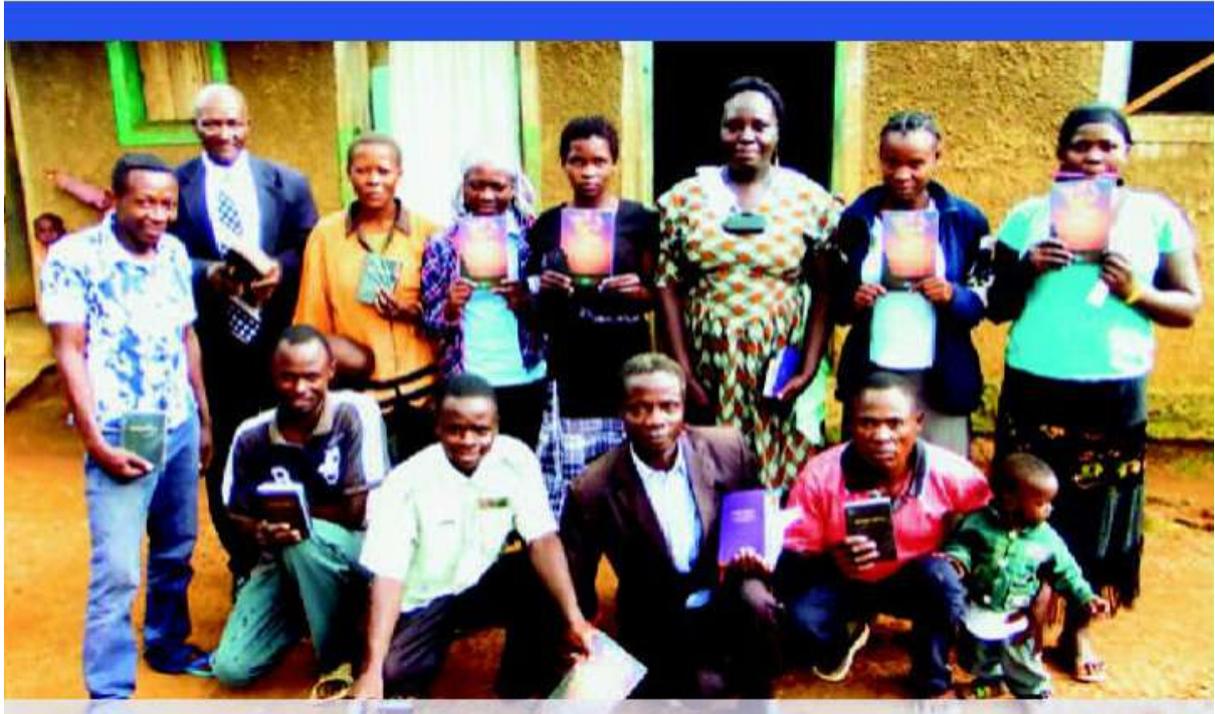


The Gospel News



"To all nations"



Editorial | Our Humiliation

Central to God's plan of atonement is the idea that the Lord Jesus was our representative; that we are in Him and He is to be in us. His path to glory becomes ours. He, a man of our nature, who grew up as a working man in an obscure small town in a backwater of a great empire where His race was marginalized... who knew all about caring for kid brothers and sisters when there was little cash and food on the table... and His mum being viewed askance in the neighbourhood, talk of pregnancy out of wedlock and all that... This man was the one who rose up to be somehow more than man, developing a perfect mind, never sinning, in commission nor omission, and came to have nothing less than the mind of God. We are not to merely look on at Him as spectators at a show, nor as Orthodox believers view an icon or steeple crucifix from afar, feeling they can never realistically aspire to His achievement. The message of the Lord's humanity and representative human nature seems so simple- perhaps the subconscious, psychological reason for its mass rejection is that it actually demands so, so much from us. For He there, crucified naked with the mind of God within Him, is to be us here today in the hot blood of our situations and temptations. "Because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21).

Throughout Philippians, Paul develops this theme- that we, here and now, can have the mind of Christ, and pass through the essence of what He passed through in His humiliation and exaltation. The central passage in Philippians is the hymn of Phil. 2:5-11: "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, though being in the mental image of God, did not consider grasping at being equal with God, but poured himself out, taking the mental attitude of a servant...". But the context begins in Phil. 1:27, with an appeal to be "standing fast in one spirit, with one mind...". This doesn't mean we should all think about everything the same way- for Biblical unity is not uniformity. And the New Testament history is evidence enough that the early believers were far from uniform in everything. The "one mind" we should strive for is the mind of Christ- He is the "one" whose mind we should each seek to emulate. Our unity is on the basis that you here and she there and they over there in Australia or Kosovo or Nairobi are all seeking above all to think and feel as Jesus did, having His mind. That is the law of our being, thinking and action which all in the body of Christ have signed up to as the paramount aspiration of our whole lives and being. The hymn of Phil. 2:5-11 (see below) matches the seven stages of the Lord's humiliation, climaxing in "death, even the death of the cross", with seven stages of His exaltation. His path is to be ours - progressive humiliation climaxing in death, as a prelude to our exaltation.

Philippians 2:5-11

1 Being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
2 But made himself of no reputation, and
3 took upon him the form of a servant, and
4 was made in the likeness of men:
5 And being found in fashion as a man,
6 he humbled himself, and
7 became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8)

1a Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and
2a gave him a name which is above every name:
3a That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
4a of things in heaven, and

5a things in earth, and

6a things under the earth;

7a And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11).

Paul wrote that the Lord “humbled Himself”, but uses the same Greek word to speak of how we too shall have “the body of our humiliation [AV “this vile body”] changed that it may be like unto the body of His glorification” (Phil. 2:8; 3:21). So you see how the argument is developing. His body, His mind, is to be ours. Our death is His death. He “tasted death for every man” in Christ (Heb. 2:9). So that His resurrection shall be ours. We are made, in an ongoing sense, conformable unto His morphe or ‘form’ in death (Phil. 3:10). The end point of the humiliation process is that by our deaths, we shall have the mind which Christ had in His death on the cross. Our weekly remembrances of Him in bread and wine are intended to be stakes along the path which leads us to that final point of mental, spiritual maturity. Paul saw this process happening in his own life, for he concludes his letter to the Philippians by using the same word about himself: “I know how to be humiliated” (AV “how to be abased”; Phil. 4:12). This transforms our thinking about death- how we die is significant. Old age and death is not, therefore, a fading away into insignificance. Ezekiel warns that a man may live a good life and at the end, fall away- and is counted as having fallen away; or that a man may live a bad life but at the end repent and be eternally accepted. How we end is significant. So as you see an old person coming to the end of their lives- they are actually on the final burst towards the end of the race, they are approaching the final humiliation. So that they might rise in glory. Indeed, there is a clear Biblical association between ‘death’ and ‘glory’. Just search out those two ideas together in a concordance. Paul concludes that death works in us, to prepare us for glory (2 Cor. 4:12). The process of mortality and humiliation is working for us the eternal weight of glory. Death- we, as decaying chemical molecules and dreams reduced to dust - magnifies Christ, in this wonderful way (Phil. 1:20). This V-shaped pattern of humiliation now and exaltation later is therefore the essence of the Christian life, of the life committed to unity with Him. For His path is ours. At baptism, we sign up to the principle that His death shall be ours- in an ongoing sense, and in a final, literal sense as well.

Every adult body is in decline. Faculties and memory fade and fail. But this has meaning, in the bigger picture of our humiliation. These experiences are not for us mere frustrations; they are part of having “the body of our humiliation”, and if we respond to them rightly, they are the path to exaltation eternally - rather than a path to an inevitable end. There is thereby a dignity and immense meaning attached to our physical decline. Our loneliness forges a further link between us and the forsaken, existentially alone Christ of the cross. And there are other ways in which a loving Father progresses the humiliation process. False accusation may descend upon us, and we are left friendless, rejected and not understood by former family and friends.

Our sin itself is used by God; He doesn’t turn away from us in disgust and cease working with us because of our failure. She who secretly prides herself at her morally upright life finds herself caught in an uncharacteristic sin. He who always keeps the speed limit is snapped by the bus lane camera. Or we may simply feel that we have not done as well as we might have done in secular life- we worked more diligently, with slightly higher intelligence than others who did better than us, and yet we never moved far beyond minimum wage. And we may feel the same about the home we ended up with, the family... and so forth. And we may well be right. We didn’t do as well as we might or even should have done. But that’s OK. These things too are part of the bigger plan of our humiliation.

There are things we are good at, and know we're good at them. And in those very things we may fail. The talented plumber makes an inexplicable mess of a job. The fluent speaker of a foreign language finds themselves publicly floundering for a basic word. Our human strength is taken away, whether through the loss of power which goes with advancing years, or through a more dramatic event. A good inheritance is lost by an unforeseen blunder or circumstance. War breaks out, the careful middle class life is brought to an end, your home is in ruins and your savings meaningless - and you are left standing on a railway platform in a foreign land with your screaming, once pampered kids, begging for soup and at least a place to sit down on.

In the lives of believers, these things are not random events. They have meaning, within the process of our humiliation, and God's wondrous plan to do us good in our latter end. Perhaps we find ourselves facing a situation that our upbringing and culture never addressed; we are alone, humiliated, before our God. This is what happened to Israel and to the Lord in the wilderness: "He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live" (Dt. 8:3). The tragedy is that so many fail to respond as intended to the humbling hand of God as a loving Father. The Hebrew word there translated "humbled" is so often used about the afflictions of Israel- in Egypt, in the wilderness, at the hands of their invaders. But they wriggled against it, their bitterness driving them deep within themselves rather than to God and His Son. This is the enduring tragedy of Israel, and Jewish history. And it is the same with so many lives today.

Job is a classic example of our humiliation, although his exaltation was achieved even in this life. We see the end of the Lord, that He is very pitiful and of tender mercy (James 5:11). And out of that dialogue came the statement: "All these things worketh God oftentimes with man" (Job 33:29). We see this to be true throughout the Bible and our own experience, both of ourselves and of others in our lives. And in all these things, man is not alone. God is with us, Emmanuel, in Christ- in the sense that the humiliation of our minds and bodies is in order to forge ever further and deeper our connection with Him. For we are "in Christ". Our baptisms signed us into covenant with His death and His life eternal, world without end: "For the death that he died, he died to sin once, but the life that he lives, he lives to God... We were buried therefore with him through a baptism into his death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:4,5,10).

| Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM MALAWI



NENO | Bro David Liwawa

I went to the Malawi Government department of Mines and Mineral Act, to apply for a prospecting licence, which I now have.

I have not moved anywhere – I am still in Neno, which is my home. As I was near to retirement, I asked the Ministry of Health to post me to New District Hospital, and I had my retirement while working at home.

Here there are times when we use Western medicines, and there are also times when we use herbs as medicine – this depends on how you feel in your body. I will be 67 on October 15, and I am thankful to say I am enjoying good health. I rarely eat processed food, usually it is garden produced and home cooked.

I am very sorry for you, with all you have gone through. May the gracious Lord be with you. Read Psalms 20, 121 and 126; Isaiah 26:3.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



KEMPTON PARK

August has been an incredibly blessed month for the Kempton Park meeting. We were privileged to host a P2P (Prepare to Preach) team consisting of Sis Deb Lea, Sis Jeanne Ploetz, Sis Judy MacKinnon, Bro William DeFord and Adam Ross from various ecclesias in the States and Canada. This lovely group stayed with us for two weeks, their energy and resources gave our existing preaching and outreach projects a huge boost!



The visiting sisters led the studies at the annual 'Women at the Well' Retreat. This beautiful weekend in the Drakensberg was enjoyed by the majority of the Kempton Park sisters, who returned refreshed and ready to do our best to live "in the Spirit" rather than allow our actions to be determined by our human instincts. Everyone enjoyed the many little treats we were spoiled with throughout the weekend, and we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who was part of the amazing team that organized the weekend. During the long weekend the Kempton Park Meeting hosted a Youth Gathering at the Altelekker Campgrounds just outside of Olifantsfontein. We had youth from the Aphiwe, Yeoville and Kensington meetings join the Kempton Park youth for an encouraging, fun-filled weekend of Bible study and fellowship.

Bro Michael Furstenburg was the cook for the weekend, for which we would like to thank him - scrambling ten dozen eggs each morning is no mean feat!

The Furstenburg family had a rather horrid experience when little Alexis, who is now almost 30 months old, fell backward while playing with a puppy, and suffered a greenstick fracture to the radial bone in her left arm. She had to have a cast which will God Willing, be removed in 4 weeks' time.

NEWS FROM TANZANIA



MBEYA | Bro James A Mwangomo

I write to acknowledge receipt of the two parcels of the New Testaments with commentaries in Kiswahili. I failed to write to you immediately due to the fact that I had been in financial trouble when the heavy rainfall in our district swept away all the crops we depend upon and left us wandering from one place to the other looking for the means to make ends meet. Although I am not yet settled as the matters are not yet solved I am forced to thank you for these precious books. Zomba members were very happy to receive them and immediately contributed some money for storage charges of the Post Office. After a week I made an arrangement of distributing some to our nearby ecclesias:

Mwajelwa Ecclesia – 4 copies

Wanga Ecclesia – 4 copies

Ilyste Ecclesia – 4 copies

Igale Ecclesia – 4 copies

Mlowo Ecclesia – 8 copies

The remainder were given to Ilomba members and 8 copies remained for our library.

NEWS FROM UGANDA



BUSIA | Bro Mangeni Rogers

Mark 1:14. John the Baptist was imprisoned. Mark 6:11-29 gives us the full events that led to the death of John. It is recorded that King Herod had committed adultery with his brother Philip's wife. Mark 6:17. John the Baptist was a prophet of miraculous capabilities who would not see evil and keep silent. He therefore condemned the adulterous act and warned King Herod to end the relationship.



John the Baptist's act did not please Herodias. She therefore wanted John to be arrested. Herodias then convinced King Herod to kill John. King Herod had a lot of fear and respect for John, Mark 6:20. Herod just put him in prison to protect him. Mark 6:21 informs us that King Herod celebrated his birthday with a party and invited a number of important guests. They were served with wine and food stuff and properly entertained.

The daughter of Herodias came in and danced which pleased Herod and his dinner guests, Mark 6:23. King Herod was so proud that he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you up to the half of my Kingdom." v.23. Then the girl went to her mother Herodias who told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist. Then the daughter of Herodias took her mother's advice and told King Herod "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter!" v.25.

Herod was greatly distressed but because of his oath and his dinner guests he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went and beheaded John in prison, v.27. The guard soon returned with the head of John the Baptist on the dish. He handed it over to the girl who in turn handed it to her mother, v.28. Then the disciples of John came and took his body and laid it in the tomb, v.29.

So we should stand in truth just like John the Baptist did. Death is not the end of human life for true believers. There is the life after death. So we should call on the help of God.

KASESE | Bro Kule Remegio

It is quite a long time since I received any teaching material that makes me strong in both my spiritual and health matters. Kindly have mercy on me and try your level best to get me at least one copy of "Where there is no doctor" and a new Bible. I trust to hear from you. May God bless and guide you as we wait for the return of Our Lord. Jesus is coming soon, I am ready for him now, come dear Lord.



Top: Sis Kule Yonia instructing Bro Remegio's two sons who are advanced on the CBM correspondence course.



Above: Bro Kule Remegio

P.S. Sorry, owing to cost we no longer send out "Where there is no doctor". M.H.

News from the Americas

NEWS FROM TRINIDAD



Bro George Constantine tells us the recent appeal to the Privy Council for a reconsideration of all the lifer's sentences be reviewed, was rejected. However they have ordered that the individual inmates can individually face the 'Appeals Committee' on the 'Powers of Pardon', also called the 'Mercy Committee', who will decide if the inmates sentences will remain, or be reduced, or if they should be pardoned.

The lifers had hoped that the Privy Council judges would have recommended that a specific time be given for life sentence, as is the case in many other countries. They were all disappointed, but Bro George writes: *"I have accepted God's will, I will continue to keep my faith in Him, and keep working towards being a better person in His sight, as we look forward to our Master's return."*

Originally, some years ago, Bro George was sentenced to death by hanging, although dates were issued several times for the execution they were, in God's mercy, abandoned and eventually the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment. His case has been looked at several times and given a hope that he could be released, all so far to no avail and we pray that this new interview will be favourably considered. We all need to pray for him in these most trying circumstances and that God will grant whatever He sees best for him at the present time.

The Second Time

When Jonah found himself in peril because he had evaded his mission to Nineveh, he prayed to God "out of the belly of hell," pleading that he had observed "lying vanities" and "forsaken his own mercy." The Lord hearkened, and shortly afterwards Jonah found himself upon dry land. In view of his cowardice, the prophet must have wondered whether God had any further use for him. The answer to his thoughts was "The word of the Lord came unto Jonah a second time saying, "Arise, go unto Nineveh."

Other servants of God were granted the means to show that past mistakes really were mistakes. The apostle Peter, who was brought into such gall by his denials, was soon invited to be converted and to strengthen his brethren. John Mark, who forsook Paul and Barnabas and thus broke up their partnership, came to write the first of the Gospel records.

Those men are our comforters. We also have failed, sometimes miserably, to heed the word of God: but none of us need despair. The experiences of Jonah, Peter and Mark, teach us that God is not looking for our failures. When, in our folly, we run away from our responsibilities, He understands our weaknesses, and although sorrows may befall us, He does not forsake us. His

work comes to us “the second time”, recalling us to the task we shirked, He says, gently, “Go again!” In refusing the bidding of God, we “forsake our own mercy,” and when we fail in this manner, let us recover ourselves, for He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Look up

Sorrow looks back, worry looks around faith looks up

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2 NASB

In Whom ...



... In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7).

... In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will (Ephesians 1:11).

... In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:3).

... In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:21).

... In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit (Ephesians 2:22).

... In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him (Ephesians 3:12).

Bro Green Mumbelunga (Ndola, Zambia)

Hope in God Will Overcome Discouragement

There is little that is as disheartening as failure to produce results. When after much effort and perseverance, you see no apparent sign of success, the resultant feeling of discouragement can

easily cause you to admit defeat and to give up. We will never know how many worthwhile tasks were not completed because the people concerned lost heart and so missed that wonderful experience of ultimate achievement.

A study of the lives of the giants of Biblical history will disclose the manner in which they persevered against enormous odds in their endeavours to carry out the work entrusted to them by God. Notwithstanding setback after setback, ridicule, opposition from church and government authorities, and in the face of unbelievable hardships and privation, still they pressed on with dogged determination until, very often after their death, the glory of God's purpose was revealed.

There will be these times in your pilgrimage when the going will be tough and you will be tempted to believe that your labours are in vain. This will be the time, more than ever, to trust in God and commit yourself wholeheartedly into His care. Through prayer and in the silence of your meditation, you can experience the presence of the living Jesus with you to carry you through the times when your spirits are low. Let your faith prevail over your personal feelings and, rest assured, that in God's perfect time your efforts will bear fruit to the glory of His name. "So let us not become tired of doing good for, if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest."



Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Gossip

"Conversation is the oral exchange of ideas. Gossip is the idle discussion of the affairs of others. Great people talk about ideas. Ordinary people talk about things. Small people talk about other people." This quotation was copied down and given to us after a discussion on the evils of gossip by a dear brother who has since fallen asleep. The truth expressed by these words is powerful. Gossip is a wicked and harmful pastime in which far too many have indulged.

It is so elevating to our own ego and self-esteem to catch another in a fault and how we like to dwell upon it! Christ really put a stop to this sort of thing when he said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." None of us are without sin and none of us should talk about the faults of others.

Paul soundly condemns those who are not only idle, but tattlers also, and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. It is interesting to notice that the tattlers and busybodies are those who are idle. If they would only go to work doing something constructive, they wouldn't have time to gossip. This is why great people do not carry tales. We cannot picture Jesus or Paul or Peter bearing tales even if they were true and, sadly, we realize that most gossip is greatly distorted.

We know that David was a righteous man who slipped. Do we feel that we would have been justified in telling on the King of Israel if we had known his sin? Isn't it our duty to follow Christ's command and "Go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone?" Usually we find that when we do this, things are not as we at first imagined and how fortunate that the truth was learned before serious harm was done.

It is possible to start a fire we cannot put out. One little match can start a fire that consumes a whole forest. James compares our tongue to a fire saying, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body." The real test is not only "Is it true?" for some things should not be told. It must meet all the tests of Paul before being repeated: it must be honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. The Golden Rule should apply every bit as much in the things we say as in the things we do. There are some who are going to be kept out of the kingdom just because they talked too much. This comes on the authority of Christ himself who said, "I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." "May the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14).

Into the New Year - 2016

So one more year has slipped away, Now one year nearer to the day! And yet we count it not delay;

'Twas one more year to shape our way. So, looking back, what gain have we, what profit have our "talents" gained? And thanks we give if some we see, while sadly short of what we gained. Yet praise to God, good hope remains, His grace at hand to save and guide;

But we must now renew our aims to copy him who for us died. We enter then on one more year with firmer step and quickened pace, determined that our Master here may bless us as we "win the race"!

Bro Robert Lloyd ~ from 'Minute Meditations'

"Ask, and it shall be given you"

The devout disciple is often perplexed at the apparent contradiction between promise and experience. The teaching of Jesus is unequivocal- "And all things whatsoever ye ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Yet who has not prayed unavailingly for the life of one beloved? Who has not sought for the solution of one of life's problems which persistently eludes the grasp? Continually, the mind is thrown back upon the Lord's promise: "Ask, and it shall be given you."

The experience of Jesus in Gethsemane perhaps best illustrates the divine method of fulfilment. "With strong crying and tears," Jesus prayed that the cup of suffering might pass. He asked what every fibre of human love would have striven to give. It is impossible to believe that the Father's heart was not wrung at the Son's agony, yet the answer was not release, but an adjustment of outlook to the divine perspective. His viewpoint, temporarily beclouded by suffering, was cleared by strengthening angels. Before him opened a glorious vista of salvation-of life and joy unspeakable for all his brethren. In the realisation of the ultimate victory of love, he went forward to death unfalteringly.

God did not impose His will on His son; He attuned His Son's will to His eternal purpose. Thus many prayers are answered, not by giving what our weakness craves, but by bestowing what we really need.

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask *anything according to His will*, He heareth us.”

The Rest Is Not Yet (Hebrews 4:8-11)

The Lord God did His work of creating all of creation in six days, and on the seventh day He rested from all His precious works (Genesis 1:31-2:2). He then blessed this day and made it holy, because God had Himself rested on that day (2:3). God knew that man would want to rest.

He gave this rest to the Israelites at Mount Sinai through the man who led them from Egypt—Moses. The Israelites were given a Sabbath rest. They were to remember to observe this day, keeping it holy (Exodus 20:8-11). None of them were to do any work on this day, nor do any cooking. From that time, some people have claimed to be Sabbath keepers. But do they really understand this rest? Are those claiming to keep this day holy doing it in the right manner? I don't think so.

We may be aware of the Sabbath but still fail to comprehend this set-apart day. The Israelites were given this day to fully remember how God brought them out of Egypt. But did the Israelites actually rest from their day-to-day troubles? No, spiritually they could not since “The rest is not yet.” So there still remains a true Sabbath rest? Yes, the Jewish Sabbath was just a shadow of what is yet to come, the rest promised to believers by Christ (Colossians 2:16-17). This tells us that the Law of Moses was done away by Christ once-for-all. This includes Sabbath keeping; we are of Christ and look forward to the spiritual rest in the kingdom to come (Hebrews 10:1).

When Jesus returns, he is going to confirm a people of his choice at his resurrection. He will make the world a better place. Good people who will be found worthy to be in his kingdom will then rest from all their works just as God did from His. “Let us therefore strive to enter that rest which is awaiting us” (Hebrews 4:10-11).

What a time it will be, resting from the world's troubles, from today's stressful works. Indeed it will be the greatest time, an excellent Sabbath for us.

Bro Chrivious Chimka (Mazabuka, Zambia)

Carelinks | Amazing response in the United Kingdom

Just one insertion of an advert for the NEV Bibles in a national newspaper has produced around 1300 replies. A group of eleven adults and three children assembled at the Chelmsford meeting room and spent a very happy and spiritual day writing envelopes and packing the Bibles for the requests. It was wonderful to see such widespread interest; and the names and surnames

would indicate the response was largely from local Anglo-Saxon folks, whom we might consider the least interested sector of British society. There's nothing like all practically working together with hymns and songs in the background, talking with each other about spiritual things as we stuff envelopes with Bibles, and praying together for blessing on the recipients. That same day witnessed the baptism of Gloria, who three years ago had seen the same advertisement, and only now come to baptism. We believe the word will not return void.



Our newly baptised Sis Lara chatting with Sis Cardia. Sis Deb with the copy of Wrested Scriptures we gave Sis Lara (amongst other literature)

Over the past few months, there have been around twenty baptisms in the UK as a result of Bible Basics and NEV Bible distribution work.

A happy group of us gathered to baptize Lara at her home; all up we were three children plus six brethren and sisters who met up with her and her daughter. It was a truly happy occasion. Originally from Brazil, Lara had read the Bible carefully for many years before coming to the UK. She was an active member of a local church, and brought over 20 Portuguese speakers to the church. But as she figured out that the trinity was not Biblical and speaking in tongues, as they practiced it, wasn't at all Biblical, she shared those truths with her Portuguese speaking friends and they left the church. She encountered us online and actually purchased a copy of Bible Basics from eBay even though we give it away free. She is very zealous to believe and do what is right. She works long hours doing various jobs and yet makes Bible study a priority, and is teaching her young daughter from Bible Basics. We have given her supplies of Portuguese Bible Basics and she is sharing them with her friends and also posting them to family members back in Brazil. We now seek to encourage her to connect with her friends who left church in order to get them together with her in a house group, lest they wander from the pathway completely, as so many do.



Saying goodbye to Lara and her daughter

Please pray for Lara. She has made great use of our literature; material like the CAT edition of Bro Ron Abel's book *Wrested Scriptures* has been invaluable to her.

Our policy is to give away literature free of charge, but we do appeal for donations so that we can publish and distribute it. So please do keep supporting, because the literature ministry, both online and in hard copy, is the backbone of all this work.

Our recently baptized sister Lara continues to preach actively and along with her daughter came to Croydon to help us distribute fliers to folks from it seemed every nation under Heaven. The kids distributed far more leaflets than the adults- it was hard to say no to them.

What's amazing is that we got 1 reply per 100 leaflets distributed!



The children's enthusiasm for leaflet distribution was infectious - how could anyone say 'No' to them!



The disused phone boxes in some UK villages have been turned into simple libraries. We encourage all of you to be preaching minded, and to carry literature and leaflets with you which you can leave around. God seems to like working through such things. Remember Paul's advice to Timothy to "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2).

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Our newly baptised Sis Lara chatting with Sis Cardia. Sis Deb with the copy of Wrested Scriptures we gave Sis Lara (amongst other literature)

Over the past few months, there have been around twenty baptisms in the UK as a result of Bible Basics and NEV Bible distribution work.

A happy group of us gathered to baptize Lara at her home; all up we were three children plus six brethren and sisters who met up with her and her daughter. It was a truly happy occasion. Originally from Brazil, Lara had read the Bible carefully for many years before coming to the UK. She was an active member of a local church, and brought over 20 Portuguese speakers to the church. But as she figured out that the trinity was not Biblical and speaking in tongues, as they practiced it, wasn't at all Biblical, she shared those truths with her Portuguese speaking friends and they left the church. She encountered us online and actually purchased a copy of Bible Basics from eBay even though we give it away free. She is very zealous to believe and do what is right. She works long hours doing various jobs and yet makes Bible study a priority, and is teaching her young daughter from Bible Basics. We have given her supplies of Portuguese Bible Basics and she is sharing them with her friends and also posting them to family members back in Brazil. We now seek to encourage her to connect with her friends who left church in order to get them together with her in a house group, lest they wander from the pathway completely, as so many do.



Saying goodbye to Lara and her daughter

Please pray for Lara. She has made great use of our literature; material like the CAT edition of Bro Ron Abel's book Wrested Scriptures has been invaluable to her.

Our policy is to give away literature free of charge, but we do appeal for donations so that we can publish and distribute it. So please do keep supporting, because the literature ministry, both online and in hard copy, is the backbone of all this work.

Our recently baptized sister Lara continues to preach actively and along with her daughter came to Croydon to help us distribute fliers to folks from it seemed every nation under Heaven. The kids distributed far more leaflets than the adults- it was hard to say no to them.

What's amazing is that we got 1 reply per 100 leaflets distributed!



The children's enthusiasm for leaflet distribution was infectious - how could anyone say 'No' to them!



The disused phone boxes in some UK villages have been turned into simple libraries. We encourage all of you to be preaching minded, and to carry literature and leaflets with you which you can leave around. God seems to like working through such things. Remember Paul's advice to Timothy to “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2).

Carelinks | Germany

There have been many baptisms recently in Germany. One was of Rochester, originally from Guyana, whose mother was one of that country's earliest Christadelphians and whose brother is in a Canadian ecclesia. Now in advancing years, Rochester turned to the Truth and was baptized- what a wonderful surprise for his mother when she awakes at the resurrection, to find her son also there! The baptism was performed with other Guyanese brethren present by Skype; you can see a screen shot opposite.

Here's a report from the North Americans present: "What a wonderful and blessed occasion! It was with great joy that we from: Canada: Sis Esther Worrell, Greenaway Ecclesia, Sis June Neblett, Toronto East Ecclesia, residing in Panama, and Bro Vernon Barrow, McNabb St. Ecclesia. US: Bro Joseph and Sis Veronica Badlu, South Ozone Park Ecclesia, New York. UK: Bro Duncan Heaster of Walton Ecclesia... were able to witness on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, the baptism of our now brother, Rochester ("Junior") Washington, which took place at his home in Germany.

Junior who is in isolation, having discovered the great blessing of eternal life that Our Heavenly Father has in store for us in his soon coming Kingdom, was very eager to put on the Saving Name of Christ assuring him of an inheritance in this joy. Junior did the online Bible Basics course and completed his answers successfully. Bro Duncan always in readiness to assist in this worthwhile activity, immediately responded to his call for assistance. So we were able on Wednesday August 12, 2015 to online join in and witness the baptismal service via Skype, with a hymn, prayers and a short talk, and then participated in Breaking of Bread and welcoming our new brother into fellowship with the right hand of fellowship.

In responding to our wishes for God's blessing and guidance in his new life, Junior requested our continued prayers for him in the journey on which he has now embarked and also our continued fellowship in the breaking of bread via Skype. As we parted, we felt so spiritually exhilarated, thanking Our Heavenly Father for this privilege and opportunity in participating in this exceptional experience, and will soon spread the joyous news to our brethren and sisters in Guyana, where Junior, as a lad then, had connections with the Truth. He is the son of the late Sis Amy Washington, a sister greatly beloved in that country, and the brother of Bro Keith Washington of the Greenaway Ecclesia, who unfortunately could not be present at his baptism."



Bro Rochester 'Junior' with our bre and sis via Skype



Above: Sis Esther Worrell, Sis June Neblett and Bro Vernon Barrow Right top: Bro Joseph and Sis Veronica Badlu Right: Bro Rochester and Bro Duncan

Sis Esther Worrell and Bro Joe Badlu

Carelinks | Germany ~ Refugees / Migrants

We spent some time in Germany visiting our brethren and contacts in two migrant camps. Brother F and Sister K [also brother and sister in the flesh] were baptized by us over 18 months ago in a country neighbouring Iran, returned to Iran, were persecuted, and then fled to Turkey, and joined in the mass rush of migrants into Germany. They took with them their mother N, and two relatives S and P. It was a pleasure to baptize them. They walked for 20 days from Greece to Munich, Germany, only taking a few local buses. On the way they ate fruit from fields and drank only water, sleeping outside most nights. Just on the level of human achievement if nothing else, this was a great feat of endurance, especially as mother N is in her 60s. They will be able to say to their children “You were born here- but I walked here, from a far away land where I was persecuted for my Christian faith.” The similarities with Abraham’s journey are very telling.



Our brother and sister with their mother inside the school



The security fence around the school

They were put in a migrant camp in a school- and they said that at no time on their journey had they felt more frightened or vulnerable to attack. The school had a perimeter fence erected around it, with guards ensuring nobody climbed over it. But inside, it was a free for all. The migrants slept on the floor or on camp beds donated by charities, around 40 in each classroom. They took water from the classroom sinks, dried their clothes on radiators, and sat on their sleeping places as there were virtually no chairs in the school. All floor space was used for

sleeping. Food was provided three times a day. Arabic graffiti was appearing on the walls. There was little privacy, and some had erected sheets over their sleeping places to give them some privacy; note the blackboards still on the wall of the classroom, below.



The 'bedrooms' inside the school

The problem is that many of these migrants took knives and guns with them for protection on the journey- and they still have them. Living in such cramped conditions gives rise to all manner of personal feuding- and many of these migrants are armed. We entered the camp by giving our passport to the guards as a guarantee, but we had a 20 kg rucksack with us full of Bibles and Bible Basics- it could've been full of drugs and guns for all the guards checked. Our brothers and sisters keep themselves to themselves, sleeping together in a corner. Walking around the school with them, we were the subject of threats and abuse, including the cry 'Kafr'- 'apostate'. Our brothers told us that the Muslims threaten them with knives at night, and every night there are fights between the Muslims- especially between those pro-ISIS and those anti. There are of course many warring factions within Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan- and there are a few hundred of these folks sleeping together on the floor of this school, with our brethren as their one common enemy. This kind of problem is apparently quite common- a recent article in Christianity Today reports that this is a common scene in the migrant camps, and that the German Police have proposed separating the Christian migrants from the Muslim migrants for their safety. We walked into the playground, where young men were playing football, shouting 'Kafr!' [apostate] at us.

We're sure that our dear ones will soon be moved on by the Government as the whole plan is to integrate them into society, but please do pray for them.

Thank you for all your prayers. Shortly after this bulletin, by the grace of God our dear brother, sister and family were blessed with an apartment.

Carelinks | Migrant Crisis Outreach

There are thousands of migrants passing through the Balkans each day at this time, mostly refugees from Syria and Afghanistan. Like anyone who has experienced the Lord's grace, our local brothers and sisters wanted to reach out to these people, but didn't know how. Neither did we. We prayed about it and decided the best thing to do was to give the refugees food and sanitary items with a sticker on them with a simple statement of the Gospel and our website. Many of the migrants have mobile phones and here and there, there is free wifi access- our hope was and is that they will remember the Christian folk who met them at the borders and gave them help, and use their new freedom to turn to the real Christ.



The first day we decided to scope out the situation. We drove up tracks to a railway line on the border where we had heard the migrants got off the train. We found a lot of litter around some rail tracks, and waited there. The sun was setting and the three of us were lost in our thoughts, wondering whether this was the right thing after all. There was a great silence, then a car came along the track and a woman asked us what we were doing. We told her the truth- we want to help the migrants and are just scoping out where and how to do so. The woman told us to cross the tracks and turn right and we'd find some people doing as we wanted to- "It's their last night, go to them". With the enigmatic phrase "It's their last night" in our wondering minds, we went. "The world's last night..." as CS Lewis wrote. We believe she was some kind of Angel- an ordinary secular woman of course, but surely directed by an Angel. We walked about a kilometer along the tracks, full of litter and tracts in Arabic from the Jehovah's Witnesses... one has to take their cap off to their missionary zeal, even if their beliefs are so sadly misplaced.



We found about four local volunteers cooking soup- the train was to arrive in 30 minutes. It would've gone right by us if we'd have stayed where we were. That was where it used to stop. There were three policemen standing well back who could radio for more support if needed, and that was it. The volunteers explained their funding had finished. The trains arrive every few hours with about 400-600 people on board each one. So we were led by the Lord to this perfect opportunity to serve as we had wished to and prayed to- we walked in to a pre-existing situation all set up for us by the Lord who knew our hearts, where we could distribute food and welfare and also on the packages distributed, place adverts for the Gospel.

The drill was the same every time. The train arrives, and two railway staff unlock the wagons. We explain to the confused, exhausted people where they are and that they had to get off- and we would feed them. And that then, they have to walk 2 kms along the tracks to the Serbian border, get registered, and then continue their journey northwards towards Germany. Once they got the message that there was soup and bread for them- there was a surge of humanity towards us. The younger men wanted to grab everything. It was quite a mission to get the food to the women,

elderly and children who were at the back. There was no chance to video it much. The need to try to stop a stampede was too urgent- bearing in mind many of the men were carrying knives or pistols. We were pleased to fund further sessions- 200 Euros to feed and give water to 500 - 700 people [including disposable bowls etc.].



“A new life!” leaflet we placed in the family welfare packs

The trains arrive every few hours, and around 10,000 people were crossing each day whilst we were there. We also gave tampons, wet wipes and baby stuff to families we saw. We just hope that those folks will remember us Christian people who met them on arrival and helped them, and will have noticed the stickers on the packaging, urging them to learn about Jesus Christ by going to our website.



There were harrowing sights. An old man scarcely able to walk, stopping frequently and in great pain; several men on crutches or with one leg; an invalid child in a wheelchair. A child who had lost its parents. A little boy so starving he ate not only the bread and soup we gave but also tried eating the polystyrene cup we served it in. Old men in boys clothes. A child asleep standing up. Mum and dad each with a child on their shoulders, along with a sleeping bag on their backs. A woman helping a single woman get strapped up with a pack on her back and a child around her neck on her front. They aren't allowed to use the roads, they have to walk 2 km. along the tracks to the Serbian registration point. And you can't push a wheelchair along railway tracks with gravel and sleepers. We captured some of this on the videos. But we had little time for making videos.

One feels so helpless- we did so little to address the need. But our hope and prayer is that at least some of those people will remember us, the soup, the bread, the tampons, soap, wet wipes, etc. and somewhere may retain one of the packages with our simple message of Christ and our website address, and in due course follow up. The greatest thing was to see our local brother and sister so blossoming under this outreach. Their enthusiasm is all the more wonderful when we remember that the average person in the Balkans is bitterly against supporting immigrants, and there is no word even for “grace” in the Slavic languages. But man is never better than when he has a cause to fight and work for. They, and we, wanted to serve- and

the Lord opened a perfect path. How long Europe can allow 10,000 ++ migrants / day to pour in remains to be seen; there is a window of opportunity right now, but how long it remains open is unclear. Please be inspired- to snap out of the mire of mediocrity, move beyond just having fleeting thoughts and wishes to be more active for Him in this world, and put your desire to serve before your Lord, and do something, anything, and He will lead you further. That is the takeaway lesson from all this.

The migrants we chatted with were for the most part educated, 'normal' people; Syria and Iraq are going to be left without any credible alternative to extremist government, because all the moderates are flooding into Europe. We believe this is all part of the last days prophetic scenario which will lead to Israel's invasion and the Lord's return. This world certainly needs it.

We had little time to take pictures or shoot video- the surge of 600 hungry people towards you, having smelt your soup and bread, is quite something to cope with when you are just a few people on a railway halt in the middle of nowhere. So our rather amateur 30 minute summary of our work is at... <https://youtu.be/YhfgrNHsVVs>



Our local brother with anti immigration graffiti in the background

Carelinks | Riga

Brother Maxim continues to run the ecclesia in Riga and the Winter daily feeding program and Bible teaching is now in full swing. We have visitors from the UK and Canada assisting brother Maxim and our local sister Anna in feeding and teaching the usual large group of mainly baptized brethren and sisters.



We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of Aleksandr, pictured above - brother Dennis's amazing baptismal bath in the Riga hall again being put to good use by brother Maxim - and Mikhail, a one eyed homeless man who has been attending the meetings. We are so relieved and grateful that the Lord's great work in Riga is continuing, and have as it were no greater joy than to know that our children walk in truth.

Carelinks | Russia

As briefly mentioned in the last issue of Gospel News, Duncan made a trip with our new brother Nikolai to visit an isolated couple. Fortunately they had use of Nikolai's work truck, without which it would've been impossible to drive many hours each way over pontoon bridges and tracks, far into the very heart of rural Russia.

It was an awful trip, rural Russia these days is proof enough that Putin needs a foreign policy issue to take the focus off the poverty of the mass of the population in the rural areas of this vast country. Corrupt Police near the towns, no sign posts because they have literally fallen down, potholes as deep as a man, seriously broken up asphalt, tracks passable only by tractors, no public transport... these are just some of the things we could say. But it was all worth it. Olga and Anatoly unlike many younger people these days 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 for 1000\$, 5 km. 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. But this joyful couple have an even more amazing story than that.

Olga was an alcoholic from childhood, Anatoly a drug addict. They met at a rehab centre. Hearing the stories of their childhood and earlier life, 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. Having tried every program, both of them independently started to read the Bible - online, using internet on their phones or others' phones, because they say they frequently put their phones in the Lombard [pawnbroker] for just a bottle of vodka. But then Olga wanted to read more and more, and came across our offer of a free Bible. She described with tears of joy how she was told by the rehab centre that a package was waiting for her at the Post Office, and how she went there and ripped open the package to find the NEV Bible, and showed it to everyone in the line at the Post Office. She became addicted instead to Bible reading, and from there started the whole struggle for interpretation... passing through JWs and other groups, she was not satisfied with any of them, and read through the entire commentary in the NEV Bible and then Bible Basics.

Their clothes are from free giveaways and her most prized item of clothing is a T-Shirt with 'I did it' written on it. She really has done it at least, done so much. Although she is fully aware that the road ahead is still full of temptation.



Olga, Anatoly with Nikolai outside their home

They live very simply, getting water from their well, growing what they can, but they lack meat or protein. Anatoly has walked far in search of water where he could fish, but found no rivers or lakes.

After attempts to construct a bath from various cracked asbestos sheets lying around near the house, the amount of asbestos dust created was enough for Nikolai to offer to drive in search of water, and we did eventually find a fishing platform about 20 km away. The Lord gave us a perfect day, and the confession of faith from this couple was very deeply from the heart. As we prayed, it was clear the Lord Jesus was present, and we were all humbled before His presence. It was a pleasure to baptize them.

So please do pray for our new brother and sister, they get reception and therefore internet on their phone when they walk about 5 km from their home, so we can continue in contact that way. Again we marvel at how the Lord works to call sincere people unto Himself, and how really there is a power of new creation which makes all things old, even childhoods of abuse by others followed by self-abuse. Real transformation of human personality is indeed achievable by the power of God's Spirit. Their joy is so great, and really the subtitle of Bible Basics seems so true for them: "Revealing the joy and peace of true Christianity".

Don't give up hope

A student found a subject particularly difficult and thought he had no chance of passing the end-of-year examination. He considered it wiser not to waste time on that subject but to put everything into the others. When he walked into the examination room he was handed a very easy paper that he could have passed easily if he had kept on working steadily. He had given up hope too soon.

Paul pleaded with the Christians at Colossae not to give up the hope that they received when they first believe in Jesus. It was the hope that they would become an integral part of the family of God and that they would become one with Christ in resurrection after death. This hope made sense of life for them.

It empowered them to live strong and courageous lives. It enabled them to endure hostility and persecution. It puts a song on their lips and a confidence in their step. It furthermore welded them into the international community of Christian believers known as the church. It gave them a dignity they never had before, and brought a love into their hearts. You too must never give up the hope that God has given you. However difficult life may become, however dark the political scene, however insecure the economic situation, however lonely, rejected, dispirited and miserable you may at times feel, you still have God in whom to put your hope. Whatever else you do, never stop hoping (Colossians 1:23).

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Preaching Activities

I would like to thank "Carelinks" for their work of distributing gospel literature around the world, in accordance with the purpose that the gospel must be preached to all nations (Mark 16:15). Indeed, Christadelphians all over the world are doing just that, as witnessed in the news which we read in our magazines, such as "The Bible Missionary", "The Gospel News", "The Christadelphian" and many more. We hear of Bible weekends and Book Fairs carried out in ecclesias, all with the same aim.

Mushumbi Pools have carried out two Book Fairs, and displayed gospel material at the District Agricultural Exhibition where many people were interested in our stand. We spent much time answering questions and discussing Scripture topics. As a result ten visitors requested Bible lessons in Shona and five in English.



Bro Fanuel Mawalzeka giving a talk



The stand and literature display

Bro Fanuel Mawalzeka (Guruve, Zimbabwe)

Christ's Death

As Jesus fell, fainting with the burden of carrying the cross, the women broke into mournful wailing. This attracted Jesus' attention. Although full of pain, bearing the sins of the world, he was not indifferent to this expression of grief. He looked at the women with tender compassion. It is doubtful if they understood at that time that Jesus was their Messiah sent from God, but they were certainly moved by feelings of human pity. "Daughters of Jerusalem," he said, "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

In the terrible scene, many of those who at that time were weeping for him were later to perish with their children. Jesus represented himself, the innocent redeemer. God suffered His wrath against transgression to fall on His beloved son. Jesus was to be crucified for the sins of men.

Arriving at the place of execution, the three prisoners were subjected to the torture of crucifixion. Did the two thieves resist the process? Surely Jesus himself would have made no resistance as he was stretched upon the cross and the spikes were driven through the tender flesh and the strong bone. While the soldiers were doing their fearful work, Jesus prayed for his enemies, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The disciples had previously run away but John, in obedience to Jesus, tended Mary the mother of Jesus, and took her into his home.

Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwekwe Zimbabwe)

Jesus Is the Way

The way of life is a figure that appears many times in the Bible. In Genesis we read in the opening chapters that apart from the tree of knowledge, there was another tree in the Garden of Eden, one that could give eternal life to those who ate its fruits. This is a symbol of the immortality that God will give in future. But when God drove Adam and Eve from Eden because of their sin, the way to this tree was closed lest they should return to eat of it, and become immortal sinners. So

He (God) drove out the man, and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life (Genesis 3:24).

There was only one way back to God's presence and that was closed, but the work of Jesus Christ opened the way for those who desire to seek God. The apostles, after Jesus rose from the dead, preached, "There is no other way of salvation except through Jesus' name, neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none, other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink" (John 7:37). Men wander in the desert to find water where there is none, but God has opened a fountain and the invitation has been given, "Everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." Sadly, most people in their pride will not humble themselves and they wander forth to die. Which road should we take? The Bible often pictures life as a journey in which we must choose the road we will travel. We should, brother and sister, be careful because, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 16:25).

Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and few find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). How can we see which way to take? Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" (John 8:12 NIV). Jesus is also the way - all who enter by that gate and follow this way, come to the city prepared by God Himself. There is no way apart from him. Those who think there is another way are mistaken. Christ is the answer to everything. Away from him, there is speculation and falsehood. Men will seek in vain to draw water from other fountains.

We know the truth of the Bible teaching that man is mortal; the life that he possesses disappears once he dies, and decomposes and is no more. How can renewal of life be obtained? By belief and baptism into Christ is the way, and Jesus declared, "If you had known me, ye should have known my Father also" (John 14:7).

Brothers and sisters, this is proof enough for us, that Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father. Let us follow that way.

Life of Jesus

"Two thousand years later we find ourselves in their place, the Disciples of Jesus: loving the Lord they loved, serving the Lord they served. The world has changed strangely since their time, but the Gospel has not changed, nor has the commission.

"Where they failed, we find ourselves slipping. In the fountain of their strength we find the source of ours: the words of love that sustained and comforted them bring us peace and joy. As throughout their troubled lives they looked beyond to the final glory, so we echo their words, 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus'. And while we watch and pray, we hear, as they did, the words of our Lord, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'" | **Bro Melva Purkis**

Bro Green Mumbelunga (Ndola, Zambia)

The Last Supper

In this message we are going to look at the events which took place in the upper room on the evening before the Lord was arrested. This meal is often referred to as 'the last supper'. It is deeply significant for us because it introduces us to the commandment to remember Jesus in his appointed way. We know the events very well and therefore perhaps we tend not to think about the circumstances surrounding this meal. I want us to try and imagine ourselves in that upper room along with the disciples.

The first point I want to make is that this meal did not take place as an actual Passover meal. We can show that quite simply in the way this meal took place before Jesus was arrested. After his arrest, he was held overnight, went through his trial with Caiaphas, and then was taken to Pilate. The Jews would not enter Pilate's judgement hall because that would make them ceremonially defiled, and would hence not be able to keep the Passover meal. I am sure that you remember the account of how the disciples and Jesus arrived at the upper room. But perhaps you have never really thought about what went on beforehand. If you look at Luke 22:8, you will see that Jesus had sent Peter and John on ahead and told them to prepare the Passover. They did not know where to go, and so he gave them the sign of the man carrying a pitcher of water. They were told to follow him into the house which he entered.

There are lots of questions that we should ask. First of all, why did Jesus choose this unusual sign? Why did he not simply tell them the address? I think that the answer must be that Jesus wanted to keep it secret. Concerning Judas, Jesus knew what was in Judas' heart. If everyone had known the address where this last supper was to take place, then Judas might well have slipped away and told the Jews about that private place. It would have provided an ideal opportunity for the Jews to have arrested Jesus. But Jesus did not want these last precious hours with his disciples to be disrupted in any way: hence the sign which kept the upper room secret.

The next question is this: why did Jesus choose Peter and John to prepare the room and the table for the rest of the disciples? If I were to ask you who were the most important disciples you would almost certainly say Peter and John. They both had strong personalities: they both took the lead on occasion amongst the other disciples. You can imagine them thinking that they ought not to be doing this work. Perhaps it would have been better done by someone less important, someone less significant? I wonder if Jesus chose them so that we should all learn a lesson. Sometimes there is a tendency for the important brothers to think that they do not need to do the less important tasks- but that is not always right. We all need to know and understand that however old, wise or prominent we are in the ecclesia, we still have to play our part in the lesser, menial tasks.

Why did Jesus choose the sign of a man carrying a pitcher of water? In Jerusalem in the time of Jesus, you did not see men carrying a pitcher of water. Men simply did not do that task: it was women's work. And perhaps the choice of this man in addition to the choice of Peter and John was to underline the lesson of service to others.



Bro Maxwell Choongo

Bro Maxwell Choonga (Kasaka, Zambia)

Honour the King

In the modern world most heads of state are politicians who managed to be elected by popular vote. This did not happen in the ancient world when most were military leaders using force, or royalty inheriting the position from family members.

Christianity had begun in Palestine where the Roman Empire held sway and where Roman soldiers enforced submission to Roman rule. Heavy taxes were levied and Christianity therefore developed in a situation of oppression. Within a few short decades it became a crime to be a Christian at all in the Roman Empire, and some emperors instigated persecutions. By the time the advice, “Honour the King” was given, the Christians to whom it was written had known what persecution was.

Despite all this, they are told to honour the king. Christian leaders were at great pains to show that Christianity was not a subversive sect, but a group of quiet, peace-loving citizens. This instruction supports that position. For Christians, whilst all power belongs to God, He delegates some of it to rulers so that they can preserve order for the proper functioning of human society. Therefore, it is a Christian principle that believers are to honour the king, or other head of state. This still applies. Christians who live in peaceful countries where law and order prevail need to remember that many do not. Some are in places where dictators make life very difficult for them. They need the prayers, encouragement and support of their more favoured fellow believers.

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come unto me all ye that labour” to discover the explanation of things,

“And are heavy laden” with the cares of this life,

“And I will give your rest” from the burden of human futility.

“Take my yoke upon you and learn of me” the divine philosophy of life,

“For I am meek and lowly in heart” and a pattern for you to follow,

“And ye shall find rest unto your souls” in my Kingdom soon to be established.

“For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Our Nature

As our conscience has been quickened by the holy spirit word, we have become aware of the evil of sin, of its power, its guilt, its woe, and we look upon it with abhorrence. We find that sin has separated us from God, that we are in bondage to the power of evil. The more we struggle to escape, the more we realise our helplessness. Our moves are impure, our hearts are unclean. We see that our life has been filled with selfishness and sin. We long to be forgiven, to be cleansed, to be set free. Harmony with God, likeness to Him: what can we do to obtain it? The Lord says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. Though they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool." "A new heart also will I give you".

We have resolved to give ourselves to God. Now we go to Him in prayer, and ask that he will wash away our sins and give us a new heart. There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." We may come with all our weakness, our sinfulness, and fall at his feet in penitence (Isaiah 1:18; Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:6).

Bro Melusi Ndlovu (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe)

On Whom Do You Trust?

Rabshakeh, a spokesman for the king of Assyria, said to the men of Judah, "Now on whom dost thou trust?" (2 Kings 18:20). Rabshakeh told them they could not trust in Egypt to help them, nor could they trust in the Lord their God. Things did actually look very dark for the people of Jerusalem. The question was very good: who or what were they trusting in? The Assyrians were trusting in their past victories and in the number of their soldiers. They placed God on the same level as the heathen gods which had not saved other nations. They trusted in themselves and their own idols. The Assyrian king sent a message to Hezekiah, mocking him and his trust in the true God. Hezekiah prayed to God asking Him to deliver him from this powerful enemy. God heard his prayer and that night He sent an angel into the camp of the Assyrians and smote 185,000 of them. What remained of the Assyrian army left the next day.

To trust is to have a firm reliance on the integrity, ability or character of a person or thing. The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). We are to place our reliance on God alone. Too often we find ourselves leaning on our own understanding. We trust in our past accomplishment, thinking that we will be able to do the same in the next hard time. Too often we find ourselves trusting in our own abilities or position. On whom do you trust? Those of us writing for 'Gospel News', those of us in the mission field, and all growing up in ecclesias, must trust God for understanding and wisdom. Teachers/elders must trust in God for strength and wisdom every day, not in years of experience and their own abilities. Parents must trust in God for patience and understanding to direct their families in the right way. Anything we do as a result of leaning on our own understanding will not have God's blessing.

- No matter what we are seeing around us, we should say: “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5)
- No matter the terrorism in Nigeria: “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee” (Psalm 56:5). “Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength” (Isaiah 26:4).
- Work for no pay in the crisis in Nigeria: “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and he knoweth them that trust in Him” (Nahum 1:7). Now, on whom do you trust? Is there enough oil in your lamp?

Do you and me really trust the words of the angels in the book of Acts 1:10-11. “But know this that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broke into” (Matthew 24:42-44). “Therefore, you also be ready, for the son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Trust the Lord, do not say, ‘Where is the promise of his coming?’” (2 Peter 3:48). “As the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the son of man” (Matthew 24:37-39).

Trust the Lord and do not be so busy with the things of this life that you forget to put oil in your lamps.



Bro Gaius Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)

A Waiting Attitude

Picture in your mind a family that is expecting guests for dinner. The set time for their arrival is rapidly approaching; preparations are enormous and hopes high. Yes, the whole family is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the guests and looks forward to a delicious meal and fine fellowship.

As Christians, we are waiting for something even more important. For what? Surely all of us are waiting for the day of the Lord. Until it arrives, we need to be like the prophet Micah who said, “But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord. I wait for my saviour; my God will hear me” (7:7). Does that imply inactivity? No. There is much to be done.

The apostle Peter helps us to have the proper attitude while waiting. He says, “What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming” (2 Peter 3:11-12). This is an exclamatory statement. Peter was not asking a question. In his two divinely inspired letters, he described what kind of people Christians ought to be. He exhorted them to go on performing holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion. Centuries ago, Jesus gave the sign of the conclusion of the system of things on

earth; Christians were not to let down their guard (Matthew 24:4). They were to be waiting and keeping close in mind the presence of the Lord.

What does this mean for us? The word translated here 'keeping close in mind' means speeding up. Of course, we cannot literally speed up the day of the Lord. For we know neither the day nor the hour when Jesus Christ will come to execute judgement upon this wicked world and all its systems (Matthew 24:36; 25:13).

The verb in the expression 'speed up' here means to make haste and so is closely related to the exhortation to be zealous, active, concerning about something. Peter was urging his fellow believers to be ardently desiring the presence of the day of the Lord. They could do this by constantly keeping it in mind. With the great dreadful day of the Lord now so near, we should have exactly the same mental attitude: "The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And every one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Joel 2:31-32).

If we are ardently desiring to survive the Lord's day, we will make that evident by our holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion. The expression 'holy acts of conduct' may well remind us of Peter's admonition: "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desire's you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:14-16).

Holiness: To be holy, we must maintain physical, mental, moral and spiritual cleanness. Are we preparing for the Lord's day by keeping ourselves holy as individuals, and ecclesias in God's name? The moral standards of the world are steadily deteriorating. There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them ... Evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse (2 Timothy 3:1-5,13). We need to take positive action to correct matters in order to please God.

Deeds of godly devotion: Godly actions and godly devotion are also vital if we are to keep the Lord's day in mind. Godly devotion means a reverence for God that moves us to do what is pleasing in His eyes. Loyal attachment to God is the motivating force behind such deeds of godly devotion. For it is His will that "All men should be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). God does not desire anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). So then, should not our godly devotion stimulate us to intensify our efforts to help people learn about God and imitate Him? This means not only actively telling people about our hope, but setting a godly example in our lives. "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly beloved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us" (Ephesians 5:1).

Our life will abound with all kinds of godly devotion if we seek God's kingdom first (Matthew 6:33). This involves having a balanced view of material things. Jesus warned, "Watch out. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15). Although it may be hard to picture ourselves becoming blinded by the love of money, we do well to note that anxiety in this time of material things, and the deceptive power of riches can choke the word of God (Matthew 13:22).

Waiting patiently and in peace: Emphasizing the importance of maintaining a waiting attitude; Peter says: "Dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found

spotless, blameless and at peace with him” (3:14). This means to be found by God individually cleansed in Jesus’ precious blood (Revelation 7:9,14). This requires having a good knowledge of the gospel, exercising faith in Christ and becoming a baptised and dedicated child of God. Peter also says that we are to be found unblemished in the same way, as Paul exhorted Christians: “Do everything so that you can become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe” (Philippians 2:14-15). With this in mind, we will be moved by love for God and our neighbours as we preach the good news of the kingdom (Matthew 2:35-40; 24:14).

Finally, Peter tells us to be found in peace. He emphasizes the importance of having intense love for one another and maintaining peace with our fellow believers (1 Peter 2:17; 3:10-11; 4:8; 2 Peter 1:5-7). Then, our expectation of living in the new peaceful world will be reflected in our pursuit of peace with our fellow-worshippers now. It will show that we have a waiting attitude and are keeping close in mind the presence of the day of our Lord.

Godly Character

Finally, says Peter,

“Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing.”

The sons of God answer to this character. Unity, compassion, love, prevail among them - even now.

Bro Robert Roberts

Bro Green Mumbelunga (Ndola, Zambia)

Delicious Meals

We all enjoy a delicious meal, but it’s not just the ingredients that make it so, but the way it is prepared, cooked and presented that help to make it so appetizing. Of course the food wants to be nourishing and tasty but does not have to be expensive nor many hours spent in fancy preparation. The art of making a good meal is very much dependent on the expertise of the cook, but that only comes by training and experience.

Sister Yvonne Dube of the Walton Ecclesia (of which I also am a member) is a professional cook and has ran several four-week training courses in African Ecclesias to share her expertise with others. In the pictures you can see her explaining things to South African Sisters and at the end, for those that have become proficient, she is authorised to issue a certificate of competence.

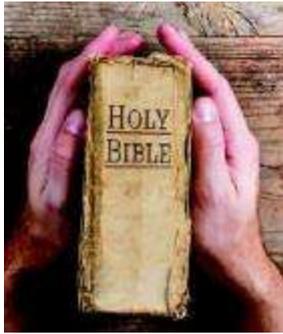


Bro Marcus Heaster

Famine in the Land

“Behold, the days come,” saith the Lord, “that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, not a thirst for water, but of a hearing the words of the Lord; And they shall wander from sea to sea and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.”

Bibles in this local area are hard to find, and when they are available for sale, are not affordable to many whose monthly salary amounts to about US\$ 20. Bibles and Christian books in numerous areas are also out of reach for many people, either because of oppressive governments or because of economic constraints. In some other parts of the world, the problem is neither lack of money nor oppressive regimes; rather, the problems include pervasive humanism, encroaching secularism, blatant materialism, and mind-deadening amusement. Since people do not like to retain God in their knowledge. Interest in the word of God wanes. In this environment, people who follow the prince of peace become marginalized and even discriminated against. Even finding the word of God in rich and free countries become difficult as well. There is famine in the land.



In Christadelphia, it would seem that the word of the Lord is in plentiful supply- at least if we interpret this as an easy and plentiful availability of scripture. We have numerous copies of the Bible in our homes, perhaps even Bibles in more than one language. Our bookshelves sag with study helps and Bible story books. Tracts and magazines get dusty and tattered in the side door pockets of our cars. We should distribute them but we often don't. We have plenty- what should we do to alleviate the famine of the word in the land, and help those who have less? I suggest three things: • **Love the Word** ~ When something means a lot to us, it becomes obvious to others. People who love sports can sit for hours and watch sports, or they can speak animatedly for a long time about their favourite team or player. When we love the Word of God we will sit for hours feasting on God's Word, whether by personal study or by hearing it preached. We will speak of God's word often and it will then be easy for us to speak of His Word to any and all who will listen (Amos 8:11-12). Those who love God's Word will memorize Psalm 119:97, hiding it in their hearts, making it available to them for a time when a famine of the word of the Lord might come to their land.

• **Live the Word** ~ If we really love the Word, we will live the Word, we will apply its principles to daily living. With it hidden in our hearts, we will be equipped to avoid sin against God. Our children will observe that our lives are patterned after the principles of God's Word. Our neighbours will note that we live differently than most others in our community. They will see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. Truly living the Word will spread its influence, even to people who are not reading it themselves. It will lessen the famine in the land.

• **Share the Word** ~ Many in this part of the world, and in some other countries, do not have their own copies of the Bible. Can we share from our plenty to provide for their lack? Some of the people we meet in day-to-day life know very little about God's Word. Let us get the dusty tracts out of our vehicles and into the hand of people who will read them. A word of testimony or praise to God might be what the bank teller or the store cashier needs to turn her mind toward God. Some people who will not read the Bible or listen to exhortation or read a tract will observe the lives of God's people living in faithful service to their Lord. That epistle known and read of all men is often more effective in touching people's lives than is an eloquent exhortation.

During the days of Elisha, an army from Syria besieged the city of Samaria and caused a famine in that city so severe that to survive, some of the people stooped to cannibalism. A group of lepers left their spot at the city gate deciding to surrender to the enemy and take what would happen to them. Through a miracle of the Lord, the Syrian army had fled and the lepers came upon a camp empty of people but full of food. These lepers started to feast on the food they found- until they came to themselves. "We do not well" they told each other, "this is a day of good tidings and we hold our peace. Now therefore, come, that we may go and tell the king's household" (2 Kings 7).

Brothers and sisters, we also do not well to hold our peace. Finally, my little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth, since by this we know that we are of the truth and shall assure our heart before him (1 John 3:16-19). So we also share the Word and maintain purity of doctrine and conduct. Let us remember that a guide not only tells the way: he shows the way and what a child sees impresses him much more than what he is told. We guide more by our lives than by our words. Amen.

Bro Gaius Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)

Abundance and Renewal (Amos 9:13-15)

“Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the trader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet honey and all the hills shall flow with it. I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them, they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them upon their land and they shall never again be plucked up out of the land which I have given them, says the Lord your God.”

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the sons of God the creation was subject to futility, not of its own will but by the will of Him who subjected it in hope, because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage of decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The Bible has many scriptures that talk about the coming of the kingdom and what it will be like. It appears that it will be a wondrous and beautiful place, a world of abundance, peace and security. However, today the earth, as we all know it, is under a curse and because of that we must work all the days of our lives to feed our families. Until the curse is lifted, the earth will not give forth its full yield or capabilities. Man pumps millions of tons of chemicals into the land to try and coax better yields from it, but no matter how much man endeavours to try and remove the current curse, he is unable to change what God has ordained. Famine, pestilence, drought and disease are still impacting the yields, and hunger and starvation are still with us, even with all our seemingly vast technology and knowledge. Once again God is teaching man that we cannot do it on our own.

The creation too is waiting eagerly for the curse to be lifted and is looking forward to been set free from its bondage and decay, the earth like us is waiting for a renewal, a time when we will be able to walk with God in His garden again and not be fearful.

May we all look to the future and glorious day that is coming which will bring abundance and renewal for the children of God and his whole creation. Let us pray for that day to come soon. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Bro Gideon Hankamone (Mazabuka, Zambia)

Carelinks | United Kingdom



Our recent “Free Bible” advertisement appeared on 30 London buses during the Autumn and, by God’s grace, continued to be displayed on the buses for some time after they should have been removed!

Requests came in throughout the day every day - including some from people in Europe and Africa who noticed the adverts, presumably whilst visiting London.

Please do pray for all the many thousands of eyes who have viewed them. We hung around the bus stops distributing literature and then recorded any of “our” buses we saw displaying the advert. It’s great to know that throughout London, the offer of God’s word was made. You can view the brief video of the buses with the adverts at <https://tinyurl.com/carelinks-buses>. Thank you to all who donate to enable these initiatives.



Bro Mo following his baptism

We’re also pleased to tell you of the baptism of **Mohammed**, an Afghani who has been already 8 years in the UK and like many, will not be deported but is also not being given permission to work. Such people are in a very depressing situation, as they are trapped and can’t move forward in life. No wonder the Gospel of the Kingdom is so attractive to them. Mohammed is not from the bus adverts, but more fruit of our outreach at a migrant centre in central London.

The bus advertising produced not only many replies but also a high level of subsequent follow up. Commuters noticed the advert and then spent their commute reading our material on their phones. We have personally met up for coffee with around 10 people who saw the advert and started chatting with us online. It seems that commuters on public transport are a good target audience as they have a period of time each day to read or view on their phones. A few have already gone right through *Bible Basics* after first engaging with us from the bus advertisements.

Mo, pictured above and below, is a high school teacher in Croydon who first saw our adverts soon after they began. After graduating from Oxford University, unlike many young professionals, Mo began to search for the meaning of life rather than totally focusing on his career. He read the New Testament, again and again, until he came to really know the Lord Jesus and seek a relationship with Him. He then read the Old Testament. He attended some churches but quickly perceived problems with their doctrine and practice. But his personal encounter with Jesus through the pages of scripture... is just wonderful, and best told by him in his own words in the video. He emphasizes that contrary to the claims of many, he had no supposed

vision of Jesus, no words whispered in visions - but he has learnt what he has learnt from the written word. He really emphasizes this in his testimony. He really felt he had encountered Jesus, and started buying New Testaments to distribute on the streets on his way to and from work. He noticed that the various churches he attended seemed more interested in getting attenders and members, than in reaching out simply with the message of Jesus to people on the street.



With this in mind, and also wanting more knowledge and teaching, Mo exited a petrol station one evening in Addington and noticed a bus bearing our advert for a totally free Bible for “whosoever will”. He pulled out his phone and snapped a photo of the bus with the advert, and later contacted us by phone. We met up immediately, and continued meetings. He quickly accessed our material online and viewed our YouTube videos and read our *Bible Basics* material. In the old days, one learnt the Truth through attending weekly meetings for months. Now, you can read all the material, listen to it or view it on your commute to work, and grasp the Truth quickly. This is what happened with Mo. It was really a wonderful and emotional moment when Mo was baptized into the Lord Jesus in a small lake near Croydon, covered in autumn leaves. The video of his testimony is really worth viewing; it’s at: <https://tinyurl.com/carelinks-uk1>

Mo is really an inspiration. He says: *“The more I acknowledge that this is the Truth, the more I have that fire, that yearning, to tell it to others”*. Mo’s sister is preparing for baptism now and she and Mo regularly go out together distributing our *NEV New Testaments* on the street. They distributed around 100 in just one week. Our prayers are with them as they grow in grace and knowledge.



Carelink readers will remember the annual adverts we place in the Daily Mail UK newspaper. We received the following email from a lady called Ann, living in a well heeled village in South East England:

“I was handed a cut out from a paper by a gentleman named James who is homeless and sleeping under an old railway bridge near to our property. He is well read and his current bible is very scruffy. If you send it to me at the above address I’ll make sure he gets it. Many thanks.”

It wasn't difficult to locate her property and the railway bridge through Google Earth. Immediately on receiving the email we went to the location. And there was James, sleeping under the bridge, which is over a disused railway track now turned into a rural cycle track. We woke him up, asked if he was the James who wanted a Bible. He was most touched we had made the effort to dig him out, observing that most churches don't really want homeless people as members. He had a large number of sleeping bags and was well set up and not willing to accept any help apart from food. He explained, in the Queen's English and revealing an intelligent and highly educated mind, that he reads the Bible much of the time, but his Bible was wearing out. Whilst in a library in January (that's 10 months ago) he had noticed our advert in the Daily Mail and cut it out, keeping it carefully in his Bible. He has really no money and survives just by what food he is given. Ann, along with other middle class ladies in this rather nice area, bring him food and drinks in a kind of unconsciously devised rota between them. He says he gets three great meals some days and none the next. So realizing his Bible was falling apart, he asked Ann if she could post the coupon to us and get the Bible sent to her home. She agreed, but emailed us instead, as the advert had our email.

He accepted the Bible with gratitude, but when we started chatting about what the Bible meant, he said he needed to ask some questions, as he was sick and tired of Christian 'do gooders' (even though he depends upon them!) who don't really read or know their Bibles. And he would only discuss with people who do. So he fired a series of questions, such as '*Who was the father of John the Baptist?*', '*When is Tyre first mentioned in the Bible*' and most interestingly, '*Does the word Trinity ever occur in the Bible?*'. He was impressed with our answers and apologized for his arrogance and listened to us explaining our doctrines for about 30 minutes. It would've made a fine photo - a homeless man wrapped in sleeping bags intently listening to our preaching, clutching his new *NEV Bible* in his hand, nodding agreement or shaking his head at times in disagreement. But it is somehow inappropriate to point a camera at a destitute man who is very sceptical of his more 'normal' helpers and visitors. On returning home, we emailed Ann and told her. She was most touched we should care so much for a homeless man, and asked if she could be sent the Bible and our literature as she'd be interested to read it, as we seemed very sincere. We marvel at the ways of providence, which reflect the passion and active device of the Father and Son to work with His servants to, by all means, try to save some. So... please pray for Ann and James.