. Hope God will open these patients their eyes to accept Jesus as their savior. Please publish this good news in the Gospel News magazine.

## NEWS FROM NIGERIA



### WARRI | Bro Irese Okojo

I wish to express my profound gratitude to you all regarding the concern you showed toward me at the time of grief and need, when I contracted the dread disease called cancer, now a world killer. It is difficult to survive but my own case has been exceptional.

Researchers have not discovered the cure despite surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. One can hardly survive, but I am saying this from my experience. To God be the glory here, as I am counted among the few that survive this deadly disease.

How does it happen? The miracle happened through you, the beloved. How? Through your continuous prayer, the prayer of the saints that avails much. These have taken me a long

## NEWS FROM TANZANIA



### MBOZI-MBEYA | Bro Raphael Mkeya

I am sorry to inform you that last year I did not have enough stocks of food and we went out of stock in mid-November. Since then I have been living by piecemeal so that my family can survive. I am still in hardship because sometimes I go and look for work and come back empty-handed. Thank you for the Gospel News which I am really enjoying. Please send me a Swahili New Testament and Bible Basics and other books you think will strengthen us spiritually. We always remember you in our prayers.

way in my treatment. And what about the ceaseless phone calls, that make those around me say that they have not found a love for a member like this in Christendom? Also the visiting by members enhances the miracle of being alive today, when all hope has been given up, then Christ intervened.

I sincerely thank you all for this enormous support I have received from you. It is my desire that the God of Israel whom we serve day and night remember you in all your endeavours. I am indeed grateful and I appreciate you all. Beloved, I write this to declare the goodness of God in my life and that I am sound in health, and my soul also prospers. So help me to say, thank you Father. Thank you and God bless you.

## NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



### **CHINSALI | Bro Edward Choko**

The most important thing for us is to look to the Word of God for guidance because we do not complain, or beg from anyone. In 1 John 2:15-17 we are told not to be friends of the world and follow its lusts, or we will be enemies of God and cannot please Him. The world (people) passes away with its lusts. “But in all things, approving ourselves as the ministers of God in much patience, in afflictions, necessities, in distress, giving no offence in anything that the ministry be not blamed” (2 Corinthians 6:3-4).

### **KABOMPO | Bro Reuben Musole Kaambeu**

I am thanking our Heavenly Father that we are the betrothed to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are preparing ourselves in this life for the great day of marriage at his return from heaven.

I realise that the Lord directed my feet to leave urban life in Kabompo town to come and dwell here at Malolwa on my farm. Furthermore, despite the harsh weather (not enough rains in the country) our maize crop has done well and there is hope that our household food security is certain when we harvest the corn, and children are all at school. This indeed has been possible not because of ‘luck’ or my effort but because of God’s providence for us.

### **KABWE | Bro Greenwell Kunda**

This is to inform you that I received the Bibles in Swahili language and shared with our brethren and I also received the Gospel News. Please continue sending me whatever you have.

### **LIVINGSTONE | Bro Caphes Sikanyika**

I am strong and firm in our Lord and feel the brotherhood love that binds us all in the Lord. I highly appreciate your favour in sending us Gospel News, updating us with what is happening in society and the e world at large, which is a blessing, so that we may walk in the right direction and prepare ourselves more for Christ’s return.



**Bro Caphes Sikanyika**

God, in earlier times, provided Israel with kings who were to deliver a good service to the nation but they failed to give the people clear direction and purpose. Many became too concerned about their own position which is what is happening in many countries today. Leaders are engaged in corrupt activities and are busy stealing public funds, building the best homes as part of their investment and of their resources and do not consider the poor people. The world now seems to be motivated by personal gain. I urge all brethren and sisters that whatever difficulties we may face in this journey to the Kingdom of God, to hold on to that great and precious hope before us and pray for God's Kingdom to come that our sorrows may be over. Let us think of the court of the Gentiles. John 2:13-16. The encroachment upon the Gentile court by the priest salesmen of sacrificial animals and birds, is an indication of their degeneracy and also a symbol of how the whole religious service was debased, instead of a house of prayer it had become a den of thieves. The object of the Jews' desire was not righteousness before God but wickedness. The Jews are a type of our natural sinful life from Adam. Should we follow the bondage of the Law? The choice is ours, brothers and sisters, to choose that which leads to destruction or the faith in the service of Almighty God and have the promise of God, everlasting life, the Way of God or the way of man. No one makes us to sin, we do so because we want to, and we find sin pleasurable. The way is prepared for us. Jesus is God's manifestation in the flesh, justified in the spirit and is the only Name given among men whereby we can be saved and inherit the coming Kingdom.

For some years now Livingstone Ecclesia have not had a permanent meeting hall of our own and now God has blessed us, through C.B.M. funding. Work is in progress for a permanent site for Livingstone Ecclesia.



**Making bricks with which to build a permanent meeting hall**

**MAZABUKA | Bro Gideon Hankomone**

I have been very busy lately working in the vineyard. Recently Bro Kelly and I have been on mission work to the south of Zambia. We visited Muzoka, Kalomo and Livingstone Ecclesias. Our aim was to hold Bible talks and strengthen ecclesias in Kalomo. We had one baptism by Bro Kelly, Sister Florence Mungaila at Dapharn Ecclesia. In Kalomo there is interest for the word of life and I was impressed by what our brothers are doing there. Bre Occray Icanembe and Joseph Lumyna have been preaching on radio about our faith. While we were there Bro Kelly gave lessons 1-8 and to our surprise the student answered all the questions the same day.

In Mazabuka we had another baptism, my contact Samuel Samutumwa by Bro Kelly Simayumbula in Kafue. Samuel gave a wonderful confession of his belief and faith and we were pleased to give him the right hand of fellowship and welcoming him into the brotherhood. May God bless his walk to the Kingdom.

God willing, there will be a similar visit to the south with our linkmen, David Nicholls and Simon Sheppard. Bro Kelly suggested that we hold a fraternal gathering for five days, God Willing, in Kalomo which will involve all ecclesias in the south.

I was reading the book of Revelation (22:20). This talks about the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, "He which testifies these things says, Surely, I come quickly, Amen, Even so come Lord Jesus." We are reminded of the words of Jesus as he looked over Jerusalem with great sadness because His people were unresponsive to the words of the prophets and to him as he taught them from the Scriptures. Matt.23:37, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! The city who kills the prophets and stones all those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, yet you were not willing!" As we talk to people about the Word of God and His message of hope, we are trying, as Jesus did, to gather together those who would listen, to give them the words of salvation. We echo those words from Revelation ch.22, "Even so, Come Lord Jesus" is our earnest prayer.

### **NDOLA | Bro Dennis C Kombe**

Ndola ecclesia is continuing to grow spiritually, and actively participating in spreading the good news to all members of the surrounding community. This inspiration comes from the "The Gospel News" magazine whose spiritually edifying contents from across the various enlightened brethren and sisters are motivating factors. Please, if possible, send me at least six copies of "Teach Me Thy Way" booklets for use as teaching aids to my students, and any material you may deem necessary in this regard.

## **NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE**



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

As the year rolls on there will be new disasters, new catastrophes and new messes. There will also be new depths of God's goodness to sound, new insight into his Truth and new experiences of his mercy. God does not stand still. He moves ever onwards. He called his people to be pilgrim people, to move forward with him, however uncertain or hazardous the future might be. Abraham setting off to find a new country and start a new life is a symbol of this pilgrimage to which God beckons us. If God does not stand still, he won't let you do so either. So get moving! At this juncture let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you for the laborious services you are rendering to so many brothers and sisters in many countries. May our Heavenly Father bless the work to continue until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Enclosed is my photo under meditation. Thank you very much for the parcel of books which arrived safely.



**Bro Norman B Yelulani**

We thank you so much for your great love in remembering us every time. I and my brothers were so delighted seeing Dad coming with a parcel of books from the post office which you have sent him. Dad taught us to value the books, particularly those which teach the Truth. We are enthusiastic readers at our home, both parents and children. We hope and trust that we are going to learn more from these books and become mature in the Truth. We must read the Scriptures thoughtfully every day, thanking God for them and asking Him to help us to understand them better (Acts 17:11, 20:32).

#### **KWEKWE | Sis Rosemary Mukarati**

The news of Christ's resurrection was so different from what the disciples had anticipated that they could not believe it. It was too good to be true, they thought. They scarcely knew what resurrection from the dead actually meant. "Go your way" the angels had said to them, "Tell his disciples that he goes before you into Galilee. There, ye shall see him, as he said unto you." These angels had been with Christ as guardian angels throughout his life on earth. Such words could have come only from the messengers of their risen Lord. "Tell his disciples and Peter" the angels said. When Mary Magdalene told them she had seen the Lord, she repeated the call to the meeting in Galilee.

After he had ascended to the Father, Jesus appeared to the other women saying, "All hail." And they came and held him by the feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Be not afraid. Go, tell my brethren that they must go into Galilee. There shall they see me." He gave them proof that he was their living Saviour, that he had broken the fetters of the tomb and could no longer be held by the enemy.

#### **MAGUNJE | Bro Joseph Ndoromazos**

I am a member of Chishumba Ecclesia. It is about 7kms from my home so every Sunday I walk 7kms to meet other believers. So far we are planning to build our own place. We have made bricks to make our new church. I am a Shona Bible teacher with my friend Thomsen Changator but it is hard to turn people to God, but not so hard because we teach them in Shona because most of us use Shona so it is easy for them to listen to God's news in Shona. The big problem is the shortage of books to share. We have English Basics so the best help to them is Shona Bible Basics which will be easy for them to read by themselves at the church because most of us read Shona as some don't understand English.

My short story to others is that the Bible is not a story book, the Bible is God's news and if you read it by the Bible Reading Tables you learn more and more. Don't dump God's news because the time is going.



**Bro Joseph Ndoromazos**

#### **MBIRE | Bro Fanuel Mawodzeka**

I am afraid, brethren and sisters, from what I witnessed recently in our district during the rainy period. It rained non-stop for ten days, non-stop, resulting in fearful floods.

We live in the lower part of the country, which means that all the rain that rained at the upper part flooded down our district area and that turned into great floods that swept away and washed away many of the fields, roads and buildings. Some plants were half grown and others were on the ground and all were washed away in other areas. The floods claimed the lives of people and animals, buildings were destroyed, bridges were washed away, there was great desecration in the fields and people were left stranded just wandering around wondering if the event was true or if they were dreaming. Yes, it happened unexpectedly, we were fortunate to be alive, unlike Noah's time when God did not spare any wicked living soul. In our case it shows that God still loves us and is giving us a warning that the same will happen at the return of His Son, the Lord Jesus. Many people today are denying the truth of the gospel that there will be judgement and if found guilty go to an eternal grave. It will be sorrowful to find some of us judged to go to Gehenna (final destruction of the wicked) yet we have served God for so many years in our lifetime and then found unfit at the last and final minute. Let us not be like the people in Noah's days, for the gospel was preached to them and they refused to accept it. But let us remember 1 Peter 2:11 "The Word of the Lord remains for ever." "And this Word is the good news that was preached to you" - to us too. Let us not deny the Word by our works. Therefore in the letter, 1 Peter 2:11 says, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of flesh, which war against your soul". Let us not give in to worldly things, for they perish with their time.

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." What happened to the people in Noah's days may happen to our days. Watch out and not to be unprepared.



**Bro Fanuel Mawodzeka and Sunday School**

### **MUSHUMBI POOLS | Bro Fanuel Mawodzeka**

Mushumbi Pools Ecclesia and Sunday School are thanking the Christadelphian Advancement Trust for the copies of the booklets, "Teach Me Thy Way". As we are writing the copies are in demand so much that we are requesting for some more, as many as are available and also preaching materials as everyone wants to understand for themselves about what the Bible really teaches. So many are coming to us confessing that the beliefs they were following were astray. This is shown in their interest in liking to start to study our 40 lesson course, especially as it is now available in their mother language (Shona). We would like to have the books "The Real Christ" and "The Real Devil" if possible. The ones that we have were loaned to interested students and friends. Our half year's theme is "Jehovah who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth".



**Above: Part of Mushumbi Pools Sunday School ~ Wonder Mawodzeka in blue shirt, Lucia Mawodzeka holding baby Omega and Fanuel Mawodzeka (Junior)**



**At one of the public gatherings where Bro Fanuel Mawodzeka took advantage to spread the gospel and give handouts. From left – Seka Zirira, Fanuel Mawodzeka, Nomatter Munya-Mbari, kneeling Lucia Mawodzeka**

## **News from the Americas**

### **NEWS FROM TRINIDAD**



#### **Bro George Constantine**

I believe I told you about a case where some guys here were given sentences of 75 years and natural life. Our Court of Appeal ruled that the Advisory Committee on the Power of Pardon should deal with the matter, not the Court, because those sentences were given to them by that Committee, which is called the Mercy Committee.

The inmates have appealed against the judge's decision because they believe that the Court should decide what should be done with them, as the Mercy Committee rarely shows mercy since very few persons are pardoned by them.

The Privy Council in London, our country's highest court, will now have to decide their fate. I hope that all lifers can benefit. What we really want is a fixed time to serve, so that we all could know when the prison term will end.

As always, I will keep trusting in God and keep working at trying to be better in His sight.

## **The Hunters and Fishers**

Many people, including many referred to as Christians, do not recognize or accept that God's promise to the Hebrews (Jews), of the Land of Canaan for an EVERLASTING possession is still credible. In their beginnings the Father told Israel that if they disobeyed His commands He would scatter them into all parts of the world (Deut 32:26) and this He did in AD 70.

But that was NOT to be the end of Israel for God promised He would gather them from all the nations to which they had been scattered (Deut 30:3) and bring them back to the Land He had given them and they would possess it (Deut 30:5).

The world has witnessed this great regathering of Israel from the four corners of the world and it is ongoing as 6000 return from the Ukraine and a similar number from France; God foresaw that there would be large numbers of His people who would be comfortable in the particular land of their 'captivity' and they would NOT want to move back to Israel. Thus He encouraged the Rabbis of the 1800's to entreat the Jews to return to their land for trouble was ahead. Few heeded the call so He sent HUNTERS to hunt them back to Israel, prominent amongst whom was Adolph Hitler and now we are witnessing new hunters in the form of the Moslems of many lands, who daily assault Jews causing them to fear for their lives and forcing them to seek safety in their land of promise. Even Jews in USA and Britain are feeling the cold winds of the 'hunters' and are ready to move to Israel.

*Bro Charles French (Australia)*

## **The Dead Hear**



The voice that cried from the cross, "It is finished" was heard among the dead. It pierced the walls of sepulchres and summoned some of the sleepers to arise. Thus will it be when the voice of Christ shall be heard from heaven. That voice will penetrate the graves and unbar the tombs, and the dead in Christ shall arise.

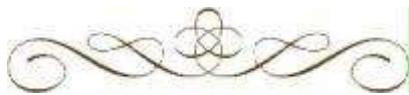
At the Saviour's resurrection a few graves were opened, but at his second coming all the precious worthy dead servants of God shall hear his voice and shall come forth to glorious immortal life. The life is hid with Christ in God and when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory (John 8:51-52; Colossians 3:4).

*Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwe Kwe, Zimbabwe)*

## **A Joyous Responsibility (1 Peter 2:9)**

It is both humbling and awe-inspiring to think that God has chosen you to be His child. When you consider the fact that the Almighty has singled you out to serve Him in this world, it is almost too difficult to comprehend. Nevertheless, it is true that you are called by the Lord to be His.

While experiencing the joy associated with such exalted state of feeling, it is of vital importance that you do not lose sight of the responsibility which you now assume. You are an ambassador for Christ and, as such, people will judge the Christian faith by the manner in which you live your life. Any action on your part that is contrary to the teaching of Jesus will have an adverse effect upon His name - the name which He graciously allows you to hear. Just as God has called you out of darkness into light, so has He given to you the light of the world, the living Christ, to lead you through life. Follow Him in order to shed that light upon the path of others that they, too, may be led to the Lord.



*Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **Slave Away (Mark 10:44)**

Most people want to be first. To be first is a sign of success. It is a place of power and prominence. To be first is to be noticed, to get the prize, and popular acclaim. In the modern world it often leads to wealth as well. Only the weak and timid refuse the opportunity to be first.

The two disciples of Jesus who asked him to give them the best places: they wanted to be first. They did not understand the way of Jesus nor had they accepted the values he both taught and lived for. In the kingdom of God, earthly status means nothing. For Jesus, the way to glory was not the way of wealth or success. You do not get to the top even by becoming the servant of all. You have to be the slave of all. A servant was a willing helper rendering personal service. A slave was owned by his/her master, and was bound by the master's will or command. Jesus took the role of slave when he washed the disciples' feet. He did not just tell others to become slaves: he slaved away himself.

He wants you to serve others as well. He prizes those who serve the most, who put the needs of others before their own. He wants people who will give themselves selflessly and tirelessly to love others. People who do that usually forget about becoming first, second or anything else. Do you still want to be first?

*Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **Understanding the Bible**

The Bible is the infallible word of God. It is also the most misunderstood book on earth. In the Dark Ages, the Bible was chained to pulpits. It was not available to the ordinary man and only a handful of the priests could read. Therefore, the church could and did dictate its meaning. The Bible was a mystery to mankind. Sadly, it still is today.

But the Bible doesn't have to remain a mystery, because it can be understood. The Apostle Peter tells us, in II Peter 1:20,21, that special men were guided by God to write the Bible and that individual interpretations are prohibited. God wrote it, and only God can interpret it. In other words, the Bible interprets itself. God has set forth certain principles in the Scriptures to be used to discern the truth. They are the keys to understanding the Bible. One of these many keys shows which verses are to be taken spiritually as opposed to literally, while another key will show us how to recognize doctrine.

There are hundreds of groups on earth which call themselves Christian, and yet all are teaching different things. Most of them claim to use the same source book ... the Bible. Simple reason says that obviously they cannot all be right. They cannot all have the keys to understanding.

Solomon said, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter" (Prov. 25:2). We encourage everyone to start searching for Bible truth, which is gratifying and the reward is great.

*Bro Charles French (Australia)*

### **The Lord Shall Suddenly Come**

"The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in, "Behold he shall come' saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver."

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him". He will come not for one day merely, for he says, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and they shall be my people". "He will subdue our iniquities, and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. His presence will cleanse and sanctify us, so that it may be a holy temple unto the Lord and an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Malachi 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Revelation 3:20; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Micah 7:19; Ephesians 2:21-22).

*Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwe Kwe, Zimbabwe)*

**Grace**

The most common understanding of the word grace is God’s unmerited favour. Even when we were sinners, deserving judgment, God looked upon us in love and forgave us.

Grace can also mean God’s enabling power. Lets come to 2 Thess 2 vs 16-17. “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God even our father which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through GRACE, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.” Not only does his grace make us accepted into the family of God, but it also provides the power we need to live the Christian life.

Two scriptures indicate the two aspects of God’s grace in every believer. Lets come to Ephesians 2 v 8-9 where it reads “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not of works, lest any man should boast”. Yes, brothers and sisters, the church in Antioch prayed that the grace of God be upon Paul and Barnabas and later on Paul and Silas as they set out on their missionary journeys. Acts 14:26 “And thence sailed to Antioch from whence they had been recommended to the GRACE of God for the work which they fulfilled”.

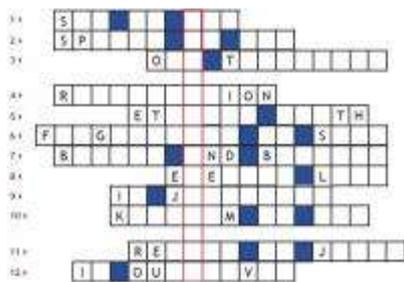
So in our relationship with God as we walk with him each day we meet situations that would try to overwhelm us. Our response to God is to trust His Word. We express our trust through obedience. This proves we believe what God says despite what the circumstances might indicate, because God’s response to our faith is His grace.

Lets conclude with Hebrews 4:16 where it reads “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” AMEN.

**Bro Benjamin Makuta (Chinoyi, Zimbabwe)**

**What Jesus Believed**

Fill in twelve answers horizontally, using the clues given below. The answer to the final question will then appear, read downwards in the centre panel, if all the other answers are correct. Solution on page 38.



- 1▶ Jesus never calls himself “God the Son”, but ... John 10:36; 14:28
- 2▶ Jesus’ term for the power within him Matthew 12:28; cp Luke 11:20
- 3▶ The foundation of all Jesus’ beliefs Luke 24:27; 18:31; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10
- 4▶ We do not have built-in immortality. Like Jesus we should trust instead in ...John 6:40, 44, 54; cp Luke 21:16-18
- 5▶ Without Jesus, what is our future? Matthew 16:25; Luke 13:28
- 6▶ The death of Jesus can bring us ... Matthew 26:28; Luke 24:46-47

- 7▶ How do we become Christians in the Biblical manner? Mark 16:16; John 3:3
- 8▶ What can the resurrection of Jesus then bring us? John 3:16; Revelation 1:18; 2:7
- 9▶ Jesus is to reign on earth as King. Where will be his throne? Luke 1:32-33; Matthew 19:28; cp 23:37-39
- 10▶ The Christian's hope for the future Matthew 6:10; Mark 10:15, Luke 6:20
- 11▶ So we should be ready - for what? Luke 19:11-12; Matthew 24:44
- 12▶ Where does the influence called "the devil" dwell? Mark 7:21-23

*Bro Dennis Jackson (UK)*

### **Ministering (The Foundation for the Ministry)**

We are all called into the ministry of taking the gospel of the coming kingdom of our heavenly Father to the ends of this earth: "Go therefore and make disciples ..." (Matthew 28:19-20). Psalm 139:23-24 must be a prayer of anyone who wants to serve God. Here are ten important steps to help us to be good ministers of the gospel of God:

- **Character** is formed when we undergo various trials. It is not something that someone can say 'I am through with it' since it is a continuing process. God does not build on a weak character. So character is necessary for effective ministry (Romans 5:3-4).
- **Service** ~ Anyone called to the ministry must be ready to serve, that is to be a servant of God and people. "Even the son of God did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). And remember: Christ is our model.
- **The motive** must be to serve God out of love, not for money. God first loved us and He gave His only begotten son (John 3:16). God demonstrated to us His great love towards us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). "Love suffers long and is kind, love does not envy ... of these three, faith, love and hope, love is the greatest" (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) thus love is essential for ministry.
- **Sacrifice** ~ Christ sacrificed by serving and compassion (Matthew 9:36; Mark 10:45). Sacrifice demands discipline.
- **Submission** ~ Christ our model submitted to God the Father (Philippians 2:5-9). We must submit to God (James 4:7-8)
- **Glorifying God** ~ We must declare His glory among all the nations (1 Chronicles 16:24).
- **Prayers and the Word** are the tools for the ministry. "Give yourself continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6:3-4).
- **Growth** is the result of the ministry "And the Lord added to the church (ecclesia) daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46-47, and see 2:41).
- **The Holy Spirit Word is the power** ~ The power of God in our ministry is the spirit word of the living God (Zechariah 4:6).

• **Jesus Christ is our model** ~ We must always imitate the Lord Jesus Christ who is our model in every ministry (1 Corinthians 11:1)



**Bro Kenny Simbao is pictured centre front**

*Bro Kenny Simbao (Kitwe, Zambia)*

### **Carelinks | Australia**



**Sunday afternoon: At same time as children lessons, Bro Ray Wheeler helps Elizabeth read her course notes (Bible Course notes that Auckland NZ use for their second language Bible Students, thanks to Bro Neil Todd)**

Bro Phil & Sis Miriam Worsnop report as follows about an amazing initiative with African immigrants in Australia.

“Who could have foreseen the great opportunities that could arise via the United Nations and the Government of a western country, for a way that Brothers and Sisters in Christ who live in a safe country with a social security government, can take up the challenge to help spread the Gospel of Christ and the message of the return of Christ to this earth, into a country that is unsafe, where people believe that God is their only hope for life and they will not be killed by others, by sickness, or having to live in a refugee camp. This is the opportunity that the Brethren in Christ now have in Australia, to take the Truth of God’s word into South Sudan without leaving the comforts of Australia. All the Australian major cities and close regional cities now have a growing community of people who have come into Australia since approximately 2005 as United Nations refugees. These communities have now grown both from children born in Australia or other family members being sponsored. All of these people have become or will become Australian citizens. Ipswich, Queensland is one of these regional cities which has a very large and growing community who have come from South Sudan as well as other African countries.



Now to tell you the story of our journey so far, and it is only our Heavenly Father who knows what is ahead for these people who have been brought into our lives. In October-November 2011 the Ipswich Ecclesia conducted it's "Read the Bible Seminars". A South Sudanese lady received a flyer in her letter box and she asked her friend and her husband to attend the Read the Bible Course. Unfortunately the course notes and presentation were done at a level that attendees who had English as a second language could not understand. With the help of Bro Ray Wheeler and ourselves, personal contact continued with these ladies. We began using the book "Speaking about Jesus" and NEV Bibles as a basis, and from that time developed friendship, trust, acceptance as family within their families, helping with DIY stuff (do it yourself) - understanding of cultures etc. During this time (2012) for one year their 'pastor' John was observing us working and helping these families. Then, December 2013 he made a special visit to us, to ask, "will you help to teach me to read the Bible". John is their pastor and he returned for a visit to South Sudan in November 2014 until January 2015.

John has now done the Bible Basics course, for which we issued him a certificate, and from this his English level has developed and his reading is becoming very fluent. Now he quickly identifies the words he does not know. We have progressed onto doing "The Real Christ" (adapted slightly for second language learners) and we also give a certificate for completing the course. From John's advertising of the Bible Basics course, four more of their communities 'teachers' have started doing the same course. Regular Sunday afternoon and Monday evening classes have developed. (Not all the Bible is available in their language, Dinka, and one of the great things that has arisen from contact with John is that he has now translated parts of the Old Testament into Dinka - so God's own word is now progressing into new languages for the first time, thanks to this contact).



**New immigrants and Brother Phil working to renovate a garage to use it for the Bible Basics seminars**



**Bro Neil Todd explaining and reading with a South Sudanese contact**

This small group are elders in their community and they all have challenges with eye sight problems. We have been blessed to be able to purchase Giant Print Bibles either NKJV or NIV marginal reference and small concordances and maps at very low cost. For anyone who has OK eye sight they use an NEV Bible.

Our Group Program at present:

**Sunday Evenings:** Speaking About Jesus. Book for beginners / or a Bible Basics lesson. Everyone is at a different level and so it is done as one-on-one.

**Monday Evening Group :** English Class using a parable of Jesus.

We would appreciate hearing from any Brother or Sister who speaks Dinka Bor, who would be willing to help our contacts via email or Facebook, please contact us. We ask for prayers that our Heavenly Father will give this endeavour His Blessings both for the ones learning and also for the individual Brothers and Sisters who have chosen to help”.

The literature they have been using [Bible Basics, the Speaking about Jesus English learning course, the NEV Bible, The Real Christ etc.] have been produced by Carelinks and are available to those likewise wishing to preach the Gospel to the poor. Just get in touch with us if you would like copies or would like to sponsor copies.

## Carelinks | China

The work of Bible distribution in China continues, although the cost of posting so many Bibles is significant. Over 350 have been mailed out in the last two months. Brother Donald reports yet another baptism as follows:

“I baptized Bro Yang at the outdoor swimming pool, he told me his personal testimony. I excerpt parts: ‘I grew up in a rural village, elder village people support superstition.

When people got sick, they didn't see the doctor instead of burning paper (they draw strange words on the paper) and drink it together with water. In my village there is also a person called Immortal, people will ask him for help when they are in trouble. During that time a Christian came to my house and preached the gospel. I was there but my father and grandpa walked away. I was very interested and listened carefully. But I was too young and can't make any choice. To tell you the truth, I only thought it is a legend and didn't believe. This is my first time heard the gospel. When I went to school, I like reading very much, e.g. stories, Three Hundred Tang Poems, 5000 years of China, Encyclopedia and Bible story, I smelled fresh fragrance of these books and very interested in scrutiny the author's idea and contents. But it is Bible, I can only understand say 10%, so I ask others for help but their views I can't accept, I also apply Bible from Carelinks website and advert in Chinese. It seemed your ideas are more acceptable e.g. there are no immortal souls when people dies, we become dust. As Bible says He created man from dust, and breathed into his nose to give him life. God can destroy the soul (Matt. 10:28), so souls are destroyable...’ So He decided to be baptized into the real Christ. The truth. God bless”.



**Here you can see our new Bro Yang with his NEV Chinese Bible with commentary and Bible Basics at the back**

Bro Donald also recently visited Bro Liu who lives in a village which is about 2.5 hours from Hefei city. Bro Liu told Bro Donald that each village in the area has a government controlled church, but it is never open to the public! Every Sunday a few believers have fellowship in a brother or sister's home. Bro Liu's two relatives also came and listened to Bible teaching from Bro Donald, then he suggested they go to the nearby village where they distributed two cartons of Bibles in the village and left one carton of Bibles for Bro Liu to distribute.



**Bro Liu's family with the Bibles for distribution**

### **Carelinks | France**

There were a number of baptisms during the month Cindy & Duncan spent with the growing group in Melun. Here's a report on just two of them:

#### **We're pleased to report the baptisms of**

Sam and Raphael. Brothers David and Steve from the UK report as follows:

“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country (Prov 25:25) was our brief visit to Melun, just twenty miles SSE of Paris, for two days, 3-5th June. Steve Gretton and I were visiting the temporary home of Duncan and Cindy. It was hugely pleasant to witness the baptism in the Seine of Raphael from Nigeria, pictured above. Like all people baptised by Duncan, he fully knew the Scriptures and understood the grace of God. Large, very large in stature, he gave a good confession, eager to embrace our Lord. The angels surely rejoiced in heaven as this new child emerged from the muddy water with a radiant smile. Three African brethren were present; Kingsley, Samson and another Steve (besides our Steve), Duncan and myself. Steve, the African one, was typically able only to find temporary work on less than minimum wage and with erratic hours, he was working at MacDonalds.



Also present, back at the apartment for lunch were Rita, with her little boy, and Eva. All praise to Cindy's culinary efforts. Using a little of the 40kg of rice we had taken from England, she produced a fine African spiced rice dish, an excellent flan and much else.



Earlier in the day we had visited sister Fatmata at her refuge with the Red Cross. We were only allowed to talk with this young sister outside. Helpfully, the weather was warm and sunny. She was from Sierra Leone. In her mid-twenties, she had lost her parents in warfare and a brother to Ebola. Now she is in France without ID, nor is she likely to obtain any. She accepted a little clothing from the contribution we had taken over, her eyes lighting up at the sight of a purple sweater - her favourite colour, she said. We felt that this attractive sister may still be vulnerable where she is and prayed about her situation before leaving.

The absence of identity papers is of huge concern. Like most of the people arriving from Africa, our new brethren have no ID. They cannot prove who they are or where they are from. They cannot therefore be renewed to wherever they came from. They are without identity or status. The hosts can only try to provide very basic needs: adequate food and sufficient clothing. We must at least do that (Matt 25) and we have the privilege of passing to them the clothing provided by Christ - a wedding garment.

At the time of writing, these people and several more have no accommodation for meetings and for the welfare / feeding programme. The warehouse which had been a meeting place was lost to them when the Manager objected to Duncan and Kingsley's plain speaking about the true doctrines of the Gospel. Urgent prayers are asked of all readers for a suitable location for our brothers and for the situation of our sister from Sierra Leone." | Bro David Welch



**Sis Fatmata with Bre Steve and David**

Bro Steve Gretton adds: "As we walked back along the bank of the broad river Seine, Raphael told me that his name means 'God heals'. We talked about the significance of that in the context of his new life in Christ. Healing in God's way of thinking conveys much more than we normally associate with the word in modern English. Healing is the word we use for what happens after an illness or accident and defines the recovery in the medical sense. But when God heals us he is talking primarily about salvation, about forgiveness of sins and about eternal life. The KJV of the Bible sometimes uses the word - made whole - after Jesus heals someone instead of - healed. If you read the account of the man healed in John 5, you will notice that both words are used, and in Hebrew thinking, a healing from God includes healing in the spiritual sense as well as making whole.

So Raphael and I talked about how at his baptism from a few minutes ago, he had received from God the healing that his name implied. He had been named 'Raphael' and now in his baptism he had, in truth, been healed - not from a physical ailment but from sin and death. He was now Raphael in name and in truth - healed by God.

But as I cast my mind back to the actual baptism another Bible truth emerged. The banks of the Seine had been reinforced against the wash of the passing barges. They were steep and deep and we searched for a safe place. At one point we found a step down, but there was no saying how deep it was, though the water was clear. It was actually very dangerous and although we could have got in, it was uncertain how to get out again.



#### **Walking back along the banks of the River Seine following the baptisms**

We walked along until a muddy bank appeared surrounded by trees making a secluded, accessible place. But as we stepped into the water we sank knee deep in the mud. This made for some difficulty in balancing and feeling secure underfoot, although the water was conveniently shallow. We churned up the mud and Raphael was immersed in the muddy shallows. But it was here that Raphael became a new man in Christ - rather than in the clear water flowing nearby. And I was reminded of Naaman and his baptism - his healing - in the muddy water of Jordan rather than in the clear flowing waters of Abana and Pharpar which he would have chosen for himself. And so we remember that it is God and Jesus who save and not we who have to provide the perfect environment for this to happen. New life is given to those who, like Raphael, seek the Lord in the way He has designed and provided - in this case in a muddy pool at the side of commercial waterway in the middle of a largely indifferent continent.

They come from all ends of the world. There are large areas in France and many other parts of Europe when you seriously wonder which part of the world you are visiting. Massive numbers are fleeing from other countries to Europe and to other more prosperous parts of the world. They come from Iraq and Afghanistan. They come from many parts of Africa and Asia. And they come for a wide variety of reasons - some to flee war, some to be free to practice their faith away from persecution, some for political reasons. Many come because they believe they will get a better life here and some perhaps because they wish to exploit the generosity or resources of the richer nations.



#### **The group enjoying a Bible discussion together**

It is clear that many come genuinely believing that life will be better and more prosperous, and it is therefore a huge shock for them to find that they are not welcome and that they cannot find

work or a home. Those we have talked to are prepared to work to pay their way and are conscientious people who would make good neighbours to us if they had had the opportunities we have had. But work is hard to come by, accommodation is in short supply, and what they can find is often rough and at least as bad as what they left behind. And it seems that the capitalist West is quite happy to pay low wages, and to allow poor conditions and no franchise to those who have no rights so they can provide us with the life style we take from granted at rock bottom prices. It doesn't sound much different from exploitation or even slavery. It pays us to keep the poor poor.

The provision for food, welfare and education is very patchy across Europe and many such people are exploited. Some countries like Greece routinely imprison people and give them no prospects. In Turkey many are subject to persecution and violence. Young women are particularly vulnerable and some can be rather naive about what they will experience. But many others are caught in a vicious trap where they either have to accept exploitation by people who are willing to use their labour at low wages, or they may find themselves turning to crime. We may wonder why our government doesn't send them back - particularly those who have turned to crime or who are here for no good reason. But there is no simple solution. The situation is much more complex than appears at first sight. Even if the person cannot provide a good reason to stay, then governments cannot simply send the individual back to their purported home country. The problem is that there is considerable cost in repatriating someone and in the absence of papers there is no certainty that the original country will accept back one of their own if they turn up there. Take brother R. Who arrived in Latvia a few years ago. Following the common advice given to him before leaving Africa, he destroyed his papers after he arrived. There is now no way for him to prove his identity or nationality. Even if he were given the money to go home, no airline would accept a booking from him without a passport and visa. Even if he were to return to his home country, they have no way to identify him as one of theirs and they would refuse him entry - leaving the airline with the problem of returning him to Latvia. He tried to contact friends and the authorities back "home" to try to obtain some formal acknowledgement that might pave the way for identification and return, but it failed. Carelinks provided him with a home and the basic needs of life for several years, but he was seriously depressed and now, sadly, has disappeared and we have no word about him. We fear that he may have died in the attempt to improve his situation. And if the authorities try to deport people, they are up against the same obstacles.

This is serious problem and although we wring our hands at some of the situations that arise, we have to accept that this is the way of the world these years. In France there are tens of thousands who have no way to return even if they want to. They have no money, no rights, no welfare, no papers and no prospects. They are effectively stateless wanderers struggling to make ends meet. Yet it is to them that the gospel has such a great meaning. Here is hope and the prospect of being accepted by a Saviour and by God in a world where truly they are strangers and pilgrims looking for an abiding city. What a privilege it can be then to support those who bring the gospel of truth about Jesus and God to such potential children of the Kingdom. The blind receive their sight, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. We may not have the physical cures, but we have the spiritual cures implied by each of those diseases mentioned by Jesus, as we share the truth of God." | Bro Steve Gretton

## Carelinks | Riga



### **Love heart of flowers planted by Cindy's mums and kids group**

Cindy's mums and kids group again planted a love heart of flowers in the local park near the Bible Center. It was a witness to our outreach of love, grace and truth in this drab working class suburb of Riga which clearly has been so much on the Lord's agenda over the years. Our sisters and friends had permission from the park authorities to prepare the ground and then plant it- which they did, despite rainy weather.

Cindy's group of mums and kids has grown steadily over the years and we've reported baptisms from this outreach.

In August Cindy and the growing group of Latvian sisters and their children again made good use of the property in northern Latvia to hold a Bible camp for women and children (pictured above), although some of the mothers also brought their husbands this time. It was a great opportunity to spread the Gospel, to teach the children, and to strengthen those who have already been baptized.

## Carelinks | Russia



### **Bro Anatoly and Sis Olga with Bro Duncan praying before baptism**

After a long and extremely arduous journey into the heart of rural Russia, it was with great joy that we were able to baptise Olga and Anatoly. Unlike many younger people these days, they had got properly married and fulfilled their dream of owning their own home- after saving from tiny salaries in the city, they bought a village house 5 kms walk from a main road and a shop, and virtually inaccessible apart from by walking and hitch hiking. No jobs there of course, only subsistence farming. They live very simply, getting water from their well and growing what they can, but they lack a source of meat or protein. Hearing the stories of their childhoods of abuse by others followed by self-abuse, one wonders whether there can ever really be healing for those with that background. But they are an example of victory, thanks to God's operation in their lives.

Please pray for our new brother and sister as they face their first winter in rural Russia.

### **Carelinks | UK**

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of Graham, an elderly man in a wheelchair, who has had one leg amputated and will soon have to have the other one amputated too.

Graham lives in a very bad case of 'sheltered housing' in a small coastal town, in an outhouse made of perspex which is so cold in winter he sleeps in his overcoat, and in summer is unbearably hot. Using his wheelchair, he tends a little garden outside his room, which he says is a foretaste of the garden of Eden to be restored on earth in the Kingdom. He has a mobility scooter which he uses to get into town and buy seeds. He longs for the Kingdom. He has little to look forward to in this life. He was an avid gardener with prize winning allotments and longs to see creation beautified in the Kingdom.

Strokes and old age have taken their toll on his speech and mental health, but this is no barrier to his understanding and grasping the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Lord Jesus. He studied many years with the JW's and was smart enough to figure out they were wrong on the Satan issue, 1914 and many other things, but he took what was true from their teachings.



**Bro Duncan with Bro Graham**

Thank you all for being out there and playing your parts, by prayer, financial donation, Bible mailing and warehousing etc., in enabling a sincere man like this to come to the Gospel and that blessed Hope of the Kingdom; as standard denominations want attendees at their church and have no time to spare for a disabled, legless pensioner at the end of his life.

You can see a brief but moving video of our brother talking about his beliefs before baptism; he speaks about the death state, the Kingdom and his earnest desire to be there. We think you'll find it very touching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3IEy6Qz5VA>

### Carelinks | Ukraine

We're so thrilled to say that finally brother Maxim has now got full documents allowing him to remain outside of the Ukraine and is back at the Bible Centre in Latvia. Thank you for all your prayers.



We made a visit to Ukraine recently- the country is becoming a basket case as the economy is at a standstill and hostilities have resumed in Eastern Ukraine. Cost of transport has nearly doubled, but the tiny pensions many of our dear ones receive remain the same. We were pleased to baptize Aleksandr who came to us from receiving one of the free NEV Bibles we distribute. Our new brother turned to God in desperation. His mother told him that in the USSR years, when she earned 120 Rubles / month, she had bought an illegal Bible for 700 rubles. Our brother went to church in his search for God... the Russian Orthodox church demanded he buy candles for each icon to the saints in the church, he bought a packet and lit one for each of the saints, and then at the end of the nave there was the icon to Jesus and he had no candles left for that. So he gave up on the Orthodox church and decided to find Christ directly for himself, without the icons, candles and Orthodox saints. The local Protestant church didn't want to know him unless he paid a tithe, and so he took to the internet in his search — he has no computer, only a very simple phone - and thus came to us. He travelled many hours each way for his baptism. Above you can see our brother with his NEV commentary Bible, and there's a video of his baptism in absolutely freezing water on our Russian language channel, please see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FYgTfgtBqk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FYgTfgtBqk)

### Our City of Refuge

God, being a righteous God, did not want a person who had unintentionally killed someone to be killed by the avenger of blood (Deuteronomy 19:1-6). Hence the setting aside of refuge cities. However, any deliberate murderer had to pay for their crime (vv 11-13).

In our lives we have not murdered anyone causing us to run to refuge city, but I know in the past we were of the world (sinners). When the word was preached to us, we shouted to the world our acceptance of the word and God's mercy and symbolised it by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ

through baptism. We are told that God sent his refuge city (Jesus Christ) that we should trust and believe in his promise of eternal life so that we might have life for ever (John 3:16; 1 Samuel 7:12; Psalms 5:11-12: 9:9-10).

Zambia has hosted many refugees from neighbouring countries who came, running away from wars in their countries. In like manner we have all run away from the love of the world (James 4:4), which is enmity with God. We have embraced the word by having His son as Lord in our lives (1 John 5:11-12). God has given us life through His son Jesus Christ. What is required of us is to live a Christ-like life: a life of service to our God, His son and our fellow human beings (Colossians 3:1-10).

*Bro Jonathan Simumba (Ndola, Zambia)*

### **Is Marriage Relevant Today**

The teachings of the Bible on marriage are very clear. But men and women have failed to maintain divine standards. Difficulties have arisen because the social conditions which have arisen during recent times, and changes in the ways of life about us, make it desirable to give it some consideration.

God's purpose was clearly that man and woman joined together in marriage should be joined for life. The provision of a companion was one of the reasons for Eve's creation. The mind of God concerning marriage was endorsed by our Lord Jesus. There was one man and one woman, the woman being a help meet for the man. The Lord Jesus recognised this as the standard to which men and women should conform, because a married man and woman when married "are no more twain" but "one flesh". Jesus himself said: "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."



**Brothers and sisters of North Nyanza at the Fraternal Gathering at Ilisumu, upon receiving Swahili Bibles (from the C. A. T.) and hymn books from Bro Gordon Ochieng**

*Bro Gordon Ochieng (Manyuanda, Kenya)*

### **Kakuma Refugee Camp ~ "The Spiritual Staying Power"**

| Visit Report by **Bro Innocent Baruani (Nairobi-Kibera Ecclesia, Kenya)**



### **Kakuma Sunday School**

The northern part of Kenya is home to two of the biggest refugee camps in the world. The Kakuma and Daadab refugee camps have a combined total population of over 600,000 refugees. These are mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Burundi, Uganda and Eritrea. Our preaching efforts, launched four years ago, have been blessed with the establishment of an ecclesia in the Kakuma Refugee Camp.

The most recent trip we made to Kakuma Camp came against the backdrop of an outbreak of inter-community violent clashes witnessed in the camp in November last year; this resulted in 13 people hacked to death and tens of thousands displaced from the camp; most of them sought refuge in school buildings and police stations. During that period, all humanitarian organizations were forced to suspend their activities because the camp had then become a no-go area. It took the Kenyan Police ten days to quell the violence and restore normalcy. Some of our refugee brethren lost their household items after their houses were broken into by some unscrupulous opportunists who took advantage of the chaos to carry out widespread looting. Despite that, we thank God for having watched over the brothers and sisters as they were all unscathed.

We arrived in Kakuma on Friday, 27 March at 6am and the preaching campaign kicked off in the afternoon with the first Bible talk in a series of three well-attended sessions conducted the following day. Bro Allan Ketoyo from Ndisi Ecclesia (South Nyanza area), who came along with me, was the guest speaker. He expounded on the parable of the “Fig Tree” and I spoke about the parable of the “Rich man and Lazarus” (Luke 16:19-31) which elicited a lot of questions from those in attendance who held the view that, immediately after death, the soul of a righteous person goes to heaven and that of the wicked one to hell. We took great pains to refute their belief by quoting several Bible verses. We held the memorial service on Sunday and started our 28-hour journey back to Nairobi the following day.



**Kakuma after the riots**

### **Agape in Action at Kakuma**

Just like in any other refugee camps the world over, life in Kakuma Refugee Camp is very difficult due to the fact that only 3% of the refugees are employed by humanitarian organizations; thus enabling them to have a regular income. The remaining majority, with no income, is totally dependent on humanitarian handout for daily survival.

In the light of such reality, the brothers and sisters of Kakuma ecclesia came together and initiated a tailoring project for income-generation in an effort to mitigate the effect of the harsh reality they are exposed to. Nevertheless, they didn't have the necessary equipment to implement that worthwhile objective. Thus, the Agape in Action came to their rescue and provided the much needed funding which enabled the project to acquire the equipment and run smoothly. The funds consisted of a grant coupled with an interest-free loan repayable in small instalments for a period up to 24 months. The project is open to all and so provides, to Kakuma brethren, not only an income-generating activity but also a preaching platform for teaching the Truth to potential clients and contacts who come to the tailoring workshop to learn tailoring skills.



**Kakuma Ecclesia**

### **Spiritual Staying Power**

Every time I return from a trip to the Kakuma Camp Ecclesia I have the impression that I came back with more than what I had given out because of the inspiration I draw from the spiritual staying power of the brothers and sisters living in the camp. Their faith remains steadfast in the face of daily adversities with which they have to put up. Please remember in your prayers the 19 brothers and sisters and 44 Sunday-school children making up the little lampstand shining out in the midst of this expanse of settlement. There are also scores of contacts learning the foundational lessons of the Bible and whose confession to a good understanding of the Truth and eventual baptisms are highly anticipated should the Lord delay his long awaited return.

It's our prayer that the spiritual seed sown during the just concluded preaching campaign will germinate and our heavenly Father will help it grow and bring forth fruits to His glory. "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." Even so, come Lord Jesus!



**Kibera Market, Kenya**

*Bro Innocent Baruani (Nairobi-Kibera Ecclesia, Kenya)*

### **You Must Not Make Excuses (Exodus 4:10)**

When God asks you to do a special service, you must not make excuses. If God did not know that you were capable of doing the work, He would not have asked you to do it. The trouble is that most people underestimate their capabilities and are quick to say, "I cannot" instead of "With God's help, I'll try". There is also the practice of attempting to give to someone else that which God wants you to do. This creates the danger that, because you constantly refuse to be obedient, He will eventually stop giving you special assignments and give them to those who will gladly obey Him.

To continually refuse to serve God in a manner that is acceptable to Him is to loosen your hold upon God, for it implies that you are more intent upon pleasing yourself than you are on pleasing Him. It is highly probable that when God gives you something to do for Him, it will look so difficult as to be impossible. Do not allow appearances to make you afraid and offer excuses for He has proved that when He calls a person to a special task, He also equips them to do it. In your moments of weakness, He will be your strength when you are assailed by uncertainty and doubt He will give you an awareness of His living presence. In moments of darkness, He will continue leading you, even though you cannot see the way.

Never again make an excuse to God but do the work He has given you with confidence and joy.

*Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **In the World But Not of It**

The God of power and mercy through His holy word, the Bible, wholly inspired and infallible, spoke of the great divine purpose from the creation of this planet, He chose to reveal many details of His wonderful programme, the picture of His glorious kingdom to be set up on the whole earth soon at Christ's appearing. He warns (encourages) every individual to believe, work, watch, and pray for its fulfilment. However, He did not create the earth and man upon it that sin and death might reign thereon but that it might reflect to his glory (Numbers 14:21).

God invited Israel to enter into covenant relationship with Him, and He promised that if they did so, He would establish them as His nation upon the earth (Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 10:15; 14:2). We read of the generation of Israelites that left Egypt who proved faithless, and were not permitted to enter the promised land because of disobedience toward God. They were opportunists, not men committed to the mission. They involved themselves in the things of the world which were their idols, stumbling blocks to them in the fellowship with God and the cause of their destruction.

That evil, adulterous, violent, godless age became a type of that which Christ warned would exist at the epoch of his coming, evidence of what is happening today, "Every man did that which is right in his own eyes". People no longer fear God but enjoy happily doing beastly acts, eg sexual immorality and violence, without shame. They do not want to recognise "God created man in His own image. In God's image He created him: male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26-27), so that they should reflect Him. But man and woman have made themselves beasts mentally, burned in their lust, professing themselves to be wise they became fools (Rom 1:22).

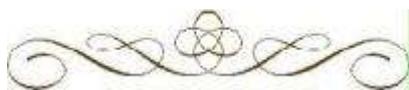
It is important for us to show by word and deed that we belong to Christ, a spiritual Israel- a lovely family of God, cemented by mutual loyalty to Christ, a separate people, or as the apostle said, “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people that we should show forth praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9), chasing away lusts and whatever form of fleshly desires in our hearts and minds which are a snare, a trap to us, a scourge in our sides and thorns in our eyes that are the spiritual destruction that might stop us inheriting God’s glorious kingdom at Christ’s coming.

Like Jesus Christ, we must fix our mind to the goal. By meditating upon the joy set before us, we are able to endure the trials that come our way through prayer and daily reading of God’s word - pressing on toward the mark for the prize (Philippians 3:14).

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More about Jesus would I know,  
More about his grace to others show,  
More about his saving fullness see,  
More his love who died for me.  
More about Jesus let me learn,  
More of his holy will discern,  
Spirit of God my teacher be,  
Showing the things of Christ to me.  
More about Jesus in his word,  
Holding communion with my Lord,  
Hearing his voice in every line,  
Making each faithful saying mine.  
More about Jesus on his throne,  
Riches in glory all his own,  
More of his kingdom, soon to be,  
More of his coming, Prince of peace.



**CBM Hymn Book, No 129**

*Bro Isidore Mwibeleca (Kakuma, Kenya)*

## **Sisters Fraternal**

**| Daphne Ecclesia, Zambia**



**Sisters outside the Ecclesial Hall**



**Sisters waving and sending greetings to all brethren and sisters worldwide**



**Collectively preparing the meal**



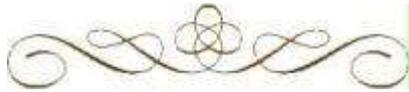
**Enjoying the scrumptious meal together**

## **When The Vine Dries Up ~ Joel 1:12**

Many Christians believe that they have to be happy all the time. In one sense this is true, for Christian joy should not be dependent on favourable circumstances. In another sense, however, we should not ignore the harsh realities of life and pretend that everything in the world is wonderful when, clearly, it is not. The prophets of the Old Testament discerned the root causes of problems when other people were confidently, but ignorantly, saying that all was well. Actually, all was not well, as Joel says: there are times when the vine does dry up and the fig tree withers.

There are times for us as well, when nature seems to be out of joint. Rains fail to come when they are needed, and there is a drought. Then, again, too much rain falls and there are floods. Economic turmoil leads to high interest rates, inflation soars, or whole industries are forced to close for whatever reason.

The difference then is that faith does not panic. We should ask what God is showing us, what He is teaching us and where He is leading us. We should acknowledge that we need to trust Him when the going is rough, perhaps even more than when it is smooth. Jesus did not abandon his faith even when the cross loomed before him. He endured it for God's greater glory, and the world's salvation.



*Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Value of a Smile**

It costs nothing, but creates much  
It enriches those who receive, without  
impoverishing those who give  
It happens in a flash and the memory of  
it sometimes lives for ever  
None are so rich that they can get along  
without it, and none are so poor but are  
richer for its benefits  
It creates happiness in the home,  
fosters goodwill in a business  
and is the countersign of friends  
It is rest to the weary, daylight to the  
discouraged, sunshine to the sad and  
nature's best antidote for trouble  
Yet it cannot be bought, begged,  
borrowed or stolen for it is something  
that is no earthly good to anybody till  
it is given away!  
And if it ever happens that someone is

too tired to give you a smile, please  
give him one of yours  
For nobody needs a smile so much as  
those who have none left to give  
Author unknown

### **Doubts and Fears**

Doubt and fear are the twin enemies of faith. Sometimes they actually take the place of faith, and although we continue to pray, it is a restless, disquieted, uneasy prayer that we offer. But doubts and fears should never be accommodated. We must take our eyes off ourselves. They should be removed from our own weakness and allowed to rest fully on God's strength. A simple, confiding faith, living day by day, will drive fear away. Faith is able to cast your burdens onto God and not feel anxious about the outcome. (E.M. Bounds)

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. Heb.10:35.