



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA



Newsletter

Fall 2008

## Greetings from the BSCFA

We thank our Heavenly Father for his continued blessing upon the work in Africa and elsewhere as far a field as Pakistan. Reports coming in from our brethren throughout the world testify to growth in Christ Jesus in these troubled times even though it means pain, tears and even hazard to life itself. How grateful we are for the promise "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we steadily hold fast to the first foundation unto the end." (Hebrews 3:14)

Our Master gave us the perfect example of striving against the urges of flesh towards anger that can accompany such trials, especially anger towards those who are natural enemies. In the Gospel account Jesus and the apostles were tired from their day's journey and they were in the land of the Samaritans. Their interest in securing provisions and rest were reasonable, but a nameless village refused them provisions because it was clear that Jesus was not interested in ministering to them, but in continuing on to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:52-56)

Our gracious Heavenly Father taught this same lesson to his errant servant Jonah. Like James and John, Jonah eagerly desired the destruction of his enemies in the city of Nineveh. (Jonah 4:1-11) God urged Jonah to have compassion and provided a practical example of living a life of peace: "Should not I spare Nineveh?" (vs. 11)

Our flesh delights in justifying anger. Hence, the need for Paul's admonition to wear the "sandals of peace" so that we might work the works of our Heavenly Father's righteousness in full conformance with his plans and purposes. This is why Isaiah testifies: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." (Isaiah 32:17)

On a personal level, it was a special privilege to once again accompany Bro. Homer and Sr. Beverly Montague to the Ghanaian seminar in Dunkwa-on-Offin and fellowship with our brethren face to face. Also of special note, at the annual meeting of the Bible Students' Committee for Africa provision was made to elect, at the annual business meeting, a board of directors to manage the business of the BSCFA. This action has been a long time coming and it should strengthen the work. May the Lord richly bless you in all spiritual things through Christ Jesus.

*Bro. Richard Doctor, Chairman BSCFA*



*Bro. Richard Doctor in Ghana*

## Report from Nigeria

### Travels by Bro. Cajetan Egbu

During the period May 29 to June 4, 2008, Bro. Cajetan visited three ecclesias including Oron City, Iquita Oron and Udung Uko. In addition to being welcomed by the brethren at these locations, Bro. Cajetan provided studies and discourses on "Consecration," "Evidence of the Acceptance of Your Consecration," "Bible Students and What They Do," as well as "Study the Scriptures."



*Group photograph of brethren in Oro nation*

Films on “The Truth About Hell,” “Why Does God Permit Evil?” and “Photo Drama of Creation—Part One” enhanced the brethren’s appreciation and understanding of various facets of the Truth.

A highlight of Bro. Cajetan’s pilgrim trip was attained when seven brethren symbolized their consecration on June 1, 2008, as follows: Bro. Edet Esin—Oron City, Bro. Richard and Sr. Afiong Utan—Iquita, Bro. Efiong and Sr. Afiong Eyo—Ibaka, Bro. Samuel Ating and Bro. Abraham Francis both of Udung Uko.

Despite traveling in this region during the rainy season and also passing through an area where the celebration of Biafran Day had the potential for a major political disturbance, Bro. Cajetan expressed great thankfulness to God for his overruling mercy as well as the success of this sojourn.

On another occasion between August 29 and September 1, 2008, Bro. Cajetan journeyed to and from the Abuja Ecclesia which is located in the northern portion of Nigeria. He was greeted by Bro. Anthony Olinya who not only welcomed him but also shared some of the various economic trials faced by the brethren as well as others in this locale.

Bro. Cajetan also took the opportunity to serve the class with a study and discourses on “The Call,” “Consecration,” and “The Chart.” Additionally, he delivered a baptismal discourse

for Bro. Chinyere Isaac who subsequently was immersed in the Jikwoyi River.

A question and answer session, testimony meeting and the distribution of Bible Students’ literature concluded Bro. Cajetan’s fruitful excursion to encourage and note the spiritual growth of this newer class.

### **Report from Bro. Moses Obire**

“It has been a blessing for me to serve the brethren in Ghana at the biannual Ghana elders’ seminars for the past three years (since 2005) and to see the growth in the knowledge and in the faith of the brethren. For some time it has been in my heart to do the same with the elders in Nigeria for our spiritual growth and fellowship.

By God’s overruling, means were provided and invitations were sent out in April and May to all Bible Student classes in Nigeria to send their elders to attend a seminar somewhat along the lines of the School of the Prophets of the early Truth days. It was my privilege to host this gathering from June 3rd through 6th at Warri.

Eight elders from seven classes met together in all-day sessions giving discourses and having discussions intermingled with Re-print and Bible studies. Some of the topics of study were: (1) The Footsteps of Jesus: (2) Our Baptism into Christ, (3) Berean Bible



*Attendees at Nigerian elders' seminar*

Study on Temperance [Self-Control] and (4) How and What We Fight. Those who attended were:

1. Bro. Joseph Ajise from Ibadan Class
2. Bro. Peter U. Ekeh from Aba Class
3. Bro. Monday Okoekoh from Uromi Class
4. Bro. Sunday Enang from Ntak Obio Akpa Class (Akwa Ibom)
5. Bro. Monday Ntikidem Peters from Ntak Obio Akpa Class
6. Bro. Bassey Akpan from Ikot Abasi Class (Akwa Ibom)
7. Bro. John Isife from Lagos-Ketu Class
8. The 8th attendee was myself from Warri Class.

It was a blessed season and the brethren expressed a desire to have more such Nigerian elders' seminars on a regular basis."

## **Report from Ghana**

**Thursday, June 12**

Bro. Richard Doctor as well as Bro. Homer and Sr. Beverly Montague were greeted at approximately 9:00 A.M. at the Accra airport by a group of Ghanaian brethren, most of whom

then traveled with them to Winneba where Bros. Enoch Annan and Fred Ansah joined the group. Bro. James Ansah of Egyirefa had been meeting with the friends in that area for a period of time and in view of his desire and expressed understanding concerning the import of baptism, symbolized his consecration through water immersion.

Bros. Richard and Homer conducted a public meeting at Abura Dunkwa that featured a "Chart" talk as well as the distribution of literature explaining the Bible Students' beliefs and practices. Some of the local brethren who sponsored this meeting included Bros. Emmanuel and Sr. Comfort Menu as well as Bro. Jerome Rogers. At the conclusion of this public meeting, Bros. Menu and Rogers accompanied the brethren who had been traveling with the Americans and journeyed to the home of Bro. Samuel and Sr. Elizabeth Amoo for dinner, fellowship and a night of rest.

**Friday, June 13**

Following breakfast the brethren traveled to a nearby university for a witness effort. Five

*“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”  
(Matthew 9:38)*

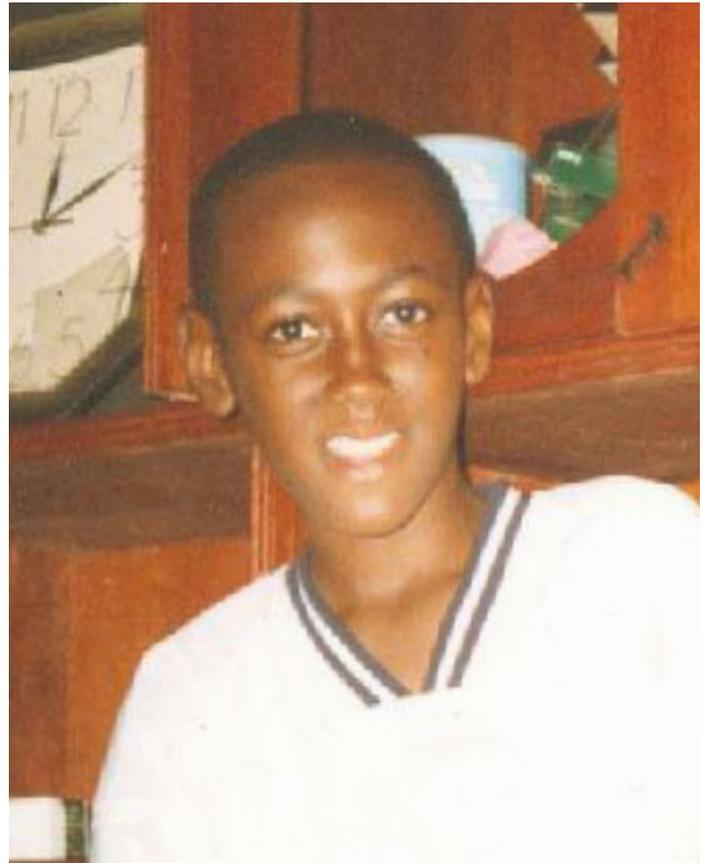
visitors were in attendance, either through personal referral of brethren or an announcement made on a local radio station. One attendee had his name included in the Chicago Bible Students database and was informed of the event via e-mail. After a session of four hours in length, the brethren returned to the Amoo residence where follow-up discussions involving one of the visitors took place. During this period Bro. Richard Doctor provided training on how to use a donated laptop computer containing materials brought from America which Bible Students use.

Subsequently, Bro. Richard also gave a baptismal discourse for the youngest son in the Amoo family, Bro. Isaiah, who symbolized his consecration by water immersion in the household's bathtub. The evening concluded on an extremely positive note as the brethren testified as to the blessings received during the past two days.

#### **Saturday, June 14 – Wednesday, June 18**

Following breakfast, the friends traveled to Dunkwa-on-Offin to prepare for a leaders' seminar commencing that afternoon. Originally, the American brethren were planning to lodge each evening at a local hotel but the available room arrangements proved unsatisfactory. During the Montagues' earlier visit to this village, they often lodged at the home of Bro. Adamu Adams but had no direct contact with him for a few years. When Bro. Adams was made aware of the difficulty with the hotel he gladly opened his home to the American brethren for the duration of their stay in Dunkwa-on-Offin.

Over the course of four and one half days the leaders' seminar occurred at a local Baptist church whose facilities Bro. Plange was instrumental in securing for the friends. Eight MP3 players were distributed during this period as well as several Truth related CDs to various leaders. Approximately 15 discourses presented by the Ghanaian leaders with follow-up questions gave the speakers an opportunity to demonstrate the degree to which they were further being strengthened by the Truth's



*Newly immersed Bro. Isaiah Amoo*

influence. The topics chosen continued to be from “The Profession of Our Faith” series, employing similar themes as were utilized during the leaders' seminar conducted by Bro. Moses Obire of Nigeria during his spring 2008 visit to Ghana.

Additionally, Bro. Richard and Bro. Homer led ten Reprint studies with the friends with the titles of “The Race, The Prize, The Course,” “Thy Money Perish With Thee,” “With Jesus and Learned of Him,” “Standing at the Mark,” “To What Degree Should We Confess Faults,” “Law Righteousness and Faith Righteousness,” “The Antitype Begins Where the Type Ends,” “The Power of the Will-Self Control,” “The Last of the Prophets,” and “Hypocrisy a Foe to Godliness.”

There was warm fellowship in evidence as brethren from distinctive areas in Ghana came together in a more unified manner than had been previously noted. The testimonies of the brethren reflected great joy in the fact that this warm spirit was evident and exhortations were given by several of the friends that the seminar was an outstandingly wonderful experience.

### **Thursday, June 19**

The brethren that came to Dunkwa-on-Offin together in a van departed for Accra making interim stops at Kumasi and the Cape Coast area to drop off the friends en route. Three of the friends remained overnight at the Koby Hotel with the Americans and were met there by Bros. Felix Daddah and Charles Adu who stopped by for fellowship. It was determined that a concentrated effort to reach the many individuals in Accra that have contacted Bible Students' web sites should be initiated. Bro. Edward Nkansah who travels to Accra after his witness efforts and meetings with the brethren in the Cape Coast region agreed to spend about three days in Accra each month to help establish the Truth in this large city using Bro. Felix Daddah's home as a base of operations. (As of this writing, there have been many positive responses to Bro. Edward's offer to conduct Bible studies in Accra). Bro. Richard Doctor also provided additional laptop computer training at the Koby Hotel for those brethren who needed it.

### **Friday, June 20**

Bro. Richard, the Montagues as well as Bros. Samuel Amoo, Thomas Nti and Edward Nkansah traveled to the Accra airport and the

brethren from both countries bade each other farewell until God willing, all should be blessed in meeting together again. The overall experience was highly satisfying and a cause for rejoicing!

### **Regional Indigenous Pilgrim Service**

For several years, American and Nigerian elders have visited Ghana on a regular basis to promote the Truth and also to help establish indigenous Bible Students' leadership. Commencing October 1, 2008, the BSCFA will support a special pilot initiative for the purpose of further enhancing the brethren's spiritual growth and development in the Ashanti, Central and Western regions. One local brother from each of these areas has been selected as a pilgrim. One of his functions is to facilitate a systematic study of "Joy Cometh in the Morning" in classes wherever needed in that particular region. Through outreach and visitations to other classes in his assigned area, the pilgrim brother also serves as a resource to support individual leaders.

Additionally, another aspect of each pilgrim's responsibility is to coordinate an ongoing witness program to help insure that others who may have an interest in the Truth are reached through this initiative. It is hoped



*Group photograph of attendees at Dunkwa seminar*

not only may additional members be added to existing classes, but also, that new ecclesias may be formed. For any new groups of Bible Students developed, use of the “Chart of the Ages” and “God’s Plan for Man–23 Home Study Lessons” are recommended before commencing a study of “Joy Cometh in the Morning.”

Three members of the BSCFA have been chosen to coordinate whatever support is necessary to make this overall program successful. The pilgrims will be asked to send to their respective coordinators a monthly report indicating the number and nature of activities conducted, an assessment as to the brethren’s growth in the knowledge of and appreciation for the Truth and the results of the systematized witness effort conducted.

For newcomers to Bible Students’ teachings, after completing “God’s Plan for Man–23 Home Study Lessons” and “Joy Cometh in the Morning,” it is anticipated those brethren would proceed into a study of Volume 1 in “Studies in the Scriptures” because of the foundation that has been laid. Following a period of six months, an evaluation of this program will be made by the BSCFA

## **Report from South Africa**

This is a summary from Bro. Dean Oswell that describes present conditions concerning the spread of the Truth in South Africa.

“Due to current xenophobic tension and near-starvation in neighboring Zimbabwe, witness work has become rather subdued. This was deemed wise since most of the friends who have been laboring in the vineyard are not indigenous South Africans. One of them moved away from his former residence because the threat of violence was too great. Brethren who wish to learn more concerning the general malaise of social discount are encouraged to contact me.

Meanwhile, the importance of understanding Truth issues, particularly regarding prophetic matters is now a regular part of our studies. Bro. Israel Loji and I have had some good discussions on the book of Revelation and have managed to download numerous talks by brethren to try and facilitate our understanding further. It has been a blessing to be able to go on to hi-speed internet, to now have liberty to do this, and further, to also store

talks on cell and pen-drive. This has enabled us to share the Truth at will, and Bro. Israel has made some trips to Johannesburg and spoken and shared with some repeatedly there.

Additionally, an interested man who is also pastor of the Richards Bay “Church of God (Seventh Day)” though himself a Kenyan, has made trips to Durban (nearly an hour and a half away) to meet and discuss Bible topics. He is very sincere, zealous, and also searches the scriptures. Thus, together with a new-found Bible student, Authority Kivudi who is progressing slowly through the 53 Lessons of God’s Plan plus the other few friends we have been meeting with who are affected by the atrocities in the area and in some cases have had to see their loved ones depart for other regions, we continue to see God’s providence in our lives. As a result of these conditions, our appreciation for the rapidly approaching Kingdom as the only solution for mankind’s state is heightened.

Finally, we hope to prepare study material for more advanced study of character development. Sadly though, for whatever reasons our hopes to meet regularly with other brethren from across the continent online have not materialized, but given time and a good schedule of topics for study and meeting time (Friday evening) may this transpire as the Lord wills.”

## **Report from Trinidad**

Bro. Percival Blenman has provided the following account concerning a witness effort in Trinidad during August 2008.

“1) The first day Bro. Bill and Sr. Shannah Dutka as well as Bro. Percival and Alice Blenman arrived late that evening at Piarco Airport.

2) The next two days (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> working days) were spent reserving the banquet hall for a public presentation, looking at other hall venues for possible alternative presentations and planning a radio advertisement for our up-coming video presentation. We were invited by our driver to attend a Bible study at his church (later that evening) which we accepted. While planning the radio advertisement, we were presented with the opportunity to provide radio programming on the island’s largest religious radio station for their



*The Dutkas and Blenmans in Trinidad*

2009 programming schedule.

3) The fourth day saw us placing our 30-second radio advertisement for the public video presentation. Later that day, we spent the time placing tracts, contacting subscription follow-ups and reaching out to local churches. We were also invited by the bishop of a popular Pentecostal church to provide a public discourse at one of his churches. He actually invited us to provide the presentation at more than one of his churches, but time was against us. So, we only accepted the invitation to provide a public discourse at one of his churches.

4) The fifth day we used to rest and relax at one of the swimming pools of a local hotel.

5) We had our first public video presentation on the evening of the sixth day (Saturday).

6) The seventh day (Sunday) Bro. Bill Dutka gave a public discourse on the "Chart of the Ages" to a full audience at one of the local Pentecostal churches. Later that day we had two public presentations of the "For This Cause" video at the banquet hall across the street from one of the local churches.

7) The eighth day we left early that morning to begin the trip back to the United States.

We were only able to contact a fraction of our church and personal follow-ups in the time allotted. Of course, this leaves room for a return visit at a future date. Meanwhile, we are hoping to do some type of mailing to many of these follow-ups that we missed on this occasion.

Additionally, we acquired new follow-ups from persons who expressed an interest in our message. Many of these requested their own personal copy of the "For This Cause" video as well as subscriptions to the Dawn magazine.

There certainly appears to be an opportunity to provide radio programming of something similar to *Christian Questions* on the island's largest religious radio station. This station is expanding their signal to include coverage of many of the other English-speaking Caribbean islands. I am suggesting *Christian Questions* as a possibility, since the *Frank and Ernest* program is already available on the AM band (7:30 AM).



*Cross section of brethren at Abuja Ecclesia*

I've spoken to Bro. Rick (of *Christian Questions*) and he would be happy to allow us to provide prerecorded programming of *Christian Questions* on 98.1 FM in Trinidad. We ask a share in your prayers that if it is the Lord's will, a way might be made possible to allow this opportunity to become reality."

### **Bible Students' Web Sites**

Many witness efforts are occurring in Africa as a result of names garnered from Bible Students' web sites. There is great interest by individuals in learning what the Bible teaches, especially by those with economic needs. Even though we know that present conditions will change during the Kingdom, we can offer a sense of hope now for those lacking it. If you have e-mail addresses, primarily from Ghana and/or Nigeria and would like to have them forwarded to brethren in these two countries for follow up, kindly e-mail this information to [montags3ny@aol.com](mailto:montags3ny@aol.com).

### **July 2008 BSCFA Meeting Highlights**

1. An election was held which resulted in the establishment of a BSCFA Board of Directors consisting of the three officers plus six additional committee members to expedite programs and issues to be considered by this organization.
2. A motion was passed to develop a coordinated approach for supervising a pilgrim service in three areas of Ghana.
3. The election of Committee officers resulted in the following brethren being chosen:  
Chairman – Bro. Richard Doctor  
Secretary – Bro. Bill Dutka  
Treasurer – Sr. Nannette Nekora

Newsletter items as well as fully tax deductible donations may be sent to:  
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**P.O. Box 111**  
**West Hempstead, NY 11552**