



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Winter 2017

Greetings from the BSCFA

The year 2016 now ended was an Olympic year. In his day the Apostle Paul marveled as he observed the excitement around the Olympic and other sporting events at the large stadiums in Greek and Roman cities. The winner did not take a gold medal, but only a crown of fragrant bright green laurel leaves. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Every man that strives (to win these games) is temperate in all things. Now they do it to attain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible." (1 Corinthians 9:28)

The prize for which we strive is not only great beyond measure, grand beyond measure; it will never fade as did these crowns. The object of obtaining the "crown of life" promised in the Bible should be a certainty in our lives (Revelation 2:10). We know that faithfulness in following Jesus means more than attending church meetings each week and being a good person. We are in training for something greater than any Olympics. What a prospect!

If we are successful in this "striving" for the prize of the high calling, not only will we have close personal fellowship with our Lord himself and our brethren, but by the Lord's grace we will be part of a greater team than any nation on earth was able to send to the Olympics. This Heavenly Olympics team of Christ has a goal -- they will be part of the Lord's people who will bless all the families of the earth. It is in view of the certainty of God's promises that this will happen, we should be willing to endure much greater hardness, self-denial,

and buffeting that we might win this greater prize.

Let us practice self-denial and disciplines late and early in the day. Strive to serve the Lord when convenient and when not convenient. If we practice self-denial and discipline in food and drink, or of comforts and conveniences, how much more we will find ourselves fervent in spirit. The Apostle applies this thought too, saying, "I keep my body under [that is, our natural ambitions, appetites, and desires], and bring it into subjection [to the new mind in Christ]; lest by any means when I have preached to others I myself should be a castaway [rejected from being a member of the little flock]." (1 Corinthians 9:27)

But we must have a proper understanding of the only terms of joining this team -- it is not for one game, nor for a year, but for life. Many err on this point, and after striving faithfully for a little while they seem to have the impression that they have done all that is needed, and drift into some other service, some other kind of activity, or into a slothful, indifferent ease in the presence of the enemy and the evil against which they pledged themselves to strive.

The rewards of victory are glory, honor and immortality. He who takes this proper view of his consecration to the Lord realizes that he has nothing more to give to the Lord. Whatever struggle of the will he had is all ended. May each of us continue our striving that we might be faithful in the coming year.

Bro. Richard Doctor, *Chairman BSCFA*

Report from Nigeria

The fifteenth Nigerian Elders/Leaders' seminar was held between September 30 - October 2, 2016 at Okpuala Ngwa, Abia State. The convention theme was *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."* (Proverbs 4:7)

Here are some of the highlights of this blessed weekend.

1. Bro. Moses Obire gave the welcome address entitled "Seek for Wisdom from Above."
2. Several brethren discoursed on portions from "The Law of the New Creation" including Bros. David Obire, Hen Basse, John Isife, Okugod Udom, Obike Onyimere, Chuks Jacob and Moses Obire.
3. The brethren participated in three studies including "The Knowledge of God - Its Value," (Reprint 2136) "The True Vine and Its Fruits," (Reprint 3544) and "Love of God in Mouth and Heart." (Reprint 3071)
4. There were also two testimony sessions and a business meeting conducted which contributed to the success of this overall spiritual gathering.

Lagos Ecclesia Convention

The Lagos Ecclesia held its annual convention on Saturday, October 8, 2016. Its theme was *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."* (John 17:21, 23)

The following brethren served during the convention.

1. Bro. Celestine Oledibe gave the welcome address entitled "Oneness with Christ."
2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu's discourse was on "Christian Fellowship."
3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu titled his sermon "Trinity?"
4. Bro. Chuks Edward spoke on "Dying Self."
5. Bro. Moses Shotunde's talk was on "Co-Laborers of the Harvest Work."
6. A question meeting was moderated by Bro. Celestine Oledibe with panelists Bros. Cajetan Egbu, Chuks Edward and Ike-



Attendees at Nigerian Elders/Leaders' Seminar



Ibadan Convention Attendees

chukwu Ashiegbu.

7. A moving testimony meeting was led by Bro. Athanasius Obi.

The convention came to a joyous end with Hymn 64.

Ibadan Ecclesia Convention

On Saturday, December 3, 2016, the Ibadan Ecclesia held its end of the year Thanksgiving convention. Its theme text was *"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Ephesians 5:20) The chairmen were Bros. Donatus Onochie and Vitalis Ekeh. The following other brethren also served.

1. Bro. Stephen Obayagbona gave a welcome address entitled "Giving Thanks to God Forever."

2. Bro. Chuks Edward spoke on "Speaking to the Spirit in Prison."

3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu's talk was on "The Awesome God."

4. Bro. John Isife discoursed on "What Is the Truth?"

5. Bro. Moses Shotunde's sermon was "The Most Principal Thing."

6. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike's topic was "The Return of Christ."

7. The question meeting moderated by Bro. Edward Ekeh with panelists Bros. Cajetan Egbu, Celestine Oledibe and Chuks Edward satisfied the questioners.

8. Bro. Maurice Uzor led the testimony meeting.

9. The business meeting was chaired by Bro. Celestine Oledibe relative to future gatherings of the brethren. Appreciation was expressed to all who contributed to the success of the convention.

Report from Ghana

The annual General Convention was held in Kumasi from August 12 - 14, 2016. Its theme text was *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* (Proverbs 4:23) Several brethren gave meaningful discourses drawn from the "Character Development Book" based up-

upon faith. This was the eighth occasion the friends in this country have arranged for such a nationwide gathering and have been taking increased responsibility for the organization of these annual endeavors. The overall attendance was 85 including 16 children. Throughout the testimony meetings there were several expressions of joy regarding God's leadings in the lives of the brethren who attended from the Western Region, Greater Accra, Winneba, Cape Coast, Dunkwa-on-Offin as well as Kumasi. The friends were convinced the harvest work continues and Lord willing, plans were made to hold the 2017 General Convention in Cape Coast. There was provision for involvement by the children through the recitation of Scriptural citations and the sisters blessed the friends through the singing of praises to God. At the conclusion of the convention, there were many smiling faces and with much gratitude it was reported that all attendees returned to their homes safely.

Report from East Africa

There is much Bible Students' activity occurring in East Africa. Many harvest endeavors in this region have already been shared electronically. Below is a summary of two Truth efforts which occurred in this part of the Lord's vineyard during September and October of 2016.

General Convention

Once again, the General Convention was held in Kampala, Uganda at the home of Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko. This gathering spanned the period from September 4 - 6, 2016. In addition to those living in Uganda, other brethren came from Rwanda, Kenya and D.R. Congo and the combined attendance was approximately 110. The theme text for this occasion was *"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every*



Ghana General Convention Attendees



Immersion Service Candidates at Kampala Convention

man's work of what sort it is." (1 Corinthians 3:12, 13)

There was a variety of services included for the program including discourses with questions as well as an extended question meeting, panel discussions, a group study, a testimony meeting, and other devotional features. Additionally, the utilization of many Truth charts in several languages enhanced the overall understanding of the participants during this gathering. These visual aids included The Divine Plan of the Ages, Tabernacle Chart, Dominion's Parallels and Seventh Day, Modified Edgar Charts and one on Chronology. As an added blessing charts were distributed for use with classes in Congo.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a baptismal service in which six brethren symbolized their consecration through water immersion. The overall gathering was one of sweet fellowship and up building in the most holy faith.

Tanzania - Zambia Service Trip

Based upon several positive responses received through correspondence concerning the Truth, Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko departed from Uganda on September 23, 2016 to venues in Tanzania and Zambia before returning to his home on October 18, 2016. He was met by brethren at different stops along his journey with whom he had studies and received encouragement and assistance but also witnessed to pastors and their congregations, groups at Christian colleges as well as hotel guests and individuals whom he encountered.

Obviously, space will not permit the recording of all the details associated with this extensive pilgrimage. There were many interruptions relative to the planned itinerary owing to mechanical problems connected with ground transportation or airport delays. Bro. Eliezer's expressed attitude for the privilege of serving the Lord is epitomized by a Scripture he recorded near the



Bros. Eliezer Jjuuko and Jackson Juma at Tanzania Guest House

conclusion of his report. "Every man's work shall be made manifest" for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." (1 Corinthians 3:13)
 "Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth." (Ecclesiastes 11: 2)

Report from Cameroon

As part of the ongoing efforts to support the harvest work in Africa, Bro. Regis Liberda of France visited the brethren in Cameroon during the period October 7 - 14, 2016. Throughout that week, he traveled with Bro. Alex Mokom to serve several classes with discourses and to help strengthen the brethren during question and answer sessions.

A highlight of this visitation was a convention on October 8th and 9th. After a welcome address by Bro. Nanembele Bruno there were several discourses given as follows.

1. Bro. Luc Abanda - "Hell of the Bible"
2. Bro. Regis Liberda - "Love"
3. Bro. Nanembele Bruno - "The New Creation"
4. Bro. Alain Anthony - "The Rich Man and Lazarus"
5. Bro. Pascal Yaman - "Hidden Mystery"
6. Bro. Regis Liberda - "Wedding in Cana"
7. Bro. Alex Mokom - "Revelation 17:14"
8. Bro. Njeck Samuel - "Why a Loving God Permits Evil"
9. Bro. Ndengue Jacque - "Three Great



Brethren Who Served at Cameroon Convention

Covenants"

10. Bro. Ferdinand Madengue - "Thank You"

In addition to testimony meetings as well as a sisters' song service, Bros. Liberda, Bruno and Mokom served as panelists during a question meeting.

On behalf of all the Cameroonian brethren, Bro. Mokom expressed gratitude to all the friends from afar who contributed equipment, materials, including those written in the French language as well as words of encouragement and prayer support offered on their behalf.

Cameroon is the most recent country in West Africa where there is sustained Truth activity and visitations by brethren from other countries. It is a blessing to acknowledge the progress of local brethren in energetically spreading the Truth throughout this nation, as well as the growth of the leaders in grasping a good knowledge of the harvest message. Local witness efforts continue as evidenced by the following report from Bro. Alex Mokom.

"Now concerning the harvest work and my pilgrim efforts, I have received so far about (150) one hundred and fifty names of individuals who have applied for and received the pdf of the 'How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense' booklet. You can now see the number of increasing Cameroonians who are interested in Bible Students' material. I have been able by God's grace to call, visit and have written to almost all of them. I have been invited by some in all the regions and I regularly call and encourage some who are showing interest. I am keeping a good record of all responses I get which I will soon send out. I am also preparing to include some elders in the regions to be involved in this ministry, especially those with smartphones.

Concerning Bible study, the benefits of systematic study are many. To enable the various classes to benefit not only in knowledge but more importantly to appropriate the Truth, our meetings this month were in a form of workshops. We asked questions and gave time to all those present to tell the classes briefly what they understood on a given subject. There is indeed much progress. All the classes in the East Region are growing and functioning well. They are regular and on time in meetings. I visited Abongmbang three times this month because the work is growing there as never before. Pray for more laborers dear brethren."

BSCFA Board of Directors

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

Chairman: Bro. Richard Doctor

Secretary: Bro. Bill Dutka

Treasurer: Sr. Nannette Nekora

Other Board members include Bros. Joe Dolan, Bob Goodman, Lee Hicks, Brian Montague, Homer Montague and Austin Williams.



Bro. and Sr. Nanembele Bruno

Thoughts for the Memorial

Thus to accept our Lamb, and so to commemorate his death for us, means expectancy regarding the promised deliverance of the people of God, and therefore signifies that those appreciating and memorializing intelligently while in the world shall not be of the world; but shall be as pilgrims and as strangers, who seek more desirable conditions, free from the blights and sorrows and bondage of the present time of the reign of Sin and Death. These partake of the true, the antitypical unleavened bread: they seek to have it in its purity, without the corruption (leaven) of human theory, blight, ambitions, selfishness, etc., that they may be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. They partake also of the bitter herbs of persecution, in accord with the Master's word, that the servant is not above his Lord, and that if the Lord himself was reviled and persecuted and rejected, they must expect similar treatment, because the world knoweth them not, even as it knew him not. Yea, his testimony is that none will be acceptable to him whose faithfulness will not draw upon them the world's disfavor. His words are, "Whosoever will live godly shall suffer persecution." "They shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven." **Matt. 5:11, 12; 2 Tim. 3:12**

When our Lord instituted his Memorial Supper, called the Last Supper, it was, as above stated, a new symbol, built upon and related to the old Passover type, though not a part of it, being a commemoration, or memorial of the antitype. As we read, he "took bread, and when he had given thanks he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you [this represents me, the antitypical Lamb; it represents my flesh]. This do in remembrance of me." Our Lord's evident intention was to fix in the minds of his followers the fact that he is the antitypical Lamb to the antitypical

first-borns and household of faith. The expression, "*This do* in remembrance of me," implies that this new institution should take the place with his followers of the former one, which must now become obsolete by reason of fulfilment. "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament [covenant] in my blood"--the blood of the covenant--the blood which seals the New Covenant. "This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." We would not understand this to imply the doing of it without respect to time and place, etc., but as signifying that when this cup and unleavened bread thenceforth were used as a celebration of the Passover, it should on every occasion be considered a celebration, not of the type but of the antitype. As it would not have been lawful, proper or typical to celebrate the Passover at any other time than that appointed of the Lord, likewise it is still not appropriate to celebrate the antitype at any other time than its anniversary. **1 Cor. 11:23-25**

The Apostle adds, "For as oft as ye eat *this* bread and drink *this* cup ye do show forth the Lord's death till he come." (**1 Cor. 11:26**) This shows us that the disciples clearly understood that thenceforth to all of the Lord's followers the annual Passover celebration must have a new meaning: the broken loaf representing the Lord's flesh, the cup representing his blood.

-*Studies in the Scriptures Volume 6 p. 463-465*

Our Lord's Memorial

Sunday, April 9, 2017 (after 6:00 p.m.)

*"He hath poured out His soul unto death; and He was numbered with the transgressors." -
Isaiah 53:12*

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