



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

SUMMER 2011

Newsletter

## Greetings from the BSCFA

It's that time of year, spring, and the world seems to be a better place. It is energized with life! With spring, comes the opportunity to attend various conventions, have fellowship with brethren from other Bible Student congregations, and take home a bushel of spiritual food and love to meditate upon. We see our brethren, present company included, excited to share the conventions that they plan to attend as we approach convention season.

We continue to look forward to our oasis in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Our senses are heightened as we consider a week of prayer, praise, fellowship, testimony and a banquet of spiritual food. We recount the many General Conventions, and blessings that the Heavenly Father has showered upon us, His children. Two continents are united by a common love. As we compare the truth movement on the continent of Africa with our experiences in the United States, we see that same zeal, love and anticipation for yet another convention, another seminar, another opportunity to sing forth the praises of Jehovah. With great excitement and anticipation we read the African pilgrim reports, remembering our own personal experiences in Africa.

We look forward to your reports about your personal and ecclesia truth activities, the conventions you hold and attend, your ecclesia meetings, the sisters and their many spiritual blessings and opportunities, new interests, and follow-up meetings. Receiving this type of correspondence knits us closer together in the bonds of Christian love and brotherhood.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you brethren. In every prayer of mine I always make my entreaty and petition for

you all with joy. I thank my God for your fellowship, your sympathetic cooperation and contributions and partnership in advancing the good news of the Gospel from the first day you heard it until now! And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ, developing that good work and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you."—*Philippians 1:3-6, Amplified Bible*

Bro. Bill Dutka, Chairman, BSCFA

## Report from Nigeria

### Leadership (Servants) Seminar

The Nigerian Bible Students' leadership (servants) Seminar was held in Obudi Agwa Owerri from February 18-20, 2011. Its theme was "I press toward the mark for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14) Fourteen ecclesias participated in this gathering including Ibadan Lagos, Onitsha, Agwa, Ohoba, Abuja, Obile, Aba 2, Kwale and Affor.

The chairmen for the weekend were Bros. Stephen Obayagbona, Bright Utok, Anthony Olinya, Godwin Edoja and Maurice Uzor. Additional services were rendered as follows:

1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu led a study on "The High Calling in Christ Jesus" and presented a PowerPoint on "The Chart of the Ages."
2. Bro. David Obayagbona conducted two studies on "Bible Students Beliefs and Practices" and "Covenants."
3. Bro. Celestine Oledbe led two studies entitled "Our Responsibility Towards the Truth" and "End Time Prophecies."



## Attendees at Leadership (Servants) Seminar

4. Bro. Chuks Edward led two studies with the topics “Kingdom and the People” and “The Call and Consecrating a Priest.”
5. Bro. Ikechukwu Asiegbu’s study was on “Resurrection.”
6. Bro. Lazarus Ukpai entitled his study “Principles of Spiritual Leadership.”
7. Testimony meetings during the seminar were conducted by Bros. Joseph Ogbunike, Maurice Uzor and Vitalis Ekeh.

All servants of the Nigerian Bible Students Ecclesia Mission were advised to follow the newly enacted constitution while executing their duties for the growth and interest of the body both spiritually and otherwise.

### **Agwa Bible Students Convention**

The Agwa Convention was held on April 23, 2011. Its theme was “Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.” (1 Corinthians 11:24)

The other ecclesias that attended this gathering included Ibadan, Onitsha, Ohoba, Obile, Awarra and Kwale. Bros. Valentine Ebepu and Loveday Omereji served as chairmen. The following brethren also served:

1. Bro. Boniface Obiukwu opened the convention with the discourse “Follow Me.”
2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu’s discourse was titled “Do This In Remembrance of Me.”
3. Bro. Chuks Edward’s topic was “The Sower.”
4. Bro. Lazarus Ukpai spoke on “In Times Like This.”
5. Bro. Godwin Edoja’s sermon was entitled “Preach the Word.”
6. Bro. Maurice Uzor conducted the testimony meeting.

The Agwa brethren were very happy that the convention was able to be held as it fell within the Nigerian general elections. They gave thanks to God for making it possible for brethren to attend the convention under the present difficult conditions in the country.

### **Kwale Convention**

The first Kwale Convention was held on Saturday, May 14, 2011 and was hosted by Bro. Godwin Edoja who provided the necessary accommodations for the visiting brethren. The theme was “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman, that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) The ecclesias represented at this gathering



## **A Group of Brethren at the Kwale Convention**

included Ibadan, Lagos, Agwa, Ohoba, Onitsha, Warri, Ntak Obio Akpa, Uyo City, Awarra, Okpuala Nkwa, Abak, Affor, Kwale as well as other study areas. The chairmen were Bros. Vincent Aggreh and Edward Chuks. The following brethren also served:

1. Bro. Godwin Eodja gave the welcome discourse entitled “What Has the Truth Cost You?”
2. Bro. Moses Obire’s discourse was on “Taking God’s Name In Vain.”
3. Bro. Celestine Oledibe gave a discourse on “A Little Flock.”
4. Bro. Etentia Esin entitled his discourse “You and Your Calling.”
5. Bro. Cajetan Egbu led a study on “The End of the Age, a Perilous Time.”
6. Bro. Sunday Enang’s sermon was on “One Church, One Shepherd.”
7. Bro. Moses Obire, Lazarus Ukpai and Cajetan Egbu served as panelists during a question meeting.

8. Bro. John Isife conducted the testimony meeting.

The discourses given appeared to address the need for unity among Nigerian Bible Students with scriptural injunctions offered to promote this concept. Additionally, there were opportunities for small group fellowship to further explore strategies for bringing the brethren together to a greater degree. There was consensus that this was a successful convention, especially since some of the brethren in attendance had not been meeting together for a long period of time.

### **Report from Ghana**

#### **January 17-January 31, 2011**

During this time brethren from America once again enjoyed fellowship with local friends throughout Ghana. The following account highlights some of the specific activities which occurred.

#### **Monday, January 17th**

Bro. Lee and Sr. Ila Hicks, Sr. Lynn Murray as well as Bro. Homer and Sr. Beverly Montague were met at the Accra Airport by Bros. Samuel



## Meeting with the Accra Class

Amoo and Edward Nkansah. They visited the Women's Presbyterian Centre to make preliminary arrangements for the next international leaders' seminar in 2012. Next there were visits to the Accra class as well as the Winneba class where local leaders led studies. That evening the Americans arrived at a hotel in Cape Coast accompanied by five of the Ghanaian brethren who also spent the night there.

### **Tuesday – Thursday, January 18th – 20th**

On the first day, Bro. Lee Hicks conducted a brief baptismal discourse which was followed by an immersion service for Bro. Felix Daddah. These three days were devoted to a series of discourses with questions by several local leaders, daily studies led by the American brethren as well as a testimony meeting, devotionals and much spiritual fellowship. The setting for this gathering was a Pentecostal church in Cape Coast and the local brethren arranged for delicious meals and appropriate hotel accommodations for all.

### **Friday, January 21st**

Highlights from this day included an in-depth business meeting conducted by Bros. Homer and Lee with five pilgrim brethren who focused upon

the areas of Cape Coast, Accra, Kumasi, Dunkwa and the Western Region. There were discussions on how the pilgrims might work most effectively, dispute resolution, witnessing strategies, sites for future seminars and implementation of procedures to maximize participation by all of the involved brethren. The session seemed to be especially useful in clarifying important areas of concern.

### **Saturday, January 22nd**

The morning hours were devoted to presentations by some of the local leaders in the Cape Coast area. In the afternoon the Americans left for Kumasi and stopped at Saltpond to greet the friends there with Bro. Plange. The Americans then journeyed to the Amoo's residence in Kumasi which was used as a home base for the remainder of their time in that region.

### **Sunday, January 23rd**

The hospitality of Sr. Elizabeth Amoo was enjoyed throughout the stay at her home. On this date, the Americans met with the Kumasi Ecclesia in the morning and in the afternoon, traveled to Tano Dumasi for a study led by Bro. Isaac Osei on the Rich Man and Lazarus.

### **Monday, January 24th**

Following breakfast, the Americans visited the Western Region where Bro. Thomas Nti had arranged for several discourses to be given by local leaders. Near the end of the visit, it was agreed that a discussion on the topic of “Let the Dead Bury the Dead” would be an important area for future study and discussion.

### **Tuesday, January 25th**

There were two visits to local classes in Kumasi for studies during the day. In the evening, the friends from Takyiman came to Bro. Amoo’s home for a study on “The Three Ways.”

### **Wednesday, January 26th**

The last study during the Montagues’ stay before returning to Accra was concluded at Asuofua which is another of Bro. Amoo’s regular pilgrim locations. There is one consecrated individual there, Sr. Paulina Afryie, who also attended the Ghanaian/Nigerian seminar in January 2010. Her nephew, George Appiah, led the session on the topic “The Truth About Hell.” He had a good style of presenting his lessons. The balance of this report is provided by Bro. Lee Hicks who remained in Ghana after the Montagues returned to America.

### **Thursday, January 27th**

“Bro. Edward, as well as Sr. Ila and I plus Sr. Lynn traveled to the Western Region via Dunkwa in a minivan to pick up Bro. Plange and Bro. Amoabeng of Ayanfuri class, arriving at Adesu where the brethren were waiting for us. After devotions Bro. Patrick conducted a study. He understood his topic and answered questions using some scriptures. Bro. Ben Bright was at this meeting along with others, and added greatly to the discussion. We returned to Dunkwa via Ayanfuri, visited a brother, and then continued to Bro. Adams’ home for the night. After dinner we had a study for about two hours. This group meets with Bro. Adams in his house. They were pleased with what they heard and having their questions answered.

### **Friday, January 28th**

We returned to the Western Region to continue having the leaders conduct studies. At Afransie, Bro. Patrick and Bro. Erik Wiredu served. I also gave a short talk as a summary at each class meeting. We visited Famanyo to greet the friends at this location. We also spent the night again at Bro. Adams’ home and had a study on “The Church.”



**Cape Coast Area Brethren**

## **Saturday, January 29th**

We traveled to Cape Coast.

## **Sunday, January 30th**

We visited all of the classes in the area, having each leader conduct a study with his class. The leaders had a good understanding of their subjects. At the last class we visited, Bro. Paul Arthur gave a chart study.

## **Monday, January 31st**

After a good night's sleep we departed from Cape Coast for Accra. We arrived at Marisa Guest House around noon. Bro. Felix Daddah and Dominic Kofi visited us in our hotel that day. We had a study as to why we are not under the new covenant now. Late that evening Bro. Adam Amoo also came to see us.

## **Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Report**

The thirteenth Ghanaian leaders' seminar (April 26 to May 1) conducted by Bro. Moses Obire at the Amoo residence in Kumasi featured discourses by Bros. Thomas Nti, Samuel Amoo, Edward Nkansah, Samuel Amporful, Moses Baah, John Quaidoo, Adam Amoo, Enoch Annan, Leonard Plange, Thomas Duah, Nana Adu, Jerome Rogers and Noah Amoo. The pilgrim brethren spoke on various aspects of Brotherly Love based upon material from the Character Development book whereas, the other leaders gave talks on topics addressed in the publication "God's Plan for Man."

Bro. Obire also conducted studies on "Every Idle Word," "The Judgment of the New Creation," "The Day of Small Things," "The Counsel of God," as well as comprehensive panel discussions involving the pilgrim brethren on "Brotherly Love." A special feature of the seminar included practical procedures for preparation of discourses. All of the friends present were divided into five groups and collaborated for two and a half hours to develop a discourse on a subject of their own choosing and a representative from each team then made a presentation for everyone to hear. The topics chosen included "The Word of God," "Creation of Man," "The Three Worlds," "Discipleship," and "Marriage."

This practice was very meaningful and plans are in place to incorporate similar sessions at future seminars.

In addition to devotions, fellowship, question sessions and a testimony meeting, there were a number of important subjects discussed including the role of chairmen, participation of sisters in ecclesia meetings, utilization of study aids such as the "Expanded Biblical Comments," implications of Luke 9:57-62, effective conflict resolution techniques as well as suggested modifications for future seminars. It was agreed that many blessings were received during this highly productive week of study.

## **Report from Uganda**

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko continues to be extremely active in the Lord's service. Below is his report highlighting some of his labors earlier this year.

"By the grace of God, we had a second witnessing Mission in D. R. Congo which began on March 1, 2011, facilitated by the Oakland County Bible Students. This was preceded with an internal seminar at the Congo border with area ecclesias. The Lord blessed our desires which involved myself, Bro. James Onegiu (from Uganda), and Bro. Uucha (from Congo side of the border). We reached Bunia in Congo with little difficulty and were welcomed by believers and Pastor Moses Obia. We had two days of seminar following our arrival and four pastors attended from other churches. One proclaimed "apostle" worked against us and our program



**Left to Right - Bros. James Onegiu, Eliezer Jjuuko and Pastor Moses Obio**

having received information from Paidha churches. He confronted the Bunia pastors, read the materials and listened to us. Pastor Moses indicated he will continue this excellent Bible study which he has seen in his old age and told them he will take it to other regions where he oversees other churches. The attendance at this Bunia seminar was about 35 adults due to great opposition from fellow pastors.

The third day we proceeded to Gate Village, about 70 kilometers from Bunia. The following day we had a seminar introducing the 53 Lessons in French and 100 in attendance agreed to hold a group Bible study each Friday. At a showing of "For This Cause" in the evening, there about 500 present. The area in which we labored is affected by tribal wars.

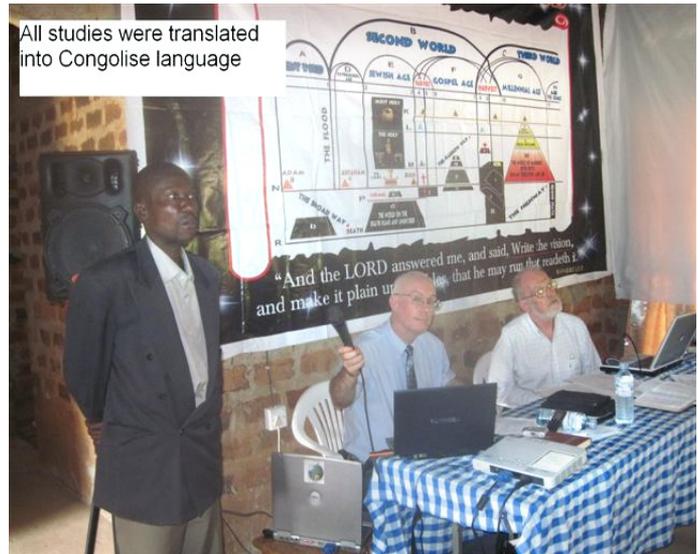
The following day after breakfast, we traveled to another village called Bukiringi. On reaching our destination, 500 believers of three denominations had gathered and were singing. We were overtaken by their joy in seeing us.

Pastor Moses on introducing us told them to be ready as he has brought real teaching of the Bible, and will continue to take these studies to all. We spoke on "The Grace of God" presenting God's plan from the fall of man, God's provision of the ransom, and God's program in the recovery of all who have ever lived and died in his blessed Kingdom here on earth. We used the Bible, explaining what were death and the resurrection secured by the man Christ Jesus, as well as the blessing for all the families of the earth from the first man to die, Abel, all in two hours!

Believers and pastors from nearby villages attended this seminar for two more days with about 600 in attendance. In addition to doctrinal instruction, we showed films and they wondered at the Kingdom, the joy of the resurrection and God's blessings to all.

### **Bro. Jjuuko's Recent Convention Report**

"We are rejoicing in giving thanks to our Heavenly Father, and our Master, Jesus Christ; for



**Left to Right - Translator and Bros. Ed Grabner and Jerry Leslie**

their grace and accompanying mercies and abundant blessings towards us and in the convention just held here in Uganda, May 13-15, 2011. The Lord blessed us. Glory and praise be to his holy name, forever and ever, Amen.

This involved brethren and sisters from Uganda and Congo plus two main speakers from the USA, Bros. Jerry Leslie and Ed Grabner. The convention was hosted at our Kampala home, selected by the hosting Kampala Area Bible Students Ecclesia. It is also our meeting place now and we hope, God willing, to have our future seminars/conventions here!

The attendance was about 43 adults with brethren from different parts of Uganda and representatives of two classes from Congo; four Uganda ecclesias plus our friends from Wakiso and Mengo classes. We hope all whose hearts are right received benefits from the Lord and his arrangements!"

### **Report from Kenya**

Another country in which there are many efforts to promote the harvest work is Kenya. Here is one such report that summarizes some of the efforts in which Bro. Pius Were has been involved during March 2011.



## Namayakalo Witness Effort

“By the grace of the Lord we had a three-day blessed seminar at Namayakalo. It was attended by over 100 Christians. They received the truth with ready minds and appreciated it so much.

We traveled in a team of seven people from Bungoma including Bro. Paul, Bro. Moses, Bro. Job, Sr. Agnes, Sr. Rose, Sr. Esther and I. During the seminar we were all provided with accommodations and meals at the home of Bro. Peter who was the host. When we arrived at the seminar, on the first day, the number was about 30 to 40 Christians. However, the number kept on increasing up to about 100 people.

I introduced the truth on the divine plan of God. The Lord enabled their eyes to see and their ears to hear and appreciate the beauties of the scriptures. Each listener was attentive on the explanations and thereafter several questions followed, which were answered to their satisfaction.

After the seminar we held a discussion with the leaders of Namayakalo Church and made arrangements for them to start a study class in their church. I left them with some introductory study subjects.

I’ll have to make another visit after two months to provide more materials after digestion of what they have. The other two seminars are ready in place including Matunda seminar in Transzola district about 250 kilometers away from Bungoma, and Sibaale seminar in Busia district about 320 kilometers from Bungoma.

It would be well if we record the seminar witnessing teachings while at a given place. Thereafter, we can take a copy to a nearby radio station in Bungoma town so that it will be broadcast either once or twice a week depending upon payment arrangements. If this works well, then we may extend this practice to other radio stations. Copies might also be distributed in the meeting so that individuals can hear the message during their own time at home. Through this program, many will have an opportunity to hear the truth.”

### Continuing Gratitude

Many brethren pioneered in Africa years ago in order to promote the truth on that continent. Although the faces today may be different, the purpose remains the same. Friends from around the globe continue in an effort to share the good tidings of the Kingdom with all who have a hearing ear even at this late stage of the harvest. The support rendered in this endeavor is greatly appreciated and we are confident our dear Heavenly Father will abundantly reward all who are faithfully ministering to the spiritual needs of each of these very dear ones abroad.

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**