



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Winter 2013

Greetings from the BSCFA

There is something so exhilarating about the start of a New Year. It's the inauguration of a new beginning. Each New Year is an open door that lies before us that is filled with yet more prospects to develop patience, courage, and long-suffering. It is an opportunity to take note of the past twelve months, our walk with God, and evaluate both our progress and setbacks. It's a time not to dwell on past failures to the point of discouragement. It is a time to consider the still of the day - a moment of deep reflection.

This deep reflection or insight into our character development are the anchors to our faithfulness. As we reflect on our dear brethren, family and friends and the footprints that have carved out our year we

remain speechless with gratitude to Jehovah for His kindness toward us. The work in Africa has been overflowing with blessings. The responses to the truth have yielded several new interests.

Brethren, you are our special treasure with your zeal, love, and desire to serve and be served. As the Apostle Paul states, "you are indeed our glory and our joy." May the Heavenly Father continue to grant you the opportunity and determination to deepen your commitment as we stand on the threshold of yet another New Year, another opportunity to serve Him, learn of Him, and worship Him! May this New Year continue to firmly knit us together in the bonds of Christian love and peace. Ephesians 4:16

Bro. Bill Dutka, Chairman BSCFA



Attendees at Ohoba Convention

Report from Nigeria

The Ohoba Ecclesia held their first convention on Saturday, August 25, 2012. Its theme was *"Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28)

Bros. Vitalis Ekeh and Boniface Obiukwu served as chairmen. The following brethren also served.

1. Bro. Maurice Uzor gave a welcome discourse on the topic "Come Unto Me."

2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu's sermon was "Peace of God."

3. Bro. Chuks Edward entitled his discourse "The Righteous Shall Shine in the Kingdom."

4. Bro. Lazarus Ukpai also gave a power point presentation on "Humility."

There was a fruitful business meeting on how to move the Onitsha Ecclesia forward.

Nigerian Elders/Leaders' Seminar

The 9th Nigerian Elders/Leaders' seminar was held once again in Kwale from September 28-30, 2012. The maximum attendance at that gathering was fifteen. The program featured four discourses, three extended Reprint studies, a question and answer session, a testimony meeting as well as a business meeting. Some of

the items considered during the business portion of the weekend included plans for the 2013 gathering, issues related to transportation, activities conducted by some of their brethren in East Africa, planning for the 2014 Pan African seminar and requests for needed study materials to aid the friends. The seminar was deemed to be very successful and the participants not only expressed appreciation for those who supported this endeavor but also voiced how the overall experience assisted in helping to enhance their spiritual focus.

Lagos Ecclesia Convention

A convention was held in Lagos on October 6, 2012. Its theme was *"Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* (Hebrews. 10:25) In view of the heavy rainfall, the attendance was diminished. Chairmen for this convention were Bros. Edward Ekeh and Joseph Ogbunike and the following brethren also served.

1. Bro. Moses Shotunde welcomed brethren with the discourse "Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together."

2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu gave a discourse on



Nigerian Leaders and Elders Seminar Participants



Attendees at Ibadan Convention

"Trials of Our Faith."

3. Bro. Chuks Edward entitled his discourse "Divine Creative Weeks and Rest."

4. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu spoke on "Resurrection."

5. Bro. Celestine Oledibe's talk was entitled "One Language and One Speech." The convention proved to be most joyous to the glory of God.

Agbarho Bible Students' Convention

The Agbarho Bible Students held their first annual class convention on November 24, 2012 at the home of Bro. Moses Obire. Its theme was "This One Thing I Do." (Philippians 3:13) The following topics were considered.

1. Welcome discourse on "Assembling of Ourselves Together" by Bro. David Obire.

2. A discourse was captioned "In Times Like This" by Bro. Godwin Edoja.

3. "Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain" (a study) by Bro. Moses Obire.

4. A sermon titled "What Does the Bible Teach About Prayer?" by Bro. John Isife.

5. "John 3:16" (a study) by Bro. David Obire.

6. "Living by Every Word Out of the Mouth of God" (a study) by Bro. Moses Obire.

These topics provided the attendees much spiritual food as was enthusiastically expressed during the testimony meeting session. The program began at 9:00 AM and continued until 6:30 PM.

Ibadan Ecclesia Convention

On Saturday, December 1, 2012 the Ibadan Ecclesia held its end of the year Thanksgiving convention. Its theme was "Saying Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." (Revelation 7:12)

The convention was chaired by Bros. Edward Ekeh and Maurice Uzor in the morning and afternoon sessions respectively.

The following brethren also served.

1. Bro. Stephen Obayagbona gave a welcome discourse on "Everyone Needs Prayer."



Attendees at Kumasi Convention

2. Bro. Joseph Ajise's discourse was "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself."
3. Bro. Lazarus Ukpai entitled his discourse "The Greatest Gift from God."
4. Bro. Celestine Oledibe spoke on "A New Creation in Christ Jesus."
5. Bro. Cajetan Egbu's sermon during a blessing service was "Train Your Child in the Way of the Lord."
6. Bro. Chuks Edward's discourse topic was "The World's Judgment Day."
7. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu titled his discourse "The Place of Jesus Christ."
8. Bros. Joseph Ajise, Cajetan Egbu and Celestine Oledibe served as panelists during the question meeting.
9. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike conducted the testimony meeting.

Report from Ghana

The sixteenth Ghanaian Leaders' seminar was conducted by Bro. Moses Obire during the period September 19 - 21, 2012 at the home of Bro. Samuel and Sr. Elizabeth Amoo in Kumasi. A study format was utilized by the leaders throughout the seminar rather than discourses in order to facilitate a greater degree of interaction among the participants and also to allow for questions to be asked. The topic for the

individual presentations was *"The Kingdom of God"* from Study XI in *"Joy Cometh in the Morning."* Additionally, Bro. Moses Obire conducted two study sessions of four hours duration each on the theme *"Methods for Developing Christlike Character."* A third expanded study session was organized by Bro. Obire based upon Reprints 1516 *"Self - Examination."* This was a practical session in which the attendees were divided into four groups and assigned questions from a list of twenty five. The groups met separately for about ninety minutes and then made presentations of their conclusions when the entire body of brethren reassembled. Questions and comments were entertained to further clarify the points made by each group.

Finally, there were a number of business items considered by the brethren and testimonies given during this gathering of three days and all attendees were thankful for the privilege of assembling together in this fashion once again.

End of Year Conventions

The Central Region brethren held their 11th annual convention during the period December 14-16, 2012 commencing in the

evening of the first day with a welcome address by Bro. Dan Kwakye which was followed a discourse on the topic “*Self Control*” given by Bro. Leonard Plange. The focus of the morning session on the second day included a series of six discourses on various aspects of “*Development of a Christlike Character.*” The afternoon featured group studies on the subject “*How God Answers Prayer*” followed by a testimony meeting to end the services for the day. The final day’s activities included an opening discourse that was followed by presentations from the children who attended the Sunday school program prior to the closing hymn, lunch and the brethren’s departure for their homes. Expressions of gratitude were given by the friends for the American brethren’s support which helped to make this convention a reality.

The Kumasi Ecclesia conducted its annual convention from December 28-30, 2012. It began with a discourse by Bro. Noah Amoo entitled “*Every Idle Word*” followed by Bro. Felix Daddah’s presentation on the subject “*Four Chariots.*” After dinner there was a panel that discussed a series of questions posed by brethren in the audience. The next day six brethren led studies on various topics. Additionally, there was a special sisters’ study on the topic “*Women’s Position in the Church and Home.*” A testimony meeting and a question session based on the studies concluded the second day of convention. The final day of this gathering included a series of group studies on various aspects of the theme text (Proverbs 4:23). After the fruitage gleaned from these studies was shared, a testimony meeting, closing remarks and lunch brought this joyful gathering to an end.

Report from Uganda

The Bible Students’ activity in Uganda and surrounding areas continues at a most

intensive level. There are a number of brethren who proclaim the truth message in that section of the Lord’s vineyard. Below is a summary of some events as reported by Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko.

Uganda/Congo/Rwanda Convention

This convention was held in Kampala, Uganda during the period of June 23 - 25, 2012. In addition to brethren from the countries listed above, there also were representatives from Kenya in attendance. Additionally, Bros. Ric Cunningham and Bill Gill from the United States were present and served at this special gathering which included approximately one hundred participants. The program was varied and featured discourses, studies, a lengthy question and answer session, a testimony meeting as well as a baptismal service at which time six new brethren symbolized their consecrations.



Immersion Service in Uganda

Following the convention, the American brethren remained in Uganda for additional days and were involved in a series of business meetings with some of the brethren from the different countries as well as some leadership meetings, and a series of visitations to various ecclesias which facilitated a sharing of ideas and experiences. Overall, all the brethren were grateful that the Lord overruled so that all the friends felt richly blessed by the special

fellowship enjoyed together this past summer.

Congo Seminar

On December 8 and 9, 2012, brethren from Uganda gathered together with the Gwako - Nyesi Bible Students' Ecclesia of about ten consecrated brethren in Congo. Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko was the chairman. The following brethren also served by giving discourses as captioned below with supplementary questions and comments provided by other brethren.

1. Bro. Camilas - "The Spirit of Delusion - Satan's Seducing Spirit."
 2. Bro. Thofa - "Lessons on Prayer."
 3. Bro. Done - "Preparing for the Millennium."
 4. Bro. Otim - "The Hope of the Church."
 5. Bro. Rwoth - "Miracles and Wonders Done in Jesus' Name Today."
 6. Bro. Onegiu - "The Three Ways."
- About sixty brethren attended and on the first evening there was also a showing of "For This Cause."

An African Sojourn

Bro. Khurrsino Miranda of India made another pilgrimage to Africa during the period of August 6 - September 22, 2012, visiting brethren in South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya. Below are excerpts from his report relative to this arduous journey to visit with the Lord's children in these four locales.

Ten days in South Africa were spent meeting with dear Bro. Israel Kikambe Loji, the one who had translated the 53 Lessons into French, over two years ago. This precious work of his has now benefited the harvest work in Congo and soon will be introduced in Cameroon. Bro. Israel had much to share concerning his witness activities. Along with him came a new brother whom he had been teaching the lessons, Bro. Kiwa, who indicated he was ready to symbolize his consecration.

From August 9 to 12 over four days there were a series of public meetings in a hired church prayer hall in the city of Durban. It attracted mostly Congolese people who spoke French and we had an audience fluctuating from approximately 15 to 24 over those days. Meanwhile during the day I had visits from Bro. Dean and Bro. Israel and Bro. Kiwa and shared some lessons such as "*The Fifth Universal Kingdom*" and "*The Three Ways.*" Bro. Dean and I also made a tract advertising "*A 53 Lessons Bible Study Course*" and hope it will be of interest.

I reached Nigeria on August 18 after flying for some 7 hours! The next day, Bro. John Isife came in after 12:30 PM along with Bro. Celestine Oledibe, whom I was meeting for the very first time. Further, Bro. Donatus Onochie and his family also joined in and we had a long time of spiritual discussions. It was agreed for the next 2 days (public holidays) to meet for study. I began with the discourse - "*Where Are We Today?*" wherein we touched on truths such as the divine call of Revelation 18:4 followed by "*The Ten Silver Coins and the Lost Coin.*" After lunch we had another discourse where we had an opportunity to review the divine plan and the redemption through the ransom and concluded with a question session. It was a blessed day!

When I reached Douala, Cameroon I was greeted by the arms of Bro. Alex Mokom and his sons. They informed me that we would be traveling all over Cameroon for the next 14 in their car! Cameroon is 80% French and 20% English speaking.

We had meetings in Doume and the surrounding area. The first meeting was in the ecclesia at Bro. Alex's home, where I was asked to speak on "*The Mystery of the Cross.*" Bro. Alex also translated into the French language simultaneously and the group numbered about 30 in all.



Group Photograph of Brethren in Doume, Cameroon

At Dimako we met with a group of 10 and we received a very warm and enthusiastic response of love for the word and great appreciation of the truth shared. The places where Bro. Alex has been teaching the truth were ones he had originally served when he was a member of the Pentecostal denomination and many of these congregations are churches that he was instrumental in planting or establishing. Many of these pastors openly professed his being their "spiritual father."

At Abong Mbang we met with Bro. Luc and his group of seven in an old church hall where a generator was used to provide electricity for some light bulbs! I was told by Bro. Alex that Bro. Luc has studied the first volume. We took his address details to send him the 53 Lessons notes in French and a Divine Plan Chart. The following day we were joined by Sr. Paulina, Bro. Alex's lovely wife and his son Nikolai (also called Akoa) and we left for the lengthy journey to Yaounde and then from there another 300 kilometers to Douala and a further 150 kilometers to Kumba which is the English speaking part of Cameroon.

I arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on September 6, greeted by the warm smiling faces of Bro. James Onyango of Nairobi, Bro. David Mutei and Bro. Jamin Malova. It was a great joy indeed!

A trip to Migori took us to meet with the class led by Bro. Zablon Anyumba. There too it was a blessed experience as we shared the subject of "*The Great Pyramid and the Bible*" to a group of 25. It was translated into Luo by Bro. George who assists Bro. Zablon in that little ecclesia. On September 13 we traveled to Kitale where I would stay for the next six days with the classes of Endebess, Marura, and Biribiriet. In fact, on September 18 we even had an immersion ceremony in the River Nzoia for four brethren including Bro. James from Nairobi and his brother, Bro. John, from Suba, who also symbolized his consecration.

Finally on the 20th we returned to Nairobi and secured a copy/scan/printer for Bro. David Mutei to use for photocopying the lessons for follow up classes. And thus the time came to bid farewell to these dear brethren. This is always a difficult moment for me. But it was time to go back home



Immersion Service in Kitale, Kenya

after nearly 50 days in Africa. On September 21, I flew out of Nairobi late at night to reach Mumbai the next morning, completely drained but, filled with joy and thankfulness towards our Heavenly Father.

BSCFA Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors for the Bible Students Committee for Africa is as follows:

- Chairman: Bro. Bill Dutka
- Secretary: Bro. Richard Doctor
- Treasurer: Sr. Nannette Nekora

Other Board members include Bros. Joe Dolan, Lee Hicks, Kent Humphreys, Ray Luke, Homer Montague and Austin Williams.

Thoughts for Our Lord's Memorial

As bread stands for and symbolizes all food, so the teaching of this symbol is that whoever would have the life which Christ has to give must accept it as the result of his sacrifice. He died that we might live. The rights and privileges which he surrendered voluntarily may be eaten, applied, appropriated by all who have faith in him and who accept him and his instructions - such are reckoned as having imputed to them the perfect human nature,

with all its rights and privileges lost by Adam, redeemed by Christ. None can have eternal life except by the eating of this Bread from heaven. This applies not only to believers of this present time, but also to those of the future age. Their life rights and privileges must all be recognized as coming to them through his sacrifice. In a word, the bread representing our Lord's body teaches our justification through the acceptance of his sacrifice.

Songs in the Night – April 16

Our Lord's Memorial

***Sunday, March 24, 2013
(After 6:00 P.M.)***

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:29

Newsletter items as well as fully tax deductible donations may be sent to:

**Bible Students Committee for Africa
P.O. Box 111, West Hempstead, NY 11552**