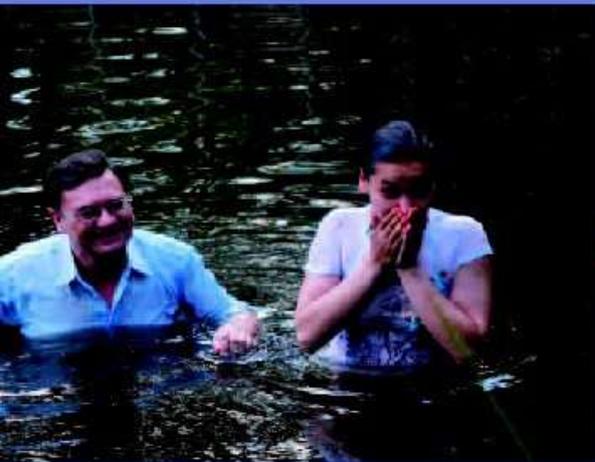


THE Gospel News

"To all nations"



Editorial | The Cup Half Full

How would you describe a partially filled cup of water? A cup half full, or a cup half empty? We can so easily be dragged down into a mire of seeing life sceptically; all our disappointments lead us to a cynical outlook in which we see the negative rather than the positive. And the spirit of our age is very much that way too. But the problem with the 'cup half full' approach is that it too easily appears as mere positivism for the sake of it. None of us can stand wilful naivety, talking up poor behaviour and attitudes as if they are something good, excusing what is clearly wrong, turning a blind eye to reality just because we want to see something positive, and have our own wishes for reality stated as somehow true. Perhaps we hanker for the positivism of early childhood to actually be proven true... But we secretly realize that the Alice in Wonderland approach to life is not only unrealistic, but unhelpful and unhealthy. There is malice in wonderland as well, and we have to see it for what it is. But because we are aware of all this... do we then see the cup as half empty? Are we to really look cynically at our brethren, lack confidence in our own salvation, fail to perceive the good, living beneath the grey cloud of a reality we perceive as only oppressive and negative? We sin, we have sinned and we will continue committing sin... and so do others. Every sin is avoidable in the sense that sin is not inevitable; it is culpable exactly because it is not inevitable. And so the past, the past of our own failures and those of others, tends to exist within us as a fountain of continual regret, so often mulled over, and leading to a general outlook which sees the cup half empty rather than half full. And so often it is a 'cup half full' spirit which leads to a negative view of our brethren, which robs our collective life of the joy and mutual upbuilding which ought to characterize it.

Imputed Righteousness

God perceives sin, dysfunction and failure more keenly than any. And yet He imputes righteousness to those in Christ. We are clothed with His Son, He sees us as Him. He sees us so positively, without in any way being the kindly schoolteacher or parent who turns a blind eye. He turns no blind eye, and yet our status in Christ means that He views us with enthusiasm and positive hope for eternal relationship with us. Paul, the one who expounded these things more specifically than any other, is a parade example of positivity about his brethren. He saw the weaknesses of his Corinthians, and yet he could say that he was confident in them in every way: "I rejoice that in everything I can have perfect confidence in you" (2 Cor. 7:16). He saw them as the innocent Eve in Eden (2 Cor. 11:3). "He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us (not 'hopefully, if you get your act together!') with you" (2 Cor. 4:14) sounds as if Paul fully expected the Corinthians to be there, and to be joined at the right hand side of the judgment seat by himself and Titus. 1 Cor. 15:51 has the same certainty of their acceptance: "We shall be changed". "We (Paul and Corinth) know... we have a building of God... eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1). Truly could Paul write: "Our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that, as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation" (2 Cor. 1:7). But these were the Corinthians who denied the resurrection, who practiced gross immorality, got drunk at the breaking of bread, who loved Paul the less the more he loved them. Paul was counting them as righteous, whilst turning no blind eye to their weakness.

Other Examples

All was not well with the Thessalonians either. He had to warn them too: "Abstain from fornication" (1 Thess. 4:3), and he had to teach them that when a believer dies, that is not the end, he will be resurrected at the last day (1 Thess. 4:13). 1 Thess. 5:14 clearly states that there were amongst them the "disorderly... faint-hearted... the weak". But in 1 Thess. 1:3 Paul writes of

his “Remembering [‘making mention of’] without ceasing before our God and Father your work of faith, labour of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”. Paul brought to God’s attention, as it were, their faith, hope and love. And we must ask ourselves as to how much of our prayer time is taken up with telling God the good things about others? Paul says he did this “without ceasing”. Quite a challenge to our prayer life, which so easily tends towards self-centredness. Paul was not blind to their faults, but before the presence of God in prayer, he told the Father of their better side. Nor were the Philippians perfect. Paul lamented: “For they all seek their own, not the things of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 2:21), in conscious allusion to his earlier words that such self-seeking should not be the case amongst the ecclesia (1 Cor. 10:24). Paul was clearly disappointed in how little care there was for the spiritual welfare of others; he felt Timothy was the only one who ‘got it’. And yet he is so positive about his Philippian brethren, whilst seeing their deep weaknesses. His ‘cup half full’ approach was therefore not the result of some naive, Alice in Wonderland optimism. It was the more notable because he was not blind to the weaknesses of his brethren. He really believed what he wrote about the imputation of righteousness. In Phil. 2:30, Paul comments about Epaphroditus: “For the work of Christ he came near to death, hazarding his life to supply that which was lacking in your service toward me”. Their ministry to Paul was “lacking”; and yet Paul speaks so positively of their great love for him in chapter 1. In Phil. 4:10 he writes of how their care for him had “revived”, and excuses their lack of service to him as not having had the opportunity to do so: “But I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at length you have revived your thought for me. I know you did indeed take thought for me, but you lacked opportunity”. The rebuke in Phil. 2:30 stands as it does; but Paul positively seeks to excuse them, whilst not turning a blind eye. This is a worked example of the mind which thinks on positive spiritual things (:8) having the love which covers weakness; not in a naive, cup half full way, not papering over disappointment and failure, but genuinely wanting to move on from that which is past and press forward positively. Seeing the cup half full is no call to naivety or pretending not to notice things; for that is no basis for legitimate, authentic relationship. Just as Paul praises the Corinthians for their love of him and then reveals their lack of love and respect for him, so with the Philippians Paul is so positive about their care and love for him, and yet is not blind to the fact that their lack of service led to Epaphroditus nearly losing his life. This is not merely seeing the cup half full rather than half empty; this is the rightful praise of others for what devotion they do show, even if it is lacking, insufficient (Gk.), more than half empty. Paul’s attitude was surely a reflection of how the Father sees us His wayward children, focusing with joy upon what little obedience and devotion we do show rather than overly lamenting ‘that which is lacking in [our] service toward Him’. We must “forget” what is past and look forward to what is ahead (Phil. 3:13), and that is what Paul did concerning the failure of the Philippians to care for him at one point. “Forgetting the past” doesn’t mean to delete past events from our memory banks- because that is not within our power to do. And Paul talks freely about his awful past, he had not obliterated his memories. So Paul presumably means that we are not to wallow in past failure, especially failures of others toward us. The certainty of what is ahead means we will focus on that; the glass is not only half full rather than half empty, but more than half full. We admit we have not yet attained perfection, but this doesn’t mean we are to allow the past to exist as a fountain of constant regret. We are to look forward in sure hope to the things ahead- which is to know Christ, to be perfectly and fully like Him through the resurrection to life (Phil. 3:10,11,14). Paul sees this hope as being “ahead”. He looks forward to it without any doubt as to whether it shall be true for him; because ‘hope’ means a confident assurance that what we hope for we shall certainly receive. It is not a mere ‘hoping for the best’.

The Full Cup

Paul wouldn't allow the failure of the Philippians to disturb his own very personal hope.

Whether or not they helped him was of no personal consequence to him, because "I have all things and abound". "I have all things" is quoting from Jacob in Gen. 33:11. Having earlier deceived Esau of the blessing, he asks Esau to now "take away my blessing, for God has dealt with me in grace, and I have all things". Jacob eagerly resigned all the material blessings he once held dear, because God's grace was "all things" to him. The same argument is used to Paul in 2 Cor. 11, where he is told that having God's grace is sufficient; we need nothing more, because with that we have all things. Being "filled" is a major New Testament theme; our cup is not half full, it is full, indeed "my cup overflows" (Ps. 23:5). We shall be saved. That is the good news of the Gospel. The positive experience of that grace means that we shall have a hopeful, positive outlook upon all things, and upon our brethren.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

NEWS FROM KENYA



KITALE | Bro Martin Chemiati

I would like to thank you for your comforting letter. It gave me a very courageous and wonderful message. Although my partner has fallen asleep and I am now 60 years old, I wish to continue preaching and teaching this wonderful message to others.

We in Kenya are facing a very critical situation, for politics are very unstable and can cause chaos. Because of this, I would like reassurance that Jesus' return is near. I am very sure that everybody will witness our Lord's return.

I have been visiting Colleges and Secondary Schools teaching with the NEV Bible, and the commentaries give good notes. Now I have one professor who is very good to me, and I appreciate being heard by such a person. I baptized 9 people during 2015 and now I hope to baptise 5 people who need NEV Bibles. May the Lord bless us all.

SHIMO LA TEWA | Bro Anthony Wafula

I would like to thank CAT for all the literature you sent me: it is a great help to my Ecclesia, especially the Kiswahili New Testament. These are excellent books with a great spiritual message. May God bless you by expanding and adding more funds for your work and I trust you will be able to continue feeding us with the great messages from the Bible.

If it is God's will to delay to send His Son to establish His Kingdom on this earth, we pray He will open doors for you to publish a full Kiswahili Bible, so that we will be assisted more as we read with guidance from the Bible Planner.

We need teaching aids for the Sunday School. Please help our children to respect the Word of God and to know it. We are working hard to make sure that all our Ecclesial members will grow in knowledge of the Word of God. Let us all pray and wait for the return of Jesus Christ.

KENYA - MAJOR REFUGEE PROBLEM

The Kenya Government generously provided two big refugee camps for 600,000 refugees. The Government has now decided to close these two camps which means these refugees will have to go elsewhere.

Many organizations have strongly protested about this, but Kenya Government are maintaining their position. It would seem the underlying reasons are that economically they cannot continue to afford them. There has been violence in the camps; owing to lack of international support food allowances have been reduced. They are suspected of being breeding grounds for AL-Shabaab terrorists. Whilst living in the camps some of the refugees work locally which reduces employment opportunities for native Kenyans, causing unrest. The census of July 2016 shows the current rate of unemployment for Kenyans is 25% with no reduction forecast for the future, added to which possible economic implications of Britex are causing concern.

The various refugee organizations are working on schemes to move them to other countries, repatriate them to their former countries or train some to ultimately become Kenyan citizens.

The situation is very worrying and uncertain for our Brethren and Sisters in the camps, things could work out for their benefit and they are in special need of the favourable working of the hand of Providence to provide what will be best for them. They certainly need our prayers.



Pictured above: Bro Isidore Mwibeleca and his family who live in the Kukuma Refugee Camp

NEWS FROM MALAWI



A successful seminar was held in June and Bro Austin Nyirenda shared some Chichewa Bible Basics and Introducing Bible Basics

NEWS FROM NIGERIA



EZINIHITTE | Bro Adolphe Effiong

We received with joy your letter and all the good things of the Lord, which included 8 Bibles (European Version), Introducing Bible Basics, The Real Christ, James and Others, Are the

Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit Possessed Today? Homosexuality and the Church, Women and the Church, and Present Day Events. It was with joy that I presented these books to the group. They all raised their voices and said, “May the Lord bless you and strengthen you in the knowledge of the things of the Kingdom.”

I am sorry for the delay in replying; it was because I was writing exams in the campus when the parcel arrived. We are increasing in numbers of newcomers. They embrace the teaching and I am preparing them for Baptism soon.

MBAISE | Bro Blessing Nwigwe

Thank you for the items you sent us – leaflets about suffering, ‘One Bible, Many Churches’ and a letter inside it, which I received today. Thank you for advising me of the financial situation and postage increases for Gospel News magazines. If possible I would like to continue to receive them, at least 6 copies (or as many as you can spare), as they are given to my brethren and sisters to read.

Since last year fuel prices have increased, which makes transport and products like food items more expensive. Also, in some States has prohibited their people to sell local gin (Kaikai) alcohol, which kills many people. Also Lassa Fever, which comes from the rat, kills many people. We are fearful of this, as it is not known how to prevent or control it.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



KEMPTON PARK and surrounds

We praise God for protecting our Sis Catherine Nyamasoka during an armed robbery at her home. The robbers locked her in a bathroom and stole all the electronics from the house, but thankfully did not harm her. We ask for prayers as she recovers from this ordeal and continues to trust in our Father for protection. “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

The Highest Gift

The highest gift you can wish for is to be able to speak the messages of God. He who preaches the Word of God is using his speech for the building up of the faith of one man, the encouragement of another, or the consolation of another. The preacher builds up the Church of God. (1 Cor. 14:2,4.)

New Testament in Modern English – Phillips

SOWETO

On the first weekend in June we welcomed Bro Moses Dhlakama from Zimbabwe, pictured below. He attended our Saturday seminar and gave us an excellent exhortation, on the Sunday. We pray that God strengthens him as he continues his preaching in Zimbabwe.



Bro Daniel Makhado went to Limpopo for 10 days to follow up on existing Bible students and meet new ones who had responded to an advert in the local newspaper. He reports back that he met 17 students who seemed very keen and who were receptive to the gospel message. He added that his preaching material even got finished sooner than expected.

YEOVILLE

Blessed be Yahweh the God of Israel our God for the blessings of good health and love of life we all enjoyed in our ecclesia for this winter month of June. The Kana family was down with flu, Bro Robert Petani was also down with flu, after arriving back from a job interview in Pmbg. We thank God for keeping our brothers and sisters safe, most especially we thank God for the safety of Bro Stewart Gomeza and his family who were robbed at home by armed robbers. The robbers escaped with all their valuables. We also thank God for the safety of Bro Willy Mbambi who was also robbed at gun point at his work place and all their cell phones were collected by the armed robbers last month. We think of some of our brethren who lost their loved ones, and pray that Yahweh the God of Israel our God will be with all those families: Sis Pierette Makasu lost two of her family members back in Congo, Sister Khady Zeli also lost one of her family members and Bro Stewart Gomeza lost his sister in-law back in Zimbabwe, from where he has returned safely after the funeral.

We are indebted to the South African 'Guteng Family News Letter' for much of the South African news, edited by Sis Paddy Campbell.

NEWS FROM TANZANIA



ILOMBA | Bro James A Mwangomo

We still need some help in order to strengthen our faith. Unfortunately our meeting hall was closed last month by the city authorities, due to it having no latrine. Now some of our members are meeting in our brothers' and sisters' homes. This makes teaching and exhorting new believers difficult, as most of our contacts are not happy to meet in the homes of our brothers.

Divine Assurance

How we long for the Millennial age, whose glories fill the sacred page, to dawn upon mankind, to gladden the heart and elevate the mind. An age of plenty and contentment, of security and peace. When none shall nurse resentment, and war and strife shall cease. When all people everywhere, in these blessings will rejoice; to seek the Lord their deepest care, will be; and to worship with one voice. The man ordained will come from heaven, to rule the nations with a iron rod. Divine assurance has been given, "In that I raised him from the dead" said God.

A.C.

NYARUGUSU ECCLESIA 2

We have received the good news from Bro Iyendja Amsini that he and Bro Daniel Sabuni recently baptised our new Brother Fidel Amnobe from the Refuge camp and we pray that the Lord will bless him on his journey towards the Kingdom.



“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:22-23)

NEWS FROM UGANDA



BUGIRI | Bro Mukisa Samuel

When Jesus was resurrected from the grave after three days, he instructed his disciples to go and teach the Gospel, baptizing believers in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A true believer is one who has become a personal follower of Christ, imitating his life, showing his truth and walking in Christ's way; living Christ's love and sharing the truth of the Gospel to others.

One of the most important attributes to become a disciple is teachability. Learning for a disciple is not just taking in information, but involves being changed by what we learn, being transformed (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus called people to follow or imitate his life.

I would like to thank my dear brothers and sisters who, by preaching and example, bring people to become believers. I encourage my dear brethren to strive to spread the good news of the Gospel all over the world.

NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



CHINGOLA | Bro Pinoty Chembele

Chingola ecclesia in particular is progressing well. The books you sent me are helping us very much. So far many people would like to start taking Bible lessons using Bible Basics. As I write, we have 38 contacts, 4 of whom were baptised using other lessons from Bro. Z. Muntete of Nakonde. 8 are almost finished and ready for baptism, one of whom is my daughter who is my firstborn. Then 26 more will be baptised after finishing the lessons, or Bible Course, God willing. As it is, these four baptised members have no Bibles at all, therefore I would be grateful if you could send four Bibles for them to use.

My daughter is now doing the last level of her Secondary School, but unfortunately she has a lot of credit at school. Total amount of the credit is K1,775: that is school fees which should be paid up for two years, and the exam fees as well. But all this money I have failed to pay because I am still not at work. In Chingola companies are not employing new people, but are re-trenching workers.

KABOMPO | Bro Timothy Kaambeu

I was transferred from Chinkonkwelo Primary School to Phakasa Primary School. My father also has retired from service and is now settled at Malolwa at the farm.

I am very interested in the Gospel News magazine and like to hear from my brothers and sisters around the world, especially that we are one community and spiritual family in Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

I am a trained primary teacher working in the Republic of Zambia, but faced with a lot of challenges. The Government of Zambia recently announced that all those with primary certificates in teaching should upgrade to Diploma: failure to do this would mean they will have to expect losing their job in three years' time. Sponsors for applicants are required.

KABOMPO | Bro Reuben Musole Kaambeu

I am happy to inform you that the year has brought many blessings in the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. More people are now attending our Bible Class lessons and paying much attention to our explanations of Bible topics and difficult verses. They have shown appreciation and many have come to believe our message here at Nakikwa.

Thank you very much for the leaflets which I have photocopied and distributed to many of them who are seriously studying with me, using the Bibles you sent me. I would very much appreciate it if you could send 5 of the New Testaments (seeing that postage has become very high these days, it may be very costly to send me extra NEV Bibles).

Finance is still difficult for me, as I have not yet been paid repatriation, leave pay, nor pension packages, and it is far from Kabompo town. However, our life conditions are very much secure in terms of food supply to meet our needs and health condition. The yams we planted are doing well, and we intend to start on vegetable production in addition to the ducks and chickens we are rearing. This makes it pleasant for us to continue staying at the farm and use the house in Kabompo town to raise us some income for school children's fees.

Conditions are far better in terms of food supply, and all the children – Peter (Grade 12), Daniel (Grade 7), Love (Grade 7), Emeldah (aged 6), Mary (aged 4) and Reuben (aged 2) are healthy looking. Thank you for praying for us, and please continue to do so.

We intend to sink a borehole at the farm for the supply of good and safe drinking water (water point is far away – the river is about 34 kilometres, and the communal borehole is almost 3-4 kilometres). But at the moment we have no means of sinking the borehole, but God willing, when we get our pension dues this will be possible.

KABOMPO | Bro Wellington Mukuma

I always receive your Gospel News magazines and use them by showing them to non-believers and other ecclesial attendees so that they will believe that the Christadelphian Brotherhood is a

worldwide community. Because when they see us in small number they tend to laugh at us, forgetting that God does not judge by appearance or multitude, but by the way we live, and the faith that we have in Christ Jesus. Therefore never remove me from your mailing list, as I am still much alive in Christ and in need of these gospel magazines.

NB. I have a fourth baby girl and now have four ladies. My wish was to have a baby boy, but my wish was not God's will, and may His will be done.

KAFUE | Bro Josiah Siame

I write to tell you that I do receive the Gospel News magazine every time you send it to me. It is my prayer that God will bless CAT's effort to spread His Word throughout the world. Do not hesitate to send me any material you think will help me to widen my knowledge of the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

KAFUE | Bro Lotson Kayuni

What is stealing? - taking property from a person without permission. What the Bible says: "Let the one who steals steal no more, rather, let him do hard work, doing good work with his hands, so that he may have something to share with someone in need." (Eph. 4:28) "Do not be misled.... Thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers and extortioners will not inherit God's Kingdom." (1 Cor. 6:9-10). **Photo of Bro Lotson page 43**



Bro Lotson Kayuni reading his Bible under a Mango tree (article page 44)

KAMPIRIMPOSHI | Bro Austen Mwaka

I acknowledge receipt of the Swahili New Testament Bibles, and assure you that at these crucial times I will put them to good use by giving them to those who seek to know the Truth. For it is the Truth that will set us free from the bondage of sin, in readiness to be with Christ in new Jerusalem.

Much as I understand the costs and expenses attached to such a big parcel, also here Handling Fees have been raised. Nevertheless we have to soldier on in readiness for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, as time is running out owing to what is happening around the world.

Though I am equally the same, sick and ageing, all that I do on a daily basis is to spread the good news to mankind, so as to narrow the gap for the return of our Saviour to come and replenish this sinful world. You are always in my prayers, for you to continue with this noble task. Sooner or later we will be together in new Jerusalem.

I always wish you good health, together with Sister Gwladys. We know that as true believers, though we sleep in the Lord, we will be raised and with Him for ever.

All the literature you sent me is used to witness the Truth. Surely times are very frightening. As I write this letter, one of my daughters phoned me from Lusaka capital city, informing me about people rioting, because of ritual murders of people. The four suspects were found with human hearts and private parts; where they sell these, I don't know. Earthquakes at Ecuador and Japan, where lives are being lost; people drowning in seas intending to cross over to Europe searching for green pastures - all these are signs.

I have five grand-children, 3 girls and 2 boys, whom I would have loved to have Sunday School lessons, and toys if possible, plus 3 children for our neighbour. I find it somehow easier to expound the Bible because of commentaries or foot-notes in the New European Version Bible.

LUSAKA | Bro Francis Mukabe

I was very happy when you reminded me about why you stopped sending me the Gospel News. I really like the magazine, it has been publishing articles that indeed have made me what I am today in the Lord. It is therefore my pleasure to show continued interest in the magazine. For this reason I am here to submit my contribution to the magazine and I will continue to do so, God willingly. Below is my article.

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are of noble purposes and some of ignoble. (2 Timothy 2:20-21). If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the master and prepared to do good work.

It is up to us the way we want our Heavenly Father to use us. Whether we want to be used in the way we would be respected; to do good work, or despised; to be used in bad ways. For example, (Isaiah 43:16-17), God says, and it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc (wide spread destruction/disorder or confusion).

And Jesus also talked about the weeds. (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43). It is either we belong to the sons of the kingdom, and shine in the kingdom of our Father, or we will belong to the sons of the evil one and be responsible for all the mess and suffering we cause on our brothers and sisters.

MUFULIRA | Bro Katongo Mulenga

As with me and my family we are OK except that I have developed pain in my right leg. Thank you very much for your concern about me.

We receive all the magazines at the same address as Duncan, who stayed with me when he came to Zambia in 1989 when he came from Kitwe sick.

My reason of not communicating with you is that I have been out staying near Congo. Please keep sending me Gospel News. If you have messages on FDs or DVD tapes you can also send some. I will keep contributing to Gospel News from time to time as we are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to come to establish the kingdom of God. We are seeing the signs through kingdoms fighting each other, earthquakes and floods from countries to countries. All these are signs of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and all these can be read from the book of Matthew 24:3-14.

Warm greetings are from my wife, Sister Elizabeth and my family to you all. Enclosed is my passport photo.



Pictured above: Bro Katongo Mulenga

PEMBA | Bro Joseph Mulawo

I was very happy indeed to receive a parcel of literature from you, all very interesting, educative and encouraging material. This will help us to increase our knowledge of the truth about the word of God and His Son Jesus Christ, for whose return we are waiting, to put to an end human rule.

I wish to let you know that this year in our country, we may have a bad rainy season. We have not received any good rains at all. Because of this we may expect poor or no harvest this year of our staple food – the maize crop. God may provide an alternative.

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless us as we wait for His second coming to bring peace, joy, love and happiness.

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



ZVISHAVANE | Bro Dickson Chidzana

First of all I want to thank CAT very much for your words of wisdom and spiritual guidance. To me you are my spiritual guides, for when I am lost, you take me back on track through the Word of God. I like the way you preach, your attractive and simple English filled with words of wisdom – please keep it up.

Last year I was transferred from Zvishavane to Kwekwe, things were not good and the situation caused me to get carried away from the Word of God and my prayer life started going down. With the books, The Gospel News to all nations, it taught me to restore my mind and heart. The Lord Jesus is helping you to win souls and teach the Truth to the nations.

Compassion

Think of compassion. It is love desiring the good of men in their pain and in their predicament. It is love springing up and running over for the sake of those who need salvation and life. It is sensitivity, moved, active and triumphant. “Let this mind be in you.” Hardness is thus outlawed and meanness is banished. The compassion of Christ in his disciples will allow nothing radically to interfere with loving service towards the broken and bereft. No personal preferences, no human pride, no superior wisdom, no love of comfort will hinder the sensitivity of love... abandon yourself to the gracious example of the Redeemer.

A New Life in Christ

We should not permit anyone to delude us with persuasive arguments. Having received the Lord Jesus as our Messiah and Saviour we should be rooted in him and should build up our spiritual lives in Him with thanksgiving as we have been taught. We should beware of anyone who would lead us away by the philosophies and traditions of men because it is in Christ alone that the whole fulness of divine truth is embodied. He is the head of every principality and power and it is in Him that they have been “circumcised” by putting off the sins of the flesh. This took place at our baptism when we were buried with him and then raised to a newness of life through our faith in the power of God. Col 2:12, Rom 6:4. The old man having died, the new man having arisen with all former sins forgiven.

Bro Moses Dklakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

Pilate Washed His Hands ... but Jesus Washed Their Feet!”



Maybe there is no real connection between these two events, or is there?

Both men were leaders, both had power and authority, one from Rome the other from Heaven!

The connecting link is all about accepting responsibility for others.

Pilate stepped back, heeding his wife’s words,

“have nothing to do with this righteous man”; the Lord stepped forward, heeding His Father’s words to have ‘everything to do’ with these less righteous men. We might look for many lessons for present day believers in these two men and their actions.

Look at the contrast!

- Pilate thought only of himself - Jesus thought only of others.
- Pilate was a worldly man - the Lord, “was not of this world.”
- Pilate perished - Christ was raised to die no more!

John 13 is the account of the start of the ‘quiet and private time,’ that Jesus shared with his disciples before He was crucified. We may underestimate just how much Jesus needed and valued the company of His friends.

At the very start – special time

The Lord Jesus began with an act of supreme service; He began washing His disciples' feet. We can take good note of that scene – the King designate, the High Priest to be appointed, the coming Saviour of the world served His brethren – first!

We might shortlist the elements of those few precious hours like this:

Humiliation| “Jesus took a towel” - “He took upon Himself the role of a servant”.

Demonstration| “He began to wash and wipe” A priestly role.

Exhortation| “I am the Good Shepherd” and “My Father is the true Gardener”.

Restoration| “Father, I pray for them” and “that they may be one...as we are!”

The fellowship we share

This is our special time, and, by faith, we believe – the Lord is present among us too.

They came together. We come together too We can be just the same - listening to Him, praying with Him, watching for Him coming again.

We may be in company of many brethren, with just a few or even quite alone, yet we can feel that we are in the company of many. The Father, Son and children – all together in one.

The two examples

Pilate washed his hands! It is possible to do the same with our brothers and sisters. To be less concerned about their welfare, or standing alongside in their times of distress. To be more concerned to secure our own position.

Jesus washed their feet! It is also possible to do the same to our brothers and sisters. To serve them in the most menial of ways, stooping down, putting off our personal needs and serving one another.

A final word

“...by this will ALL men know that you are MY disciples, in that you have LOVE one for another.”

Bro Neil Todd (New Zealand)

The Altogether Lovely

It is a comforting thought to know that Jesus was ‘one of us.’ He was no angel sent down from heaven to play an acted part in human affairs – he was a human who had to carve out a character by the same methods as every other man. To think that he was of the same clay as we are! What a reassuring thought it is. Yet the thought is reassuring only when we realize what Jesus made of himself.

It is true that he had the same raw material to work on as we have, and the same nature which can attract us so strongly towards sin and away from God, but oh! what a work he accomplished in the formation of his own character. What perfection was the result of his labours – what an image of God he portrayed in himself.

It is necessary at times to realize that Jesus Christ was the son of a Jewish woman – that he was a seed of Abraham and an offspring of Adam. There is a sense of kinsmanship when we appreciate that he was cut out of the same stratum of human clay, but there the comparison ends. We must not unduly emphasize this aspect of Jesus Christ – we must ponder over what he became. We know how from nature’s clay the most delicate piece of Dresden ware as well as the coarsest mug is made. Yet how unlike they are! In the one is infused all the artistry and skill of a master hand – painted with the sure touch of an expert – glazed with a whiteness of dazzling purity – slender and beautiful in shape. Everything is a delight to the eye and the senses.

In the other we have a roughly made piece of craftsmanship, revealing the unskilled methods by which it is made. The shape is ugly and the china thick and coarse – the glazing is uneven and in places the clay shows through. There is no painting on it to relieve its hard lines and it has only one redeeming feature – its usefulness. Put them side by side and mark the contrast. That is how we appear when we put ourselves by the side of Christ.

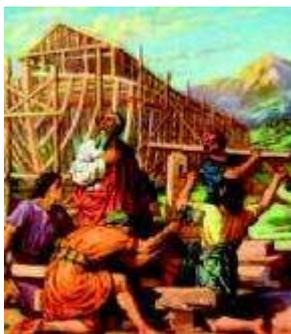
To think that such “a thing of beauty” as the life and character of Christ could have been fashioned out of clay! To think that the very handiwork of God has been executed upon the life of one man – that the lines of that character should be exactly true to the pattern of God. No flaws there – no weaknesses of the flesh in that character – no “almost perfect” – no “good enough” about that life’s work. But when we look into our own lives, what do we find? We find the crude contour of the illshaped mug – no delicate lines of beauty, now – no hand painted work of God – even the glazing which covers the natural clay is not uniform, for in many places we find the flesh and its lust working through the character which the new man is endeavouring to make. What a “patchy” job we are in comparison with Christ!

From an old magazine

Looking Towards Salvation

I believe that our knowledge of God’s Way of Salvation can be strengthened by everything that happens every day of our lives. We can strongly control whether or not we view the individual details in our lives in God’s way.

Let us lay a foundation for this by looking at 2 Corinthians 4:6 and 18. We have to look at the temporal and see its spiritual lessons which will help us understand God’s way better and also follow more closely in our Master’s footsteps. All the time looking and searching for spiritual lessons, instead of dwelling upon that which can so easily be a depressing situation.



I came across a proverb recently: “Look not with your eyes for they see only limitations. Instead look with your understanding and you will see much more.” So the men of faith in Hebrews 11 were commended for their spiritual vision: their ability to see God’s purpose, which they allowed to work in their lives.

Before we turn to Hebrews let us remember the words of our Master: “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37). Are we working to prepare for the return of our Lord? Building an ark of safety? An ark of love, of loving appreciation of what God has done for us? An ark with dimensions declared in terms of love (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Look then at Hebrews 11:7. Notice, “things not seen as yet.” This was the basis of Noah’s reaction – verses 8-10. Abraham “went out” (of a city) to dwell “in tents”, yet he was “looking for (an eternal) city” – verse 27. Moses saw “him who is invisible” – verse 13. These died “having seen” these promises “afar off.” I want you now to try and capture the spirit of this spiritual vision as we look at Numbers 13:12. “Every one a ruler” (R.V. a prince). These should have been men of vision. Ten saw giants. Two saw little men. The attitude of those who saw giants (v 33) was the basis on which Hebrews 3:19 records “so we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” We are brought to realize that according to how we look, so our problems can loom large, or appear insignificant.

Some of the background to their journey is seen in Numbers 11:5,6. Their eyes were set on what they had left behind. They were looking downwards, as well as backwards, for their thoughts were on those fruits which grow in or on the ground. Compare this with what God had promised to them – Deuteronomy 8:8. God wanted them to look forwards and upwards towards all that He had promised. The fruits mentioned here all grow above the ground. What did Jesus say in Luke 21:28? He could well have had this situation in mind. “Look up, lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” It is clear that ten of the spies failed in this. So we want to think about Numbers 13:23,24. All twelve men had shared the burden of carrying these samples of the truth of God’s promise that He would lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Ten of them learned nothing. Their eyes were still downwards, wishing for what had been. Fearful of giants all the way. It is clear that Joshua and Caleb were looking up. They were not afraid of “little men”. They were thinking about the promise of this good land, about the wonder of God’s promises.

They all took of the (burden) of carrying the vine’s fruit, but only two of them saw this as the fruit of the vine. So near and yet so far. We must make sure that we follow in the steps of Joshua and Caleb as we take the emblems.

Because of their spiritual vision, Joshua and Caleb also saw a lesson in the myriads of “what-is-it” (manna) – Exodus 16:15. On the next day they attempted, again, to guide the children of Israel in God’s way – Numbers 14:9. Think about this verse as you read it. Would not Joshua and Caleb say “Manna” instead of “Bread”? The word ‘defence’ has a margin note (Hebrew – ‘shadow’). Read then this verse in this way: “Neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are manna for us: their shadow is departed from them.” What happened to the manna when the sun was up? “It melted away” (Exodus 16:21).

Bro Stanley Blackstone (UK)

Deliverance from Death

We all know that: “The living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything” (Ecc 9:5) and Jesus told us “No man hath ascended up to heaven” (John 3:13). The common idea that at death people go to heaven is completely wrong because the Bible teaches the dead are asleep in the dust of the earth, and when Jesus returns the believers will be resurrected and judged.

So, Brethren and Sisters “Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish” (Psalm 146:3-4).

When Jesus was about to leave he requested his Father “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil” (John 17:15). “For the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28-29).

Ten rulers had natural vision. They looked down and saw giants (in the sight of men). Two rulers had spiritual vision. They looked up and saw little men (in the sight of God). The results of the vision by the ten were disastrous: Numbers 14 verses 25,34,37,38.

What then of us? By looking up, with spiritual vision, at the events of our everyday life we shall be able to see lessons which will guide us day by day in God’s service. If we fail to look in this way, our vision will be downward, away from God. The results could be equally disastrous. Certainly we shall not gain the strength that God will give when we think on Him and try to relate our life to His service.

The Bible is clearly against all the philosophical speculations of an active after-life immediately after death, such teachers are false and completely contrary to the clear teaching of the Bible. The Bible indicates death is a total eclipse of conscious being with no thoughts whatsoever until the resurrection at Jesus’ return.



Bro Daka coming from his farm with some produce

Bro Charles Daka (Mufulira, Zambia)

Message of Encouragement

I would like to share this message of encouragement from the book of Isaiah with brothers and sisters in and through Gospel News.

The book of **Isaiah 25: 6 - 8** (Good News Bible) says: “Here on Mount Zion the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world – a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations. The Sovereign Lord will destroy death for ever! He will wipe away the tears from everyone’s eyes and take away the disgrace his people have suffered throughout the world. The Lord himself has spoken.”

The above words of Isaiah are encouraging words of hope for all of us. In the world today there is a lot of sorrow, suffering, death, war etc., which affects all people. Even if things are, as they are in the world, there is hope of good things to come as stated in the book of Isaiah above. To receive them, we have to obey God’s words in the Bible though it is not easy. Many times we find ourselves falling short of God’s words, but this does not mean that we should not try to do what the word of God says in the Bible. We should continuously pray to God to help us be obedient and have faith in Him; since the Bible says no one can please God without faith, help each other on the narrow and slippery road to God’s Kingdom, and also other people in need etc. This help can be in different ways such as: help brothers and sisters understand the word of God/Gospel, those who are sick to get treatment, provide food, clothes, or essential things in life etc. Some of us find ourselves not giving the necessary help to the brethren or any other people in need, giving a lame excuse of not having lots of money, not being able to help, not earning enough money for us and also help others etc. Our God does not require us to do things we are not able to do. We can use whatever blessings God gives us to help others. The small things/help we do or give our brothers and sisters or other people are what our God requires us to do. There is no need to wait until we get lots of money to help others, because that will not happen or will take quite a long time given the fact that many of us don’t earn that kind of money. The little we get is enough to share with others, because everything we get comes from God and He is able to replace whatever we give others, or even give us more than we need. May our Heavenly Father help us do what is stated above. God bless you all.



Sis Annet Namagga

Lightening the load

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.

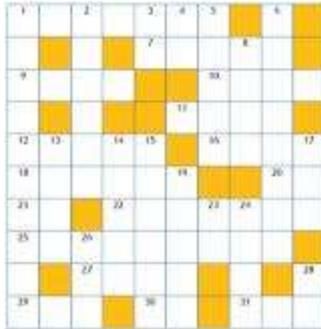
“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

Sis Annet Namagga (Kampala, Uganda)

Gospel News Crossword

Answers on page 21



Clues Across

1. Place where Christ was crucified
7. Jesus said this twice to Thomas
9. This is not to the swift
10. To exchange news
11. First word found in John 21:24
12. A city near Tyre
16. Young children
18. Queen of Persia
20. Middle two letters of an animal slain by David
21. "Come unto ..."
22. Jeremiah speaks of the pastors as this
25. Ithra is said to be this
27. Prefix meaning before
29. Son of Noah
30. First and last letters of Asher's grandson
31. Who stood by them?

Clues Down

1. City by the Euphrates
2. One of the plagues sent on Egypt
3. City of Moab
4. A legal word used in letters
5. A sailing boat
6. Pilate said he would do this to save Jesus
8. First letters of an island
13. Moses (beheaded)
14. Son of Abihail
15. Forest mentioned in 1 Samuel 22:5 (R.V.)
17. A musical note

19. What we can become in God's kingdom
23. First two letters of Paul's companion
24. You could be one at your Sunday School anniversary
26. He was caught in a thicket
28. First word of Isaiah 26



Children and young people, Dapham, Zambia

Let A Man Examine Himself...

The Breaking of Bread should not be taken for granted and hence Paul gives us food for thought. Paul reminds the brethren at Corinth as well as us that our position in Christ is very much like Israel's. The 11th chapter of 1 Corinthians is often read by the presiding brother to introduce the emblems as a way of focusing our minds on the seriousness of this simple but essential act.

The bread and wine remind us of the covenant which binds us to God. As a way of remembering our absent Master, we recognize his perfection in contrast to our unworthiness, and we are thankful for the love and forgiveness we receive through His sacrifice; we also re-dedicate our lives to him, bearing in mind that "with his stripes we are healed". Our self-examination should therefore humble us, and "the love of Christ compels us, because we are convinced that he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

In the privacy of our minds then we should examine ourselves and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. None of us is without sin, otherwise there would have been no need for the sin offering, but "discerning the Lord's body" includes remembering that "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye (we) should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21). In our self-examination we should have the assurance that through Jesus whom we remember we can; "approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb. 4:16). Truly here is a man who was "despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering". Do we then, brothers and sisters, in our self-examination recognize ourselves with his suffering, do we truly know this man whom we remember every first day of the week by breaking bread, do we truly want to share in his suffering? "Let (therefore) a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup".



Bro Costa Kanembe and son Alijah



Bro Costa and Bro Eddy discussing with students

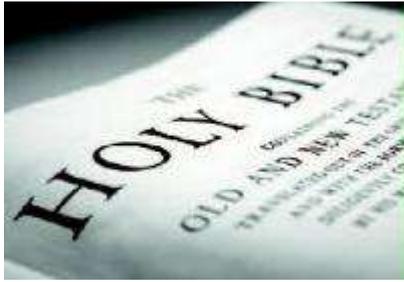
Bro Stewart Gomeza (South Africa)

Step Forward In Faith

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for ... without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb. 11:1,6). We should consider the experiences of Abraham. Abraham believed God and because of this God accepted him as righteous. We should realize that the descendants of Abraham are the people who have the same faith. The scripture predicted that God would put the Gentiles right with Himself through their faith. Through faith God will bless us and we will become His children.

We should live by faith and not be discouraged. The Lord is good, He protects His people in times of trouble; He takes care of those who turn to Him. Let us step forward in faith. Let us have faith in God as did Abraham. To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by such faith that people of ancient times won God’s approval.

As the time of our Lord’s appearing becomes more apparent to us, our faith in God must be intensified so that we become worthy of the Kingdom to be established on this earth by our Lord Jesus Christ.



“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” **Roman 10:17**

Bro Charles Aboagye (Agogo, Ghana)

The Value of Bible Study

The Bible contains proof of its divine origin. No other book can answer the questions of the mind or satisfy the longings of mankind as does the Bible. It is adapted to every age and condition of life, and it is full of that knowledge which enlightens the mind and sanctifies the soul. In the Bible we have the revelation of the living God. It has power to transform life. During all its history a divine hand has been over its creation and preserved it for the world.

The world that we live in has been given the word of God, the perfect gospel message for all mankind, that looks forward to the ending of the reign of sin when the Lord Jesus will return in glory. In the meantime, the gospel of the kingdom is being preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come (Matthew 24:14).

As a guide, the Bible is without a rival. It gives a calm peace to those who believe, and a firm hope for the future. It solves the great problems of life and destiny, and inspires men and women to a life of purity, patience and well-doing. It fills the heart with love for God and a desire to do good to others. So prepared, we can lead a life of usefulness. Through the Bible, we can learn the value of a soul, by revealing the price that has been paid to redeem it. God's word makes known the only antidote for sin, and presents the only perfect code of morals that has ever been given. It tells of the future as well as the preparation necessary to experience it. It makes us bold for what is right, and sustains the soul in adversity and affliction.

For what is all scripture profitable? “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2Timothy 3:16). Jesus said, “Yea, rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it” (Luke 11:28).

What kind of worship results from false teaching? “But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

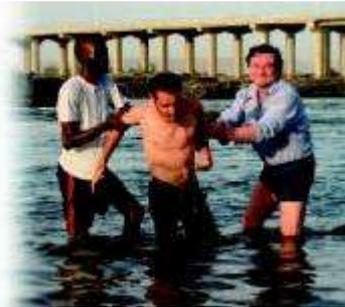
By what doctrines are some to be misled in the last days? “Now the spirit speaketh expressly that, in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils” (1Timothy 4:1 and see 2Peter 2:1).

Lastly, I am very proud of those who know the secrets of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God on earth.

Bro Emmanuel Mulimo (Turbo, Kenya)

The Great Escape

In His great mercy God has provided a way for us to be saved from destruction. This was achieved by the death of His only son, Jesus Christ. But action is needed on our part. First of all, we need to believe what the Bible says about our sins and about the meaning and relevance of the sacrifice of Jesus. We need to be baptised; by being completely immersed in water, we associate ourselves with the death of Christ. As we come out of the water we rise to a new life, a life with completely different standards. In biblical language we will then have a new heart.



Bro Onesimo Makwara

“Go, And Do Thou Likewise” (Luke 10:25-37)

In the above text Jesus twice told this “certain lawyer” to practice his professions. In verse 25 the lawyer asked, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus’ response was also a question: “What is written in the law? How readest thou?” To the lawyer the two questions proved to be too easy due to the fact that he was being questioned about his profession. He was commended for answering well.

James 1:22 says, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” To us, this sounds like saying, ‘Put into practice what you are learning’. Again, Romans 2:13, “(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified....).” This also sounds like saying, ‘Eternal life is solely for the doers of the law’. There also seems a connection with Jesus’ words in Matt. 7:21, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” For failing to do the will of God many will be surprised to hear the Master’s words of rejection, “Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Further on we read (Luke 10 v.29): “But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” Jesus’ answer to this question shows us that he really was a great teacher. He wanted the man to make his own judgment of things – in this case about the behaviour of the men: a priest, a Levite and a “certain Samaritan”.

We are all aware of the part played by each of these three men in the Jewish community. The hero in Jesus’ story was, indeed, the most despised person in the eyes of the Jews. This might have been a deliberate arrangement in order to teach a proud lawyer a lesson. True

neighbourliness is not confined to those only within our reach, but to all men, regardless of who they are, hence the emphasis by Jesus, “Go, and do thou likewise.”

Peter has this to say, “And if ye call on the Father who, without respect of persons, judges according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear”. (1 Peter 1:17)

Bro Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)

Looking Up

Recently we saw a sign which said “Some people only look up when they are flat on their backs”. From a purely physical point of view that’s about right. How many people look up to God when things are going well? Unfortunately very few, it has always been like this. The children of Israel are an outstanding example of how easy it is to forget God in good times. Over and over again the Jews became puffed up when they became prosperous. Then God would punish them in some way.

We are living in exceedingly prosperous times, the poorest among us are rich in comparison to those of our great grandparents, most of us have plumbing water, gas, electricity etc., which are taken for granted. As a result our lives have become softer and we want more and more things, but what has happened to our hearts? Do we think we are better than our forefathers? Elijah confessed that he was not, neither are we and recognising this will help in acknowledging our blessings that come from God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, or are we puffed up with pride of the things we own?

Remember the sin of Hezekiah? He lost practically everything, even to the cutting off of the gold of the doors of the temple to give to Shalmaneser, because he boasted of his possessions. However, God rescued him by miraculously destroying the Assyrian army and then other countries brought him gifts and presents, so that once again Hezekiah had exceeding much riches, then we are told “Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem. Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart” (2Chron 32:25-26). We must never forget everything we have has come from God. Job said “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away – blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21-22). God can open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings if He wills.

When trouble and adversity comes, it is also allowed by God. “For whom the Lord loveth he chastises” and we must as it were flatten ourselves on our backs and look up to God. The key is to always be looking up, to pray without ceasing and not wait until God flattens us on our backs before we turn to Him. If we truly place our lives in His hands and allow Him first place in our hearts then we shall receive a hundredfold in due course.



Bro Moses Komanya

Bro Moses Komanya (Mwanza, Tanzania)

“Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord?”

The angel of the Lord had promised a child to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. According to nature’s laws, it was impossible for these elderly people to have a son. But there is never anything too hard for the Lord – in due time Isaac was born.

This promise is also for our blessing and comfort today. No matter how overpowering our mountains of trouble and suffering may be, God can remove them in a moment. But if He sees they would work to our advantage OR His purpose, He will not lift these burdens, reminding us as He did Paul: “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

“No,” is sometimes the best answer to our prayers, and as we mature in the Truth we will be able to see that indeed “all things work together for good to those who love God, who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).



God made the mighty universe, The holy cherubim, Each marvel in the earth and sky, What is too hard for Him?

And yet He loves each child of His, And if we watch and pray He will perform great things for us Each hour of every day.



Sis Beth Briggs (Canada)

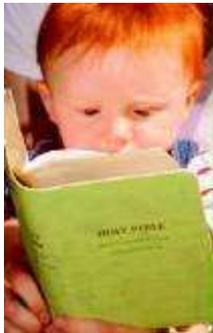
Teaching Our Children About God

Have you considered the early days of Moses? What was the influence which, in spite of his early surroundings in an idolatrous Egyptian palace gave him that godly fear and courage to suffer affliction with the people of God? The secret, of course, lies in the fact that his nurse was his own Hebrew mother. The tremendous influence of a mother upon her child in its early days is one of the great teachings of the Scriptures.

Teaching our children about God is the most challenging task with which parents are faced. If we perform it faithfully, there are rich rewards

Beyond the hour or so at Sunday School, children need the daily spiritual food prepared by the mother as much as her tasty meals. In what ways can we provide our children with wholesome teachings about God, so ensuring their spiritual health throughout the days?

Firstly, about His Name: Outside the home, the most frequent use of the word “God” may reach our children’s ears from the mouths of those who have little respect for Him. Others use His Name under the cover of such words as “golly”, “gosh”, and “gee”. We must not use our lips in this way: let us teach our family to speak His Name always in a respectful manner.



Secondly, about His care for us: “For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.” Our regular times of thanksgiving at mealtimes can be used to remind our children of God’s care. Repeating the same grace should be avoided. The children should be invited to take turns in saying thanks and to use the opportunity to remember God’s blessings which they have met that day: the pretty sunrise, the happy games, health after sickness, the care of schoolteachers.

Thirdly, about His Word: No parents should allow the day to pass without providing their children with something from God’s book: it may be that the sister finds this responsibility falls on her shoulders and, even if she has to work outside the home, she will be strengthened to fit this necessary provision into her busy day by recalling the words of Jesus, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”. The portion which we choose to read should not be too long. What a wonderful picture book God has written to show both young and old how He can transform human lives: the steadfastness of Ruth, the repentance of David, the stamina of Paul.

The experiences of the day may lead us to choose a particular Bible incident to teach our children what is beautiful or ugly in life. When our children read the Bible on their own, look for opportunities to ask them afterwards about their reading. If we are truthful about ourselves when talking together of God’s Word, our children too will become heart searchers. Whenever possible, let the family assemble together daily to read the Scriptures and to pray. Teaching our children about God’s Word takes but a little part of the day, and yet so much is to be gained – God will be brought into the home and His Word will be more than a picture book: it will become a rule for life.

Fourthly, about God's love: "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Our children cannot understand the love of God unless we practice it in the home. This love of God is the kind that blesses and chastises for good.

Sis Mary Eyre (Jamaica)

The Blind Leaders

Jesus spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit?" (Luke 6:39).

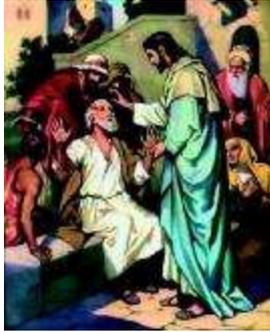
Who are the blind leaders in this scripture? What were they to see and hear in Messiah's day? The leaders of Israel closed their eyes to the truth and afterward, in Jesus' day, presumed to declare their superior discernment in pronouncing Jesus a sinner (John 9:24). In the controversy which arose upon this, Jesus declared that he came into the world both to give sight and to make blind. The Pharisees promptly asked, "Are we blind also?" The Lord's response is striking: "If you were blind, ye would have no sin; but now ye say, we see, therefore your sin remaineth."

There are none so blind as those who won't see. The Pharisees evaded their duties to their parents and so made void one of the ten commandments. Jesus very severely condemns their meaning, by which they put the doctrines of men in the place of God's law. They were astute enough in argument but perverse in their ways; and a blindness of heart and mind had overtaken them. They cleansed the crockery they used at a meal, but were unconcerned that the food that they ate off that crockery had been obtained by graft and fraud.

The world is full of such 'blind', where presumption is not bounded by the desire to 'lead the blind' but extends even to the endeavour to direct those who can see. It is the 'word' to which people are blind and deaf (Isaiah 29:18). It is the knowledge of God that is lacking on the earth. Men are keen on matters of medicine, science, arts, commerce and even literature; but not on the true knowledge of God.

If we cannot discern that the world is 'blind' and 'deaf' and is 'deceived'; then it proves that we ourselves are 'of the world'. If anyone fails to examine self, he is blind and, seeking to teach, is 'a blind leader' (James 3:1). Jesus by restoring the sight of the blind, proved that he was the Messiah. "The blind receive their sight" was one of the evidences given to the disciples of John the Baptist in response to his question from prison: "Art thou he that should come? Or look we for another?" This confirmed the message of the prophets (Isaiah 35:5; 42:7; Psalm 146:8).

Isaiah speaks of blind people that have eyes (Isaiah 43:8). In them was fulfilled the prophecy of Zephaniah 1:17. What a truly spoken parable. What a lesson it contains for us in the brotherhood today.



Bro Gordon Ochieng

Bro Gordon Ochieng (Madiany, Kenya)

The Trinity

“The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God, and yet they are not three God’s, but one God” (so says the false Athanasian Creed).

This creed was drawn up by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, in the 4th century. The creed was acknowledged in France in 670 AD and received in Spain and Germany about the same period. It was received in Rome in 930 AD and was known in parts of Italy in 930 AD. The doctrine of a Triune God - a three part God, is nowhere supported in the pages of the Holy Bible. When we get hold of the Scriptures and consult its pages, we find nothing whatever of this mysteriousness talked about by theologians in the revelation given to us concerning the great, glorious and terrible God. There are none of these peculiar definitions, none of this church and chapel arithmetic, none of such puzzling and confounding statements which people now profess to believe but do not profess in the least to understand. There is nothing revealed concerning a Triune deity, nothing about three co-equal personalities who are not three but one; nothing concerning three co-eternal beings, one of which is said to have been ‘begotten before the worlds’ by the Father alone. The Bible is not a book of nonsense, of confusion, but of wisdom. It is not a book to confuse the intellect of man but to give light and knowledge and understanding.

... none of such puzzling and confounding statements which people now profess to believe but do not profess in the least to understand

The truth I believe is that there is but one God and that He is One (Mark 12:28-29; Isaiah 44:6,8). Here God declares that beside Him, in conjunction with Him, there is no God; none with equal glory, none with co-equal majesty (Isaiah 46:9).

God's word, His plan, brought all things into existence animate and inanimate. By His power alone are all things sustained. He is that God of whom Paul spoke at Athens (Acts 17:24,28). We can read more of Paul's testimony in 1Corinthians 11:3; 3:21-23; 8:4,9; 15:24; 1Timothy 2:5. One God and Father of all (Ephesians 4:4). The epistles always make a clear distinction between God and Christ.

God is the God and Father of Jesus (2Corinthians 1:2,3). Would that be correct if Jesus were an equality with Him? Yet even Jesus himself recognised his Father, as he told Mary Magdalene after his resurrection (John 20:17). He used similar language after his ascension to John in Patmos (Revelation 3:12). These passages and many more prove that there is but one God, the Father.

Bro Gordon Ochieng (Madiany, Kenya)

Baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1-11)

Paul makes a solemn warning to the complacent Christians by referring to the history of the children of Israel. The Israelites experienced redemption when delivered from Egypt, baptism when passing through the sea and God's continual provision and protection as they journeyed through the wilderness. Yet they returned to forbidden ways so that nearly all of them perished in the wilderness. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall. Let us heed the warning and live Christian lives, or we will deprive ourselves of the rich blessing of eternal life.

It was a unique experience for the children of Israel to pass through the Red Sea on dry land, with the water piled up on both sides, and the cloud above them; they are described as having been baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. As they came up out of the Red Sea, the waters closed behind them. This meant that they were free from the bondage of Egypt and the domination of Pharaoh. It also meant that they could not turn back. As the wilderness opened before them, they began a new way of life with God. He guided them with the cloud and by the leadership of Moses.

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, he helps us to break the power of the mind of the flesh (Romans 8:4-11). And if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36). He opens up the way for fellowship with God. We are under His leadership and the guidance of His word which is spirit and life (John 6:63). Baptism by immersion expresses for believers what the Red Sea meant for the Israelites that the old way of life was finished and a new one had begun. Sadly, they later returned to their former sinful ways so that we read God was not pleased with most of them. Their bodies were scattered over the desert. Having begun a new life, they failed to go through with it. After their deliverance from the Egyptians (Exodus 14), their hearts were filled with praise and thanksgiving (Exodus 15). But a short while later they failed when they met such difficulties as lack of food and water. We, today, see broken nations, suffering, violence, victimization, even lack of food which led the Israelites to hanker after the life they had left instead of trusting God to provide for the journey ahead. Let us be careful and watch for the signs showing the coming of our Master is at hand.

In Acts 7:55-56, the heavens are opened and the Son of man stands at the right hand of God; that is to say, he is no longer sitting but standing in order to help Stephen. Our pathway will not always be easy. Jesus Christ said, "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We must expect to be tested. "Consider it is pure joy, brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kinds because you know that the testing of your faith works patience. Patience must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4). When we meet difficulties, we must not look for a way out but look for a way through with God's help. When we come through trials, we shall have a firmer faith in God and be a stronger believer. If we had no problems, our faith would be very anaemic. The trials God allows (as opposed to those we inflict on ourselves) are not a sign of His displeasure, but rather the reverse. Because He loves us, He tests us in order to make us richer in character and more established in our faith (Hebrews 12:7-11).

Bro Gaius Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)

What Is This World Coming To?

Believers in the Middle East are dying at the hands of Islamic State. Millions of refugees flee violence in Syria. Russia is girding up its loins for the war in the Middle East, which is inevitable as the king of the North involves himself in Syria, thus facing Western powers. Boko Haram terrorises Christians and others in Nigeria, bombing market places and bus stations and kidnapping children and adults randomly. What is this world coming to?

Riots break out in various communities in our own nation for various reasons. Those who promote alternative lifestyles have scored major legislative victories in the recent past.

County clerks are now required to issue marriage licenses to same gender couples, no matter what their religious convictions are, so that men can marry men and women can marry women. Those who speak against this sinful lifestyle or help others escape it, have become targets of violence and of legal action. What is the world coming to?

The internet and other media are saturated with immorality and violence. We Christadelphians must grapple with how to handle everchanging technological advances. We should stand up against some of these things as we see the day drawing near, see Psalm 101. Even now phone and computers have become suspect. What is the world coming to?

Because of pervasive wickedness in Noah's day, God brought an end to the world that then was. In a similar way, God will not allow this world to continue forever in its sin infested condition. It must end. But the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up (2Peter 3:7, 10).

We Christadelphians are not called to enforce morality through coercion or through legislation. We are not called to use force to bring criminals to justice or even to protect ourselves and our interests. But we are called to be salt and light. We are called to reach out to individuals in the

world around us, to preach the truth (the gospel of Jesus Christ) and share the love of Christ. We are called to be faithful fathers and mothers who raise faithful children. In so doing, we continue to build and prosper our way through, even in the midst of a world that is coming to an end. We do this because we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness (2Peter 3:13). And we do this because we want as many others as possible to be part of the coming kingdom of God on earth. There is the promise- thou shalt guide me with thy counsel and afterward receive me to glory. So we are to stay firm to receive the wonderful approval of our heavenly Master who is so soon to appear in the world to pour everlasting relief and joy.



Pictured above: Bro Gaius at the back of Bro Dafydd Jenkins (Cardiff, UK) at the Nigerian Fraternal gathering at Port Harcourt, Nigeria

God's Care and Compassion

The circumstance of Israel's preservation in, and exodus from, the Land of Egypt, and the exhibition therein of God's care and compassion, and of His might toward the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has provided us with the comfort and consolation of the assurance that the same mighty and loving Father has called us to Himself, and has promised to "show Himself strong in the behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him" (2 Chr. 16: 9).

W.H.Carter

Bro Gaius Egwu (Ohafia, Nigeria)

Preaching in Public Places

I want to thank the 'Christadelphian Advancement Trust' for sending us copies of "Teach Me Thy Way". We received them with glee. It was nice to have them as they are our preaching weapon. As preaching co-ordinator, the copies did not remain with me for long as they were in great demand. I am grateful that most of the surrounding community loves our gospel literature. Because of its true teaching, I am convinced that even though they do not accept it and give in, the fact is that they actually have it. For it is not amazing to note that this kind of time will come, as it was prophesied: "The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but, having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions" (2Timothy 4:3). But that will not stop us preaching to them, as Jesus commissioned his disciples before his ascension, "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation'" (Mark 16:15). Our mission is to turn those who are astray from the gospel truth into that truth, even though Paul tells us: "They turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2Timothy 4:4). We want the whole creation listening to the truth, not to wander off into myths.

This work of God is carried out in many ways: public gatherings, door-to-door campaigns, in the street and other public places, market places and Bible studies with interested friends. To accomplish our mission we must always be “sober-minded, endure suffering, do the whole work of an evangelist and fulfil the ministry” (2Timothy 4:5). So, brothers and sisters, we have a lot of work to do which was commissioned to us all.

Bro Fannuel Mawodzeka (Mushumbi Pools, Zimbabwe)

Separation

When God called on Abram to leave the city of Ur of the Chaldees and told him to go to a land which God would show him, Abram obeyed the call. But Abraham’s nephew did not take the call of separation. After a quarrel with Abraham, Lot decided he would not stay in isolation but went back into civilisation and become an important man. Note the record of the downward path in Genesis 13:

vs 10 ~ he lifted up his eyes

vs 10 ~ he beheld (i.e. he examined carefully)

vs 11 ~ he chose the plain of Jordan

vs 11 ~ he separated himself from Abraham (to whom the promises had been made)

vs 12 ~ he pitched his tent (ie he decided to stay)

Genesis 19:1 ~ he sat at the gate (ie he became a ruler in the land following the affairs of man and not the things of God.

Lot lived in Sodom which has given its name to the most abominable of all the sins of men. Lot turned away from such sins and, later in life, turned back to God thus becoming ‘righteous’ in the eyes of God. Nevertheless, his unwise early choice of returning to live amongst unbelievers is a lesson to all of us. The wickedness of Sodom and its final destruction was taken by the Lord as an example of the wickedness which would characterise the world in the days when his second coming can be expected (Luke 17:28-30).

Answers to Crossword on earlier page

Across: 1. Calvary 7. Reach 9. Race 10. Chat 11. This 12. Hosah 16. Tots 18. Esther 20. io 21. Me 22. Brutish 25. Israelite 27. Ante 29. Ham 30. Hr 31. Men Down: 1. Carchemish 2. Locust 3. Ar 4. Re 5. Yacht 6. Chastise 8. Chio 13. Oses 14. Ahban 15. Hereth 17. Soh 19. Ruler 23. Ti 24. Item 26. Ram 28. In

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

Carelinks | Germany

The Lord said to Ezekiel: “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Then he said to

me, 'Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.' So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth." There is a sense in this account that something, that is at first sight inedible, becomes the most beautiful taste in the life of the person who eats it.

Sue and Steve Gretton write: "We have been rather slow to get started, and perhaps reluctant to take the gospel to those who call for it, yet now that we have 'taken the plunge' we have been filled with a joy that makes other holiday trips seem rather tasteless in comparison. Instead of merely enjoying the beauties of nature, or great human constructions, or exotic foods and cultures or exercising our bodies in pleasant surroundings, we have found the joy of bringing the gospel and the waters of baptism to those who hunger and thirst for something of real value. I met P and his wife F last August in Northern Cyprus where they were on holiday with a group who were baptised. After their return to Iran, the government became suspicious of their interest in Christianity and they fled the country. Since then their house was raided and computers and literature seized as incriminating evidence of their interest in Christianity. We asked them whether or not the laws on conversion to Christianity were implemented, or whether it was just a threat. They told us that despite what you might read on Wikipedia on the internet, there are secret courts and after arrest, people just 'disappear'. They personally know people to whom this has happened. This is the expected outcome of conversion. And coming to the west has not been without great difficulties and even dangers to them in the hostel where they have to stay. There is no privacy and they have to share a dormitory with six other people, some of whom are Muslims. F spoke of her childhood in which she became aware of the huge gulf between what she was taught about Allah, with the fears and threats that were instilled in her by her teachers, and what she perceived as the truth of God in nature all around her. The impact of Romans 1:20 is very true to her: "the invisible things of Him, since the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made even His everlasting power and divinity." P asked us baptise his parents who are on holiday this week. The circumstances were unpromising, but we prayed and the Lord made a way! Duncan was in Northern Cyprus baptizing a contact and was going on from there to Italy to baptize more, and had to pass through Istanbul, as most flights to Nicosia are through Istanbul. P's parents, E and M, were in Istanbul at the same time, and Duncan was able to meet and baptize them. Having seen the fate of their son, it was not surprising that they were extremely fearful, especially as the rest of their tour group were Muslims, and they had to give them the slip in order to meet up with Duncan. There are no coincidences in the lives of God's children; clearly this meeting in Istanbul was meant to be. They need our prayers as they return to Iran.

It was with joy that they entered the waters of baptism and became committed followers of our Lord Jesus Christ and children of God. Their hunger for the scriptures cannot be described and we long to spend more time with them as they feel like our own children. And in central Germany we were invited to the home of another refugee from Iran. Her own sister was baptised last year and has since escaped to UK where she has been introducing the gospel to her family and to all who will hear and regularly attends an ecclesia. Never have I seen anyone in such a state of excitement and anticipation of her baptism. Her replies to the questions about her beliefs as she stood in the water waiting for her immersion were given with conviction and sincerity that made the whole effort and cost Sorry photo removed for security reasons of going there worthwhile just to hear her. And so S becomes a new sister in Christ. Now both sisters and their cousin have accepted the Truth that Jesus is the Son of God. But please join with us in prayer for the one who is stranded in Iran, unable to leave, unable to practice her faith openly and afraid to contact us by internet for fear the communication is overheard. Sue and I have tasted the joy of bringing some to saving grace. We have joined the company of those who have

decide to eat the scroll and we can assure you it does taste of honey, and the taste does not fade, like earthly things. Carelinks now needs others to pick up the scroll and eat for the need is great. “If you abide in me and my words abide in you,” says the Lord, “you shall ask whatever you will and it shall be done to you. Herein is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit.” S immediately spoke to her friend in another part of Germany about her baptism. There was an enthusiastic response that has yet to be followed up as soon as time allows. Please think about your holiday plans. They don’t need to be abandoned, but surely a day or two could be spent visiting those who are hungry and thirsty for the things we have been given? Please think and pray about it and let us know if you can join us for a trip or even trust the Lord and go alone, (but with Him, of course). We are very happy to share our experiences with you and give advice about some of the practical aspects of the work.”

Carelinks | Italy

Because of its geographical location, Italy has become home to large numbers of African migrants. Many have been there already many years, and are working legally, often for minimum wage, and gather together for Christian worship in mainly Pentecostal churches. The problem with Pentecostalism is that the continued emphasis upon the false prosperity Gospel, always hyping people up for miracles and then guilt tripping those who don’t get them, along with high pressure to donate money to the pastors... leaves thoughtful people feeling very short changed and disappointed.

Many African migrants speak only minimal Italian and find there are few English speaking churches they can attend. And so near Bologna, a group of such folks began meeting together for Bible study. One of them, Joseph, found us on the internet and with a wonderful humility to the word, came to accept doctrine after doctrine through reading our material, using the NEV Bible with commentary, and viewing our presentations on YouTube. And he has shared our literature and NEV Bibles with other African folk he knows. He’s a remarkable preacher, approaching any black guy he sees on the street [because they are likely English speaking] and putting the Gospel to them.



Joseph’s baptism in the Adriatic Sea



Joseph meets with this group in a hotel conference room. They are an interesting group- from newly arrived young men with just the clothes they stand up in, to people like Joseph who have stable work, a car and can rent their own apartment. Several came along with their NEV Bibles [in the group photo above, you can see the man on the far left holding his copy]. They are God fearing folk who deeply respect the Bible and most are familiar with Bible passages, freely turning them up when they were quoted. This is a dying breed of person in Europe and it was really nice to be with such sincere folk. They had already been exposed to many of our ideas through Joseph, and we lectured them through the promises to Abraham, Kingdom on earth, no immortal soul etc. We also had the pleasure of baptizing Joseph in the Adriatic, pictured page 24. Joseph is so humble and yet so enthusiastic to spread the Gospel to others, and his wife Osha is very supportive of him. This group are very open to being taught; the conference room they hire has a projector, and we wonder if anyone would like to go and lecture them one Sunday? Italy is of course a holiday destination and there are direct flights from Bologna to the UK. Ideally you could continue going through Bible Basics with them, by showing them the powerpoint presentations on each chapter and chatting around them.

Bible Basics Powerpoint presentations for download - available online at www.biblebasicsonline.com

We returned to Italy in July and our visit with Bro Joseph and his contacts was greatly blessed. It is a pleasure to see such humility to God's word and sincere desire to serve Him and His Son in Spirit and truth. We were able to baptize Omo, George, Mofi, Peter, Victor, Godspower and Henry.



Our brethren are conscious of the huge numbers of migrants now washing up on the shores of Italy. Since the closure of the Greek route, the majority of migrants are now arriving by sea in Italy, risking dangerous sea crossings in often leaking boats. Each month, at least 20,000 migrants arrive on the Italian beaches; and at least 700 drown each month, on average. 900

drowned in the last week of May alone, and many boats capsize without being noticed and reported, so the figures are likely far higher.

Public opinion is strongly against the migrants. We baptized our brethren on a crowded beach on a Saturday. There were hundreds if not thousands of bodies lying on the packed beach- white bodies. Our group of 10 black males [including some other contacts] drew quite some attention as we walked past the sunbathers and went into the sea. The association of black people with the beaches of Italy was provocative and there was some severe racism and shouting of abuse. One German tourist ran up to us and explained she was a Christian and was ashamed of the abuse, especially seeing we were sincere Christians performing a baptism in the sea. She pressed some money into the hands of our baptismal candidates and walked off, herself getting scorn. God bless her. It was some of the most primitive racism we have experienced in Europe. It reflects the fast pace of change in Europe and the deep divisions which are opening up within society, which of themselves are enough to bring Europe down. After the baptism we went for a cold drink but were repeatedly told by the bars that our group of 12 was too big, or some such excuse. So the baptisms, performed on a beach where the deck chairs were almost to the water's edge, was a wonderful witness to many of the unity of persons and ethnicities in Christ.



The racism doesn't end there. When the migrants arrive, they are registered and taken by the Government to various hostels or camps. They are given no public support for several months. Then, they are registered and given support for a few months, and after six months they can work, which Italians complain is taking away their jobs. The Government seems to hope that by not supporting them, apart from accommodation, the migrants will move further north to other parts of Europe. Our brethren are reaching out to such newly arrived migrants in four different camps. They arrive on the beaches with totally nothing, just their trousers and T-shirt. The mood against helping the migrants varies from area to area, but where they are, the support level has decreased markedly in recent times. Food is delivered to them by various charities, but very little, and the Muslim charities give preference to feeding the Muslim migrants, of whom there are many. We spent significant funds on buying food for them- they have cooking facilities. Rice, yams, cooking oil, vegetables and also clothes. We are open to donations to replace our funds spent on these things and to continue assisting. We also arranged for them to phone home to their families, which meant so much to them. The journeys of those who came from northern Nigeria were amazing. They crossed the Sahara, going several days packed in trucks, drinking dirty water from oases, eating dead camels or nothing at all. Until they reached Libya, where some were put in the migrant prisons there, experiencing whipping and starvation, seeing Christian migrants killed quite arbitrarily by the Muslim guards. Many also died on the Sahara journey. If a tyre got damaged, the armed drivers would just push off some of the migrants to lighten the vehicle and leave them in the desert to die. Then there was the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean. All we spoke to said their boats leaked and all of them were brought to Italy by rescue ships as their boats had sprung leaks or been swamped by waves. One of those we baptized had changed his name to Godspower as he was for ever impressed with God's power

to save him. One described paddling a dinghy with their hands after losing their oars. Every single one we spoke to had arrived the same way at different times; and they each said that during the perilous sea crossing, during which they all witnessed death or came near to it, they vowed to God to serve Him and His Son if they came alive to Italy's shores. It makes us wonder how many of those who survived the shipwreck with Paul later also came to true faith. And in their cases, they got to Italy... and met with our brethren. And now some of them have been baptized- on Italy's beaches. We talked with them of how baptism is a crossing of the Red Sea, and then a wilderness journey by grace to the promised land. It fitted so well with their experiences. Their baptisms really were a vow of a good conscience to serve the Father and Son who saved their lives for the purpose of their coming to know His grace.



Bro Joseph doing a Bible study session with some from one of the hostels; all are using the NEV Bibles given them

We feel led in to a subgroup within Western society who are so open and receptive to the Gospel. So let us know if you'd like to be involved with teaching this lovely group and do pray for them all

Carelinks | Literature

Each day we get a large number of responses to our printed literature and websites. We have a good team who follow up on these, always aiming to provide a response within a day or so if possible. Please pray for this work. Here are just a few of the wide range of responses we have received recently:

From Bangladesh: "I would just like to read bible out of curiosity and see what actually is inside of it - Gospel of Jesus. Currently no plan to become a Christian but just to see actually what is inside of it - the book I was told not to read- is it really the truth or not? So, if possible send both English & Arabic ones." From USA: "I really need your advice about how to approach my husband and others about biblical teachings about the devil and satan specifically. My husband is heavily into the health wealth gospel-teachers because that's all he knows. I get so angry when I hear him listening to televangelists and even our pastor, who is a faith movement teacher. I too was like him until I stumbled upon your book. I have never been the same since. I am so eager to tell him what I've come to learn in my Bible studies from Carelinks, the NEV Bible I received in the mail, and more. I have been freed since reading your books and listening to many of your teachings. How do I start the conversation with my husband about the belief in a cosmic being and even generational curses in a gentle way. Should I start with Mark 7? Also, if

you know of any Christadelphian assembly in the south florida area please let me know. Thank you.” From France: “When I receive the Bibles can you teach me by skype something like 1 or 2 times per month?”

Carelinks | Latvia



We continue to operate the daily feeding and teaching scheme at the Riga Bible Centre in Latvia. This project not only provides for real material need for hungry brothers, sisters and friends but is also openly proclaiming and teaching God’s word in the 1 hour study sessions held before each meal. This great work has developed a significant number of baptized converts in Riga; and it is most definitely in need of support, both financially and with volunteers going out to cook in the Winter months.

Please do contact us to help if you can, and pray that we get the support needed to continue

Here’s a report from sister Sarah Hopper and Kate Hargreaves: “This was our first time at the Riga centre and the first time in Latvia. Upon arrival we were surprised to see how sombre Riga is at this time of year. With grey skies and a biting chill to the air, one quickly appreciates how difficult it must be to be homeless here. We just could not get used to the sombre feeling outside; the dreary ex-soviet buildings surrounding the centre in clear contrast to the events happening inside. Looking in at this project from the outside, it is easy to make the assumption that people ‘come for the food’, and this is probably true to a point. But, having seen how riveted they are when Maxim speaks, it is clear that they might come because of the food, but they return because of faith. Maxim’s Q&A seems to be rather popular and discussions are very lively! We were astonished that this happy atmosphere prevails, despite the terrible circumstances that have caused this centre to be here in the first place. Serving the food we have prepared is an incredible experience and we would encourage anyone that has thought about volunteering to do it. Despite language differences, banter is regular and some of the attendees have even learnt a few words in English, in order to display their gratitude. These things from our time here will stay with us:



1. The impromptu hairdressing session on Sunday and Medina’s face when Vladimir was doing his best. Vladimir’s eyesight has deteriorated, so with the best will in the world, it’s not easy for

him. We soon rescued her and finished the job with (we hope) a little more finesse. Since this she comes to find us for hugs and kisses when she arrives.

2. The gifts of boiled sweets, fruit and flowers that Kate received on ladies' day.
3. Two older gentlemen, in their attempt to show gratitude telling us 'I love you' over and over, in English.
4. The extensive clean down everyday, for which we have to do nothing outside of the kitchen because it is completely taken care of by those thankful to be here.

Sister Mim Clark reports: It is two years since my last visit to the Bible Centre and I have found it very moving to see how the brothers and sisters help each other. For instance, Andre reappears at the front of the feeding queue about six times as he takes the bowls of food to those that cannot stand for long. His re-appearance at the head of the queue never causes any problems, just a bit of playful banter. After they have eaten, some of them have taken it upon themselves to do the cleaning and busily wash tables, floors, toilets and Hoover the hall - which has been a huge help to us this week. They seem to be much more connected with each other and it was a great joy to see again many of the familiar faces from my previous visit.

A big thank you also goes to those that have worked so hard to make the accommodation at the hall so comfortable - you have done a fantastic job!



The queue keeps coming until everything is gone

Please do remember that there are major ongoing heating, electricity and general maintenance costs both here and at the housing project in northern Latvia



Pictured left: Sis Medina and Sis Tanya busy at one of the sinks, helping with the clearing up at the hall



Carelinks | Russia

It was at a Moscow Bible School in 2002 that we baptized a married couple, Andrej and Tatyana, from a small town near Rostov in southern Russia. They placed adverts in their local newspaper, resulting in the baptism of Sergej in 2006. They raised their daughter Veronika in the knowledge of the Lord and we baptized her at another Bible School in Ukraine a few years ago. Now she is a university student, holding to the faith. Sergej raised his daughter Karina in the Lord, and now at 19 it was our pleasure to meet together for a delightful time of Bible study and fellowship, and baptize her. The daily reading of the Bible according to the Bible Companion was a big factor in the conversion of these young people and for all of them in maintaining their faith.

We rented a sauna with a convenient plunge pool and had a very intense time of Christcentred fellowship. Andrej brought tears to our eyes by bringing out some Sunday School pictures of Moses which the girls had drawn when they were very small and they had done Bible lessons together.

The production of literature and making it available in digital form has also been highly significant in the spiritual growth of this lovely group. Many folks these days don't have a computer; they just have a phone or tablet. This is in practice how many are reading the Bible and our literature. Russia is changing, in some ways moving back to the spirit of the old Soviet days. Pictured right is a splendidly preserved statue of Lenin in central Rostov.

The Lord's hand was again evident in that we had initially planned to arrive in Rostov on the very day of the plane crash there, which claimed the lives of 62 people. In fact we were one of the first flights allowed to land after the debris had been cleared from the runway. Our original plans wouldn't have worked out as the airport was closed for 2 days afterwards. So we can only give thanks, that the word we preach doesn't return in vain; and that all the huge effort and expense in producing and distributing literature, press adverts and running Bible Schools over the years has brought forth fruit that remains. Please continue to support this work- it definitely has God's blessing behind it.



Bro Andy addressing the group in a hotel conference room

The new legislation signed in to power in Russia is very serious. No religious literature may be produced without prior registration [which the Government is only granting to the Orthodox

churches]; and an American who entered Russia on a tourist visa to visit Christians has been arrested, imprisoned and is now being deported*. This means that Russia has returned to a more aggressive stance against Protestant Christians than even in the 1980s. All meetings however small and attempts to evangelize by Russian citizens, even via email or the internet, are now forbidden. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Russia facing this terrible situation.

***More information:** http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2197

Carelinks | Turkey

There have been around 50 baptisms performed this year of asylum seekers in southern Turkey.

Brother Andy Taylor reports on his trip as follows: "If anyone would like to help the work in Denizli, Turkey they are guaranteed an interesting and most rewarding time. Following a Bible talk, a question and answer session and a meal together, some 28 Iranians put on the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ in baptism. The total number of brothers and sisters who then broke bread together was not far short of 50. This represents the latest exciting development in the conversion of mainly exMuslim refugees. As well as being a great blessing, this also sets strong challenges for us. The growing number of converts need help with their spiritual development.



Maybe the biggest challenge is to help our dear brothers and sisters find somewhere to meet together. Following Sunday's baptisms, we met together Wednesday at Bro Afshin and sister Mitra's small flat to break bread together again. Large numbers meant that two rooms were filled with Bro Reza effectively sitting in the common doorway to deliver the translation of my address. The brothers and sisters of Denizli have such interesting stories to tell and we could not fail to learn much from them; some have suffered serious persecution and have given up a lot to be able to live lives of relative freedom in Christ in Turkey. Denizli itself surpassed all my expectations. It is a growing city of around 600,000 inhabitants almost surrounded by high mountains which are snow-covered in winter. Anyone considering visiting to help would be guaranteed a warm welcome, not least by the wonderful Iranian cuisine. My suitcase was much lighter for the return flight from Bodrum to Gatwick. The absence of 49 Farsi Bible Basics accounts for the weight reduction. They were very much a highlight for all the baptismal candidates, who were very grateful to receive them. There are more residents of the city seeking baptism so they will probably need still further copies soon. The city of Denizli is near the

biblical sites of Laodicea and Colosse, as well as the amazing UN sites of Pamukkale and Hieropolis. Bro Elmad and Bro Afshin (aka Daniel) enjoyed showing me around”.

Carelinks | UK



Bro M being baptized in Duncan and Cindy’s bath tub

Interest continues to come to fruition in baptisms in South London and of various folks, including many asylum seekers, throughout the UK. Those baptized include a significant number of local Anglo Saxon British folk. An example would be Lucy.



Sis Lucy chatting with Sis April and Sis Shelby following her baptism in Duncan and Cindy’s bathtub

Lucy had been a lifetime Roman Catholic, but her search for true connection with God and the Lord Jesus left her feeling very guilt tripped by having to confess her sins to a priest, and she wondered how it could really be that relationship with God depended upon attending the Catholic church. She got a Bible and Bible Basics from us nearly 5 years ago. Bit by bit the lights started to go on for her as doctrine by doctrine, the truth started to click with her and she saw through Catholicism, leading to her formal resignation from the church. It was just thrilling to listen to her recounting her journey so far. Our sister has six adult children and a very elderly mother who are all online- but she can’t get on with technology at all, and responded to one of our press advertisements, which reach out to people like her who are not computer literate and who are rather ignored by society these days.

We have continued visiting the hostels for refugees in south London and holding meetings for those already baptized and those wishing to learn the Gospel. This has resulted in many baptisms. We really encourage brethren and sisters to visit their local refugee centers and invite folks back to their homes. We are open to donations towards the welfare we give those we’re in touch with. Many of the refugee folk are very open to learning the Gospel. Inviting them for a meal and then showing a presentation in their language and holding regular sessions with them, both at home and in the hostels, is emerging as a real ‘way to go’ in bringing some to know the

Gospel of their salvation. You can download plenty of Powerpoints and material which is parallel English-Farsi- see link at the bottom of page 32.

Download Powerpoints and material which is parallel English-Farsi
from www.carelinks.net/fa

Sister Robin Jones reports on the house meetings in Croydon that her and Steve were present at whilst in the UK: “These are really wonderful meetings, the Spirit of God is clearly working here, bringing together all kinds of people speaking various languages, like Persian, Polish and Bulgarian; as well as local British people like Lucinda, who was a Catholic who came to the truth and was baptized in Duncan and Cindy’s bath tub, where a few dozen have already been baptized in the last year. She disliked the formalism of the Catholics and domination of the male priesthood, and just so loves being part of a house group. Last week S was baptized and today we witnessed the baptism of two more lovely young Iranians, M and H. Although their English was poor, their sincerity and zeal for God was truly inspiring. Duncan showed powerpoint presentations in Persian on the wall to also help teach them in their language. Another Iranian Brother and his Bulgarian wife drove for 2.5 hours to be here so they could translate between Farsi and English. The two new brothers have been in the UK for 5 months, but as refugees still await acceptance here. Another Iranian brother present told us of getting 180 lashes (from shoulders to heels) in Iran. As refugees they are not allowed to work and have little money. We gave them some blankets from the good folk at Bodalla Australia (pictured above) - as they have no family here and few possessions they were deeply touched that others would go to such trouble to keep them warm. We felt really sorry for sister Ayesha from Bulgaria who had just lost her job; her husband has no right to work in the UK and she was doing a cleaning job, sometimes working from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. She has gone to Tesco supermarket to look for work but only got offered part time work. Carelinks gave her some money although she didn’t ask for any. She clearly would so love to have children but she has to be the breadwinner and living on the minimum wage in this country means she really has little chance to ever have a family. We gave her some of our Australian hand knitted blankets and she was very touched. And then there was brother Mojtaba who brought his dog along to the meeting, providing great entertainment for the kids. There was so much warmth amongst strangers - an eclectic group united by Jesus indeed a very uplifting experience”.



Carelinks | Ukraine

The Ukraine Bible School was a great success, thanks to your prayers. The venue we had booked pulled out on us the day before we were due to arrive... and many travel over a day to be present, with little chance of contacting them. We found another venue nearby- no small order, seeing we were over 80 in attendance- at greater cost of course. In the middle of the School, Brexit occurred, meaning that the British pound collapsed in value exactly around the time we had to pay. So this school turned out really expensive... any donations towards it will be really appreciated. But there was a truly wonderful spirit there, with five wonderful baptisms, of Pavel [Paul], Petr, Vita, Ludmila and Yana- despite the broken down nature of things in Ukraine, with wounded soldiers and civilians arriving in Kiev for treatment on a daily basis from the ongoing war in the East. The baptisms were performed in the very same lake where 19 years ago, at least three of the older sisters present were baptized. This is a powerful testament to the Lord's ongoing work in the lives of His people, and how our labour over the years has not been in vain under His usage and guidance.



Sisters watching baptisms in the same lake where some of them were baptized 19 years ago

Brother Terry reports as follows: "I am Bro Terry Athanasiadis, together with my Sis wife Sofia from Australia were visiting relatives in Greece in May / June this year. Bro Duncan Heaster invited us to be part at the Kiev Bible School to fill a gap in presenting a study if possible. Being relatively close geographically and also having a desire to meet and experience the people and culture of the Eastern Europe we gladly said yes. Some 70 to 80 gathered. These people meet like this once maybe twice a year and come from all over Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia travelling many hours on the train. The atmosphere was warm, lively, intense and the people full of joy. Their English was at various levels from professional to a few words, but for us however, it was easy to communicate between words and body language. All up, a beautiful atmosphere engaging with Bre and Sis of all age groups from teenagers to 80 year olds. From all backgrounds like Teachers at all levels from University to Primary, Engineers, Pensioners, Workers, Students. A normal day would be 8.30 am breakfast, 9.30 study 1, 10.45 study 2, with small breaks and discussions. 12.00 Readings 1 commentary - questions, 1.30 pm lunch, 4.30 pm readings 2, 6.30 dinner, about 7.30 readings 3 again with commentary and questions/discussion especially as to how the Bible has an application in our lives today. The studies we chose were based on the Epistle to the Ephesians under the theme "Blessed from God with Jesus Christ in heavenly places". In six sessions we looked at how God chose us before the foundation of the world, the meaning of the cross, we are saved by grace, oneness in God and Christ, relationships between husbands /wives, parents/children, employees/employers and then how God has supplied us the armour of faith. The fact that God is always near us to assist us and we can have an active living conscience walking with God next to us. The message was well received with the aid of an interpreter. Everyone was interested and engaged. At one stage on the subject 'Servants and

Masters' the discussion got very animated. The unreasonable demands of employers today especially in Ukraine and how a disciple of Christ is to handle it. On the other hand the struggle of small business operators trying to find good/honest workers. Bro Duncan brought everyone's attention to the readings and the answer from the Bible. It was a relief after following these exchanges in Russian to see some noting yes and some saying "amen" a very agreeable ending in oneness. The highlight for us was the 5 baptisms on Saturday afternoon in the lake. The candidates were so happy and the atmosphere so engaging. The night before it was such a pleasure to 'interview' Paul (Pavel), a young Engineer married and soon to become a father. His English good, doctrine perfect. On the question "Why do you want to be baptised?" An answer with meaning: "I want to be in Christ, a Christ that is able to save me from sin and death but also able to assist me in my daily struggles with personal difficulties and in my relationships with those around me. To give me wisdom and strength. This real Christ is to be understood in harmony with correct doctrine." Such a good, positive, honest attitude. The day we were leaving, as we had time Bro Igor took us on a tour around Kiev via Metro, boat and walking. We didn't know that the river Dnieper that runs through the city is the largest in Europe. Also the deepest metro station in the world of 100m is in Kiev. A beautiful city with history and interesting buildings. We left Kiev with pleasant new memories and experiences. The genuine love for the truth expressed in lively body language, hymns, poetry, acting, singing, laughing, engaging, hugging will remain with us for a long time. We thank Bro Duncan for inviting us to the Kiev Bible School, but above all our Heavenly Father who in his great grace gave us such experiences. We believe it would be great for anyone with only western cultural experience to take on board such opportunities with a view to take but also to give. In the west we have knowledge, in the east they have a heart. What a beautiful combination.



Bro Terry with our seriously invalid Bro Viktor



Members of the growing ecclesia near Korosten with Duncan and Cindy

Carelinks | USA

We're pleased to report the baptism of Imdad who came to us from the internet, but being in a difficult domestic situation as the family are strongly Moslem, chose to baptize herself. Please pray for her.

Here is the personal witness to God's grace of Bro Miles:

"My name is Miles and this is not a testimonial, it's just my story. The only reason it is special is because it happened to me.

Everyone has their own special story and you decide to either tell it or not. A friend asked me to tell my tale so I have decided to share a bit of it because I respect my friend's wishes a good deal. I am a seventy year old retired art teacher, living with my wife of near forty years, on the coast of California. I have two advanced university degrees, a milieu of bohemian and social activist friends who think Christianity is at best an interesting myth. On July 5 of 2016 I walked into the local high school public pool and baptized myself, by immersion, in the name of The Lord Jesus Christ and for the forgiveness of my sins. My friends say I'm nuts behind my back, my wife isn't sure but seems to love me anyway, and my cat doesn't care as long as I feed her. But I feel so wonderful I don't care. There is a very new sense of grace and possibility in my life. I accepted Christ's gift of eternal life and I've been rebooted, if not reborn. I am in a new covenant and it is personal.

"Redemption is not a moment, it's a process"

Now this is where I have to be honest and tell you I don't like testimonials. I don't mean that in a nasty or spiteful way but I have never understood how all the incredible things that lead you to Christ and God could help me in my own journey. That probably sounds worse than I mean it. But how Grace made you move, swim, or crawl to God is such a specific and personal story they are hard for me to relate too. The problem is I don't want to talk about all the possible dots that God connected leading me to that high school pool on a cold and foggy morning in July. I can tell you now I don't understand anything about all the moments that somehow seamlessly made it possible for me to accept Christ's gift of Grace. My wife has always said I don't receive gifts well, and here I am trembling like a newly-wed and running to accept a vow from God's Son to love and save me and give me an eternal life on a "heaven on earth" after the Last Judgement. That's too much to believe in for any of my friends and family. I can't explain to anyone how I know this. I can tell you what is in the Bible (which many have read in their lives), but I cannot tell you how to come to that realization. I think that that belief is actually the real gift- that is how Grace shines in a heart, like a storm or wind rushing in, and that is how a life begins to change. Redemption is not a moment, it's a process. I will be repenting and being redeemed until I go to sleep in the Lord and am called to the Judgement however far away that is. But I have accepted God's Son's promise to me and I have asked him to come into my life and guide me forever. Forever is a long time and knowing me I could screw up. That is why I now ask Jesus often for guidance and some bit of wisdom to keep me going on His path, and since the Bible is what we have of God's word I have begun reading it often. I was raised a Christian and had years within both the Presbyterian Church (of my youth) and The Eastern Orthodox Church. I was excommunicated from the Orthodox Church for taking Communion at a non-Orthodox church. I lost my friends and was supposedly cut off from the saints, etc. I have taken classes in both the Old and New Testament at a small Presbyterian college in North Carolina, and studied scriptures informally under my Orthodox priest.

All that being said, I have a brain like a sieve. I can't remember verse and scripture but I get the 'Big Picture'. I learn in sweeps of understanding. I can't quote chapter and verse but I can tell you in my own words the wonder and awe that each verse unveils. I can tell you Grace shimmers in time and space. I can tell you that Grace shimmers through history. After leaving 'The Church', I still prayed but it was usually asking either for something to happen or not to happen. It was like putting letters in bottles and throwing them out to sea. I basically became resolved to God's indifference or maybe my own. I was in the end responsible for giving up on God. It's a hard thing to say but I think it is true, I gave up on God. It's a frightening thing to realize but I never really trusted God to answer my prayers. I always wanted to, even in Orthodoxy but I never felt a sense of trusting God. Jesus and God to me were always a kind of 'good cop'/'bad cop' routine. God scared me always did. Wrathful, jealous, vengeful sounded like a God you shouldn't mess with. Jesus was different. He was loving and kind and you went to him. That's the way I felt for years. In the Trinitarian tradition the persons really meant a separate 'person' - so you could deal with Jesus and avoid God. That's pretty much what I did. Jesus and The Holy Spirit were approachable, and cool, and trust worthy but God was like an abusive father who ruled by whim for a vast array of unknowable reasons. I asked my priest several times how come we were always begging for mercy. It seems in a loving home that kids don't fall to their knees and ask for mercy every time their daddy comes in the door. It wasn't until my Baptism on July 5th that I made a little head way in loving and trusting God. It was through saying 'yes' to Jesus that a new possibility of love and trust began. I have no idea why- it just made sense now.

For years I have read religious theologies and philosophy. A month or so back I started reading about the Adventist Movements in the mid 19th century. I had covered the Millerites and Second Adventists when the word Christadelphians was mentioned. I had never heard the word before nor of the movement so I began my research. I wasn't interested in finding anything to believe in, I just love history and the social history of the mid 19th century in the U.S was a time ripe with new ideas, prophecies, and Biblical interpretations. New religions and sects were springing up across America and The Christadelphians was one I had never heard of before. The more I read the more intrigued I became. The non-Trinitarianism, the idea of a finite soul, the concept of Jesus as the human Son of God, all were ideas I had pondered in both my Presbyterian and Orthodox studies.

I can tell you exactly when everything began to change. On June 18th I found a YouTube video by Duncan Heaster on The Christadelphian movement and its history. It was really interesting and I continued watching other videos. I wrote and asked for a NEV Bible and a copy of Bible Basics. I had watched several videos by Duncan and I just couldn't get interested in anything else, I wanted to know more. So I started watching Bible Basics. It took three days but I watched all of them. I was so excited by seeing Christ through different eyes, newly, freshly and with a more open heart, I didn't know what to do. I couldn't find my Bible so I just prayed. As my heart began to open God seemed to slip in with His Son. I had felt Christ's calling before but this time it wasn't filtered through a Church or a whole body of expectations from priests, bishops or parishioners. This time Christ and I decided no one else needed to be involved. It was a very private and personal matter (one of the reasons a testimonial is difficult for me). The lectures and way Duncan Heaster presented the Bible made something in me reawaken to Christ's promise in a new and personal way. I knew that I wanted to be Baptized into Christ, not into 'the Church body' but into the Body of Christ. I had never thought much about The End Times and Last Judgement but began to consider them seriously.

I felt an urgency about the Baptism and shocked my wife when I told her I was going to Baptize myself on my 70th birthday not many days away. Duncan and I corresponded and arranged for a phone on July 5th, and through the Grace of God, talked both before and after my Baptism. What happened in the swimming pool is just between me and God. I couldn't really express the terrible wonder of death and resurrection anyway. How still the heart becomes, the beating stopped in a moment of love. The gasp for life when emerging into Christ- the subtle knowing 'It's going to be ok from here on, Christ has your back'. So here I am shimmering in Grace waiting for The Last Days, praying I don't screw up, and so happy my toes are curling."



Bro Miles meeting for a breaking of bread with Bro Norm and Sis Sylvia Duke

Articles and photos for Gospel News

Although we prefer to receive your articles and photos in hard copy, we do appreciate that with rising postal charges this is becoming expensive. Therefore articles and photos may be sent by email for inclusion in Gospel News, in order to avoid this expense.

If you are able to send your photos by email, please send them as jpegs and to the highest quality possible. Please send all material to Marcus at:

bible.basics@onetel.net

MH

Jesus Will Return

In the New Testament there are more than **250 references** that are linked to the positive promise that Jesus will return. (A list, free of charge, is available on request)

"The Good News" is that Jesus will return in authority and power to bring God's promised kingdom of **"peace on the earth"**. Jesus tells us to pray to his Father: **"Thy Kingdom come"**. (Matthew 6:10)

The return of Jesus will be **"as bright as the lightning** that brightens up the sky from the east to the west". **"Every eye will see him"**. (Matthew 24:27; Revelation 1:7)

Thirteen different words are used in the original Greek text of the New Testament to emphasise **the visibility of the Lord when he returns to rule** (A free chart is available on request)

Jesus warns us not to believe anyone who tells us that he has returned in secret, or invisibly. **“Do not be deceived”**, he says. **“Watch, and be ready”**. (Matthew 24:23-27; Luke 21:27-36)

When Jesus returns those that belong to him, by belief and baptism, and have tried to follow his teaching, will be given eternal life to work with him in his coming worldwide Kingdom. **Those believers that have died will be raised from the dead**, as explained in those **“resurrection verses”** that are read out at almost every Christian funeral service. (1 Corinthians 15:17-25) **“R.I.P.”** (Rest In Peace) on memorial headstones can stand for **Resurrection In Prospect**. (John 6:39-44)