



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Winter 2022

Greetings from the BSCFA

As we look forward to a New Year, it's always prudent to reflect on the past. Not to dwell as to become discouraged but to reflect on shortcomings and victories with a positive attitude of how one can improve and grow in the graces of Christian discipleship by asking ourselves the question am I doing all I can in expanding my sphere of fellowship to get to know those who I will be working with for eternity? Christianity is an everyday practice and a lifelong commitment. Each one of us should measure ourselves in this way. Our walk should not be with fits and starts, but with steady progress as we build upon the sure foundation – Jesus Christ the righteous.

The pandemic has presented many challenges for the brethren; however, the Heavenly Father has provided additional blessings for all who would avail themselves of an “over the wires” fellowship. It reminds me of my childhood cartoon – The Jetsons. This extended fellowship has taken place by brethren reaching across time zones to attend Bible studies. Zoom meetings have led to broader fellowship. This certainly has not replaced in-person fellowship, but it has supplemented and increased the spiritual growth among the brotherhood where travel has been restricted. These opportunities have not only been for our brethren in Africa, but also for brethren in North America, South America, Europe, Australia and India to communicate with each other.

During these trying times of limited travel, let's encourage each other to connect with those from around the world. We are our brother's keeper and would like to see all the brethren have an opportunity to participate in conventions, studies, fellowship and witness opportunities. We need to encourage each other to step outside comfort zones and take advantage of all the opportunities afforded us by the increase of knowledge. This increase of knowledge, Daniel 12, is not accidental but is a direct result of our Lord's second presence. Why not take advantage of the tools that Jehovah has provided for his people!

As we start the New Year, we want to keep before our minds the apostles' admonitions of 1 Cor. 13:4-7 when dealing with one another and the world. Let us be the epistles read by men, by the outward actions that can be observed as a result of the transformation that has taken place in our hearts. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 that “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” NRSV

--- Bro. Bill Dutka, Chairman BSCFA



Kampala Class Fellowship on Date of Baptismal Service

EAST AFRICA

Uganda

Kampala Ecclesia

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko joyfully reported the baptismal and immersion service on December 19, 2021 for members of his household including Bro. Peter Jjuuko, as well as Srs. Jovia Nabulya and Angella Nakimbugwe. This occasion represents the fruitage from two years of study, prayer and an appreciation of God’s precious promises.

Wakiso Ecclesia

Bro. Laban Ssewanya shared highlights from the December 2021 annual convention in which 70 adults were present from ten classes for in person fellowship. During this period, there was a focus upon the “Order and Discipline of the New Creation” and annual class elections also were held.

Tanzania

Following a Servants/Elders meeting on Monday, November 29th at the Uganda-Congo border, Bro. Isaya Ruhala immersed Bro. Titus Stephen who in turn immersed Bro. Fredrick Elia following a baptismal



Attendees at Wakiso Annual Convention



Left to Right - Bros. Frederick and Titus



**Bro. Nimrod Ondigo
Witnessing Via the Radio**

discourse on Zoom provided by Bro. Friday Awekonimungu. It was a blessing to learn that these two new brethren in Christ and students at Zombe University in Tanzania have fully embraced the hope of the high calling despite facing persecution from family members and other sources.

Kenya

Bro. Nimrod Ondigo is one of several consecrated individuals in Kenya who is quite active in the Lord's work as evidenced by his visitations to and encouragement of brethren as well as translating articles into the local language. Like some of the other brethren in this country he has been involved in radio broadcasts of Bible truths. Here are some examples as to how he follows up on this initiative. For those who call, some may request personal visits in their home.

Various brethren accompany him to such places where sometimes they spend the night studying the Word of God from the Bible as well as from the Studies in the Scriptures and God's Grand Plan of the Ages. Some church elders also call us to visit their congregation. Some have attended our ecclesia studies. This has happened several times. We get the best opportunity to explain the topics they want to hear as compared to the time allocated for the radio program. We also call those whom we have given our materials to know how they are progressing with the truth.

WEST AFRICA

Cameroon

We thank God for everything. The picture depicted is from our first Sunday meeting. Every first Sunday of the month we meet to study and eat together.



Cameroon Sunday Meeting Fellowship

Additionally, some of the sisters have a Zoom meeting with sisters in the USA and South Africa. They do this every Sunday after our normal meetings. The sisters are growing in the knowledge of the word especially noted during the questions and answers.

Bro. Cajetan Egbu gave the Baptismal discourse on Sunday after which eight of the friends symbolized their consecrations through water immersion. Much appreciation was expressed for all who contributed to the success of this convention.



Ibadan Convention Attendees

Nigeria

The Ibadan Ecclesia’s End of the Year Thanksgiving Convention was held on Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5, 2021. The first day employed a Zoom format as well as in person arrangements whereas, the second day was in person only. The theme was “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.” (Psalm 95:2) The chairmanship responsibilities were divided among four brothers. Discourses were provided as follows. 1. Bro. Ric Cunningham spoke on “Thanksgiving to God.” 2. Bro. Brian Montague’s title was “Charity Is Love.” 3. Bro. Larry Davis titled his remarks “Overcoming Our Fears and Foes.” 4. Bro. Bill Gill’s sermon was “Giving Thanks for Our Brethren.” 5. Bro. Raju Krishna’s subject was “9 Precious Stones Covering Lucifer.” 6. Bro. Israel Loji conducted the Testimony Meeting 7.

Liberia

Bro. Nicholas Toe reported that Liberians try to prepare themselves for the celebration of Christmas. Even so, some people who are not regular churchgoers and/or Christians considered



Bro. Nicholas Toe on Left

making some adjustments towards faith/religion in their lives, especially given the approach of a new year. Hence, we took advantage of the opportunity to share the truth through the Harvest Message with those interested, through public display of the Chart of the Ages and truth literature on various subjects on the streets. The Chart of the Ages got the attention of people. Many of them asked “What is this? Please help me understand.” We tried and gave our contacts to stay in touch with them. Through this process, we handed over 60 booklets on the Eve of Christmas and Christmas Day from “How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense” to “The Truth About Hell.”

Togo

Bro. Sergino Kpoedzou reported “Although we continue to actively share the Gospel with all who have hearing ears, we do not normally take pictures of those to whom we witness because of people’s general reluctance of being photographed. We did not have any visitors to our meeting hall for the past couple of Saturdays but here is a picture of our class members who attended a recent ecclesia meeting.”



Some Members of Togo Ecclesia

Ghana

Pan African Convention Diary

November 5, 2021

On Friday, November 5, 2021, shortly before midnight, Bros. Brendan Getchel, Brian Montague, Homer Montague and Srs. Karen Earl, Karen Getchel and Cathy Sandridge boarded a plane from JFK Airport in New York for a 9 1/2-hour flight to Accra, Ghana.

November 6, 2021

After proceeding through customs, addressing the protocol mandates for Covid testing and gathering

luggage, the travelers were warmly greeted by Bros. Edward Nkansah and Edward Arockiasamy at the terminal gate. A comfortably sized van brought the group to the Presbyterian Women’s Centre where the North Americans met the brethren from India who arrived to Ghana hours earlier.

November 7, 2021

Following breakfast, some of the brethren attended a public witness effort presented by Bro. Khurrsino Miranda. Others traveled to the airport and greeted several brethren from their flights while the rest remained at the PWC to decorate the meeting hall.

November 8, 2021

The first day of convention included the theme discourse, mini talk presentations on selected Manna/ Songs in the Night readings with follow up questions and comments from the audience. A panel discussion from questions raised by the African sisters, a testimony meeting as well as various video and music devotional services concluded the proceedings.

November 9, 2021

The second day featured additional Manna/ Songs in the Night presentations with comments and questions from the audience and another panel discussion from questions raised by the African sisters. There was a group picture taken in the afternoon, a testimony meeting plus the distribution of medical supplies and literature to the attendees before the day ended with various devotional videos and music selections.

November 10, 2021

Morning Covid testing was conducted for the brethren who lived outside of Ghana. After lunch a baptismal discourse/immersion service, followed by the final panel and a testimony meeting preceded supper. An additional highlight to the regular evening activities included a presentation by the sisters describing their roles in the ecclesia.

November 11, 2021

Our last day of convention included an extended testimony meeting and closing discourse which was followed by a Vespers service and the emotional singing of God Be With You. After lunch, the Americans traveled to a busy marketplace in Accra and then had dinner.

North American Attendees of the 2021 Pan African Convention



Karen Earl



Cathy Sandrige



Homer Montague



Brian Montague



Mercy Oklalowe



Brendan Getchel



Karen Getchel



Rene Blanks



Stanley Hart

Sonya Hart

November 12, 2021

While many of the brethren had morning/afternoon flights back to their home countries on this day, the Americans spent the afternoon visiting the Cape Coast Castle and then had their final meal together shortly before their return flight to the USA. While at dinner, they learned that the brethren from India missed their flight home and had to remain at the PWC.

An Addendum

November 13, 2021

Arrangements were made to secure the proper documentation and flights to Mumbai on Monday, November 15, 2021 for all of the brethren from India.

November 14, 2021

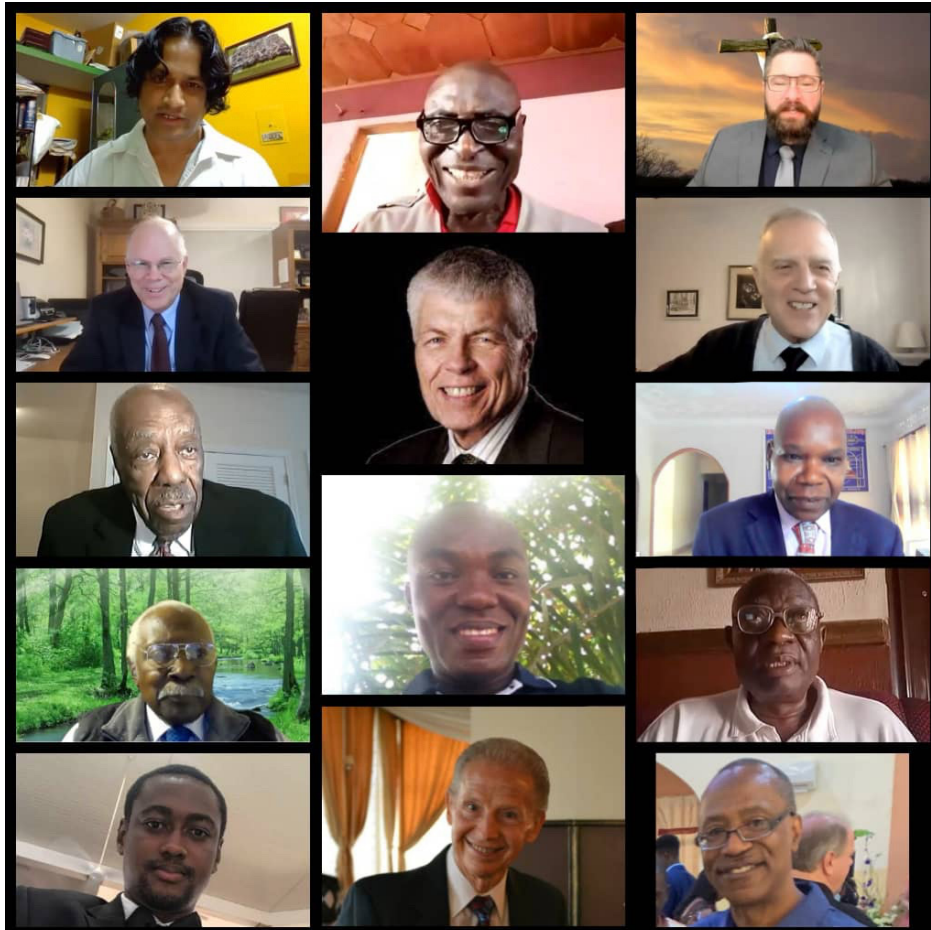
On Sunday, November 14, 2021, the Indian friends joined the Highland Park Ecclesia on Zoom at their Sunday meeting and remained afterwards for an hour in fellowship.

November 15, 2021

At approximately 7 PM, the brethren from India successfully boarded Qatar Airlines and traveled to their connecting flight in Doha. Ultimately, they reached India safely.

Kumasi Ecclesia

The brethren in Ghana during the second half of 2021 continued with the various weekly, monthly and quarterly activities of fellowship and encouraging one another. For the Wednesday, Friday and Sunday meetings they are studying "The People of The Bible, How to Study Revelation and Have It Make Sense, The Book of Matthew, Volume One and Volume Six." The monthly joint meetings with brethren from around the country also continued with selected Scriptures mainly from the gospels. These regular and consistent meetings, together with the quarterly mini conventions have helped to promote unity and love among the brethren. On the 4th of December 2021, the class organized the End of Year Convention via Zoom with the blessing of many friends serving and participants from several continents. Bro. Isaiah Amoo served as chairman for the day. We were blessed with a panel discussion based on 1 Cor. 3:1-7 moderated by Bro. Homer Montague with the following participants: Bros. Nicholas Toe from Liberia, Moses Obire from Nigeria, Alex Mokom from Cameroon and Eliezer Jjuuko from Uganda. Bro. Brian Montague moderated the Testimony Meeting. There were several intermissions for spiritual fellowship. The following brethren served with discourses: Bros. Bob Goodman, Khursino Miranda, Lee Hicks, Paul



Brethren Who Served Kumasi Ecclesia End of Year Convention



Kumasi Ecclesia Meeting Attendees

Lagno, Len Griehs, Matthew Kerry and Larry Davis. In 2022, we look forward for more blessings and opportunities of services from the Lord with the added responsibilities on the class calendar such as elders' discourses and extended studies.

along with Sr. Sarah Asare traveled to the Pan African Convention and witnessed the baptismal/immersion service of Sr. Rose Katunga who is an active member of the class. Approximately four other brethren from different countries also join their meetings. On Tuesdays they study the "53 Lessons" and on Thursdays The Book of Matthew. Sundays are set aside for mutual encouragement, testimonies, worship and exchange of ideas. We also engage in tract distribution as well as a witnessing activity.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

South Africa

Bro. Israel Loji reported that the South Africa Ecclesia has about seven regular members. He



hearts were grateful to hear the name of the Lord being praised from ‘all the ends of the earth.’ The sisters were overjoyed to get to know each other and were inspired to ‘sing to Him, sing praises to Him, speak of all His wonders.’ (1 Chron. 16:9) The recording is available to watch at the following link, though it does not capture the excitement that was there with all the sisters present:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYUxuuxJBs8>.

BSCFA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for the Bible Students’ Committee for Africa are as follows:

Chairman: Bro. Bill Dutka

Secretary: Sr. Sandy Koterba

Treasurer: Bro. Austin Williams

Other Board Members are: Bros. Richard Doctor, Joe Dolan, Lee Hicks, Brian Montague and Homer Montague



South Africa Ecclesia Meeting Attendees

Sisters’ Meetings

As an outgrowth of the Sisters’ Meetings described in the Summer 2021 issue of this newsletter, on Saturday, October 9, 2021, more than 100 sisters from Cameroon, Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Romania, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and USA gathered together on Zoom for a time of sharing, mutual encouragement and rejoicing together. The sisters took turns sharing lessons from the women of the Bible, personal testimonies, beautiful singing and lovely poems. The meeting lasted for approximately 4 hours and there was much love shared and felt. All

Our Lord’s Memorial

Thursday, April 14, 2022 (after 6:00 p.m.)

“For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3

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