



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

WINTER 2023

Greetings from the BSCFA

The New Year is a time of reflection and anticipation. We reflect on the past year, counting our many blessings and giving all thanks to the Heavenly Father for His grace that keeps us in this narrow way. We reflect on how we can become more Christ like looking for opportunities on how we can serve the brethren and searching for those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

These past years have been challenging with government lockdowns to ease the spread of Covid. One might think not being able to meet face-to-face with brethren would have limited our fellowship; however, the opposite has been the case. The brethren have availed themselves of meeting online, attending additional studies, and conventions that they would not have normally considered joining. Now that many of these travel restrictions have been lifted the brethren are starting to meet once again face-to-face and continue to engage in online meetings where distance is an obstacle. This has been a boon for those who take advantage of studies and fellowship with those not geographically nearby.

One way to get to know your brethren

globally is to regularly attend meetings outside your physical location.

The world continues to experience birth pains prior to the full birth of the Messianic Kingdom. The Russian war in the Ukraine, people protesting in China and Iran and North Korea's development of nuclear missile technology are just some of the highlights we need to keep our prophetic eyes on.

The economy is an additional challenge for our brethren. As inflation continues to rise our purchasing power diminishes. This is a world-wide problem and we stress how each ecclesia needs to look after one another.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Rom. 12:9-13 NRSV

Bro. Bill Dutka, Chairman BSCFA

EAST AFRICA

Uganda

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko reports the following from his service in Malawi during November 2022. We began our study and Service Meeting with Bros. Clement, Masamba, Baxter Mwale and Witboy Phiri.

1. The Grace of God in the Redemption of Mankind – By Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko
2. The Judgment Day – Acts 17:31 and the reign of Christ – By Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko
3. The Human Soul and Death – By Bro. Baxter Mwale.



Malawi Service Meeting Attendees

Wakiso Ecclesia

Bro. Laban Ssewanya shares the following highlights from the annual Wakiso Convention which occurred in December 2022. “This gathering was the most successful one of all despite the dramatic increase in costs. It featured individuals who attended via Zoom as well as in person and we were pleased that those who served were from the United States as well as from Africa. Some important topics considered related to Christ’s Second Advent, the importance of Testimony Meetings as well as the Millennial Kingdom. Much encouragement and fellowship were derived from this endeavor.”



Study Attendees at Wakiso Ecclesia Convention

Kenya

Bro. Ondigo Ochieng reports that an October 2022 Bible seminar was conducted in Kehancha where the radio listeners who were calling in also wanted to know more about the Truth. Seventy-five adults attended from different locations and through God’s grace, we were able to accommodate and feed them by means of the resources supplied by the local friends. Some of those who had been learning for quite a long period decided to give their life to Christ. Seven of them received water immersion including Bros. Damaclinee Elijah, Pacificah Moraa, Fred Odiwuor Omollo, Mwendwa Nasser Otieno as well as Srs. Deborah, Caroline Orina and Vitoria Akinyi.



Brethren Who Received Water Immersion

Rwanda

We continue to thank God for the Truth activities being done in our region and all the blessings provided to us as we serve him. From November to early December 2022, we have been engaged in meeting different Bible Students in Rwanda and Burundi as well. As for the consecrated brethren, we fellowship through Zoom and meet physically every month for the lengthy studies. We are working hard to translate most of the material in the local language (Kinyarwanda) for easy witnessing. Thank God for all the providences he has. (Bro. Silver Mugisha)



Study Session in Rwanda

WEST AFRICA

Nigeria

Lagos/Ikorodu Convention

The convention was chaired by Bros. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu and Gabriel Obayagbona respectively. The following friends also served.

1. Bro. Moses Shotunde gave the welcome address, “God Has a Plan.”
2. Bro. John Isife discoursed on “Faith.”
3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu spoke on “The Lord Is Good to All.”
4. Bro. Cajetan Egbu entitled his remarks “The Golden Rule.”
5. The Children’s program was led by Divine Ashiegbu. Young ones entertained the brethren



Lagos/Ikorodu Convention Attendees

with beautiful selections from the Hymns of Dawn and recitations from the Bible.

6. Bro. Moses Shotunde chaired the Question Meeting.

Ibadan

The ecclesia’s end of the year Thanksgiving Convention was held on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4, 2022. Its theme was “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thes. 5:18) The chairmen included Bros. Gabriel Obayagbona, Japhet Ukaegbu and David Ogbu. The following brethren gave discourses and served in different capacities.

1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu welcomed brethren with the theme topic “In Everything Give Thanks.” He also gave the Baptismal discourse on “The Importance of Consecration.”
2. Bro. Moses Shotunde’s sermon was “Refined Trial.”
3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu spoke on “The Fear of God.”
4. Bro. John Isife titled his talk “A Day of Thanksgiving.”
5. Bro. Boniface Anosike Onyenwe captioned his presentation “Kingdom Lifestyle.”
6. Bros. Moses Shotunde, John Isife and Ikechukwu Ashiegbu served as panelists during the Question Meeting moderated by Bro. Cajetan Egbu.
7. Bro. Bright Utok led the Testimony Meeting.
8. Bros. Bright Utok and Ikechukwu Ashiegbu also conducted the Immersion service at which three brothers and two sisters symbolized their consecrations through water baptism.



Ibadan Convention Attendees

Agbarho Class

Bro. Moses Obire reports the following concerning their class activities. “We have been engaged in a systematic study of Volume Six of the Studies in the Scriptures series on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening and have progressed to page 508 as of December 6. We have Sunday morning studies from the Character Development Book and are currently on the topic of “Knowledge.” One major benefit of the sessions is the accurate knowledge of what constitutes the RACE for the High Calling and what individuals should do to make progress. We are happy to have the company of Srs. Sarah Asare of South Africa, Merrylene Zivanomoyo of Zimbabwe, Prisca Ariwodor of Benin City, Edo State, and Stephanie Eloho Obire-Ominigbo of Warri, Delta State Nigeria. They participate mostly during the weekdays and sometimes on Sundays.



Bro. Moses Obire

Also, occasionally, the attendance by Sr. Mercy Okalowe is appreciated. Three brothers from Nigeria are regulars and one each from Uganda and Cameroon periodically. Finally, the Agbarho Bible Students Seminar was held on November 26, 2022 on “The Three Ways.” We thank God Almighty for the gift of technology through Telegram which has enhanced our fellowship so much.”

Togo

Bro. Sergino Kpoedzou reports: “Concerning the spiritual activities in Lome, we didn’t have any witness activities recently, however we are having hymn singing every Saturday. In addition, we’re working on the Volume 2 proofreading together. Bro. Jeremie from France sent two computers to us that we gave to Bro. Felix and Sr. Deborah. In our plan, we’ll visit at least once in my village for witness



Computers Received from Brethren in France

activities before the Pan-African Convention in April 2023.”

Liberia

Mr. Daniel Gussin had been a long-time lead that I lost contact with due to network problems within that part of the country, but he never stopped reading from the PDF materials that I sent him. Upon his arrival in Monrovia, he immediately contacted me to meet in person. So, along with Mr. Cletus Golen, we had a blessed and wonderful study at his place. Mr. Gussin shared with me how the materials have stopped him from attending church, and how it would be a blessing for the people of his town to have the word of God preached to them. He pleaded that we should visit them. Both he and Mr. Golen were immersed in the study of “God’s Grand Plan of the Ages and How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense.” They appreciated the study and asked lots of questions. Mr. Gussin shared his testimony of how pastors have been deceiving them and taking money from them so that God may bless



Bro. Nicholas on Left with Cletus and Daniel

them. Studying those materials caused him to leave. The light of Truth is indeed a blessing, no matter your origin. (Bro. Nicholas Toe)

Ghana

With all thanks to Jehovah, the brethren in Kumasi, Ghana were able to accomplish all the busy schedules we set out at the beginning of 2022. On our regular Sundays, we studied Volume 1 and the Gospels, currently in the

Book of Matthew. But in addition to these regular studies on Sundays, were included extended studies where brethren were assigned to do deeper research on assigned sections and give us detailed comments before taking remarks and questions from others. Again, there were regular elder and deacon discourses, Joint Meetings with other brethren from around the country, Testimony Meetings as well as Prayer Meetings. The brethren, for the year 2023, have in addition agreed to include regular Bible quizzes on the calendar. We look forward to the Lord’s blessings from this added activity.

End of the Year Convention

On the 19th of December 2022, the Ghana End of the Year Convention was blessed with brethren from around the world to participate and serve us. The theme text was Romans 1:8 and the theme hymn was “Victorious Faith.” Bro. Nicholas Toe from Liberia served us with a discourse titled “Thanksgiving – An Attitude of Gratitude.” Following the discourse was a panel discussion on James 2:1-9 moderated by Bro. Nicholas Charcharos from the United Kingdom and the panelists were: Bros. John



Servants at End of the Year Convention

Isife from Nigeria, Jackson Kyaligamba from Uganda, Nithin Ramasamy from India and Jerome Rogers from Ghana.

The afternoon session began with a study on 1 Timothy 4:1-16 moderated by Bro. Brian Montague from the United States, then a Devotional Service on Consecration by Bro. Isaiah Amoo from the United Kingdom. The service was followed by a Testimony Meeting which was moderated by Bro. Homer

you in our prayers so that none of you may be wearied on the narrow way but will continue with perseverance to press on toward the mark set for us all. Remain blessed by being a blessing to others! (Bro. Noah Amoo)

Cameroon

An affirmation that the body of Christ is found on many continents was illustrated vividly when Sr. Paulena and I traveled to Europe



Bro. Alex Serving Brethren at a Senior Center in Poland

Montague from the United States. We ended the convention with a second panel discussion based on James 2:14-16 which was moderated by Bro. Matthew Kerry from the United States with the following brethren as panelists: Bros. Cajetan Egbu from Nigeria, Eliezer Jjuuko from Uganda, Ondigo Ochieng from Kenya and Austin Williams from the United States. There were several breaks and sessions for spiritual fellowship. The feedback we received from the brethren was that the convention proved to be very interactive as well as a great blessing for them. "It was good for us to be here!" (Matthew 17:4)

We love you so much and constantly keep

during the summer of 2022. We enjoyed fellowship with the saints in France, Poland and elsewhere. This experience has given us renewed strength to continue the harvest work in Cameroon. (Bro. Alex Mekom)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

South Africa Ecclesia

Concerning the class, we have six brothers as well as five sisters from Africa and two sisters from the United States. We have studies on Tuesdays from the 53 Lessons, on Thursdays from Matthew and on Sundays we have a Testimony Meeting. On Saturday, August 13, 2022 we had an International Zoom Convention



Attendees at South Africa Ecclesia Meetings

whose theme was “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1) We thank God for the blessings bestowed to our ecclesia. (Bro. Israel Loji)

Sisters’ Gathering

As stated in Psalms 118:24: “This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” On November 5, 2022 more than 100 participants from Cameroon, Nigeria, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Malawi, Congo, Poland Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Ghana, India, Kenya, Germany, USA, South Africa, Canada, Romania, Togo and Tanzania were gathered together on Zoom to share love and to encourage each other. The meeting lasted for a little over 3 hours. The sisters had taken turns sharing short lessons from the Bible, lovely poems, nice scripture readings, beautiful



Sr. Perciya Anbarasan

singing and personal testimonies. As it is written in the Epistle of 1 Thessalonians 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” We were blessed, delighted and received lessons from the saints through

their experiences which the Lord has given mercifully through his unconditional love on us. Despite not capturing the excitement with all the sisters present, the recording is viewable at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-SApawLm5G2z3sm3hU6NY1Rkkb691a-n/view?usp=sharing>
(Sr. Perciya Anbarasan)

Zimbabwe

The Lord has been so gracious in this part of the world. On September 24th and 25th, 2022, Sr. Sarah Asare of South Africa was in Zimbabwe with Sr. Merrylene Zivanomoyo where they engaged in witnessing together. A lot of Blessing tracts were shared. It was heartwarming to find one woman who continued to show some interest in the Truth even after Sr. Sarah’s departure. Her name is Maritta. So, after Sr. Sarah left Zimbabwe, Sr. Merrylene was left with Blessing tracts which she shared with her schoolmates and also had the opportunity to witness the Truth to some individuals. Brother Homer Montague also later arranged for more



Srs. Sarah and Merrylene Meeting and Witnessing in Zimbabwe

tracts and booklets to be shipped to Zimbabwe from Chicago. By God's assisting grace, they did arrive safely. So, the Lord has been so good and the Truth is continuing to be spread in this part of the world.

Mozambique

Sr. Rose and Bro. Oscar Katunga as well as Sr. Sarah Asare were in Mozambique for the holidays from December 23-28, 2022. We spent our time profitably by witnessing as Sr. Rose was born in this country. While Sr. Sarah and Bro. Oscar spoke in English, Sr. Rose translated in the local language. We were really blessed in conversing with Naiva, Ivan and James who wish to meet with the brethren. Thank God for this wonderful privilege. (Sr. Rose Katunga)



Witnessing in Mozambique

BSCFA Board of Directors

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

Chairman: Bro. Bill Dutka

Secretary: Sr. Sandy Koterba

Treasurer: Bro. Austin Williams

Other Board members: Bros. Richard Doctor, Joe Dolan, Lee Hicks, Brian Montague, Homer Montague and Sr. Leah (Ruggirello) Einhorn

2023 Pan African Convention

Lord willing, the next in person Pan African Convention will be held in Ghana from April 8-11, 2023. Please keep this endeavor in your prayers that it may prove to be another occasion for rendering praise and honor to our merciful Heavenly Father.

Our Lord's Memorial

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 after 6:00 p.m.

Songs in the Night - April 15

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

1 Corinthians 15:20

OTHERS have been awakened from the sleep of death temporarily merely to relapse into it again subsequently, but our Lord Jesus was "the firstborn from the dead," the "firstfruits of them that slept" – as the apostle declares, he was the first that should rise from the dead. His resurrection was the life resurrection – to perfection on the spirit plane. In that he was the firstfruits of them that slept, the implication is that others slept similarly and are to come forth in the resurrection as spirit beings after the same manner. To be the first-fruits implies that the others will be of the same kind, for although our Lord was the first-fruits of all that slept in the sense that his resurrection preceded all other resurrections, in another sense he is the firstfruits of the church, which is his body. It is in a still larger sense that The Christ, Head, and body, is the firstfruits brought up to life of the whole world; as the Apostle James expresses the matter, "Of his own will beget he us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." `Z'04-173` R3377:5 (Hymn 285)

Newsletter items as well as fully tax deductible donations may be sent to:
Bible Students Committee for Africa
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