



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA



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Newsletter

Winter 2011

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## Greetings from the BSCFA

For me, a New Year can be likened to the warm, but magnificent African sunrise that sheds forth the dawn of a new day. How its morning light slowly, pleasantly awakens the senses. New Year's, too, awakens or becomes the mile marker along our roadmap of life. It's an opportunity to take a quiet breath, steal a moment, and consider our grand Creator's design as it unfolds in the experiences of our lives.

How many cherished moments can we recollect from the patchwork of life's quilt? From the joy or adoration of a child's smile, to a drama acted out in one's life, stand still, close your eyes, and consider the quiet, the still of the day not the rapidly moving treadmill of life; yield to the quiescent and serene moments.

Reflection, resolution and examination are the hallmark of our New Year. As we reflect on

the friends, our brethren, family, and the footprints that mark our path we remain speechless with gratitude. Life's simple kindnesses, joys, and long-standing relationships are the memories that cause us great gratitude on the break of a New Year, this New Year's Day.

To know that your mountaintop joys, greatest accomplishments, deepest secrets, fears, failures, and resolutions can be shared and are secure in the hearts of a few good friends—your brethren, this is the special treasure or simple fare that adorns our New Year's table year after year. May God grant you the opportunity and determination to deepen your commitment as we stand on the threshold of yet another year, another opportunity to serve him, learn of him, and worship him! May this New Year firmly knit us together in the bonds of love and peace. Ephesians 4:16

*Bro. Bill Dutka, Chairman BSCFA*



**Okpuala Ngwa Convention Attendees**

## Report from Nigeria

### Okpuala Ngwa Ecclesia Convention

The brethren in Okpuala Ngwa held their first mini convention on Saturday, August 21, 2010. Its theme was "Shine as Light in the World." (Matthew 5:16) Bros. Chucks Jacob and Boniface Obiukwu served as chairmen in the morning and afternoon sessions respectively. The following brethren also served:

- 1) Bro. Godwin Adiele gave a welcome address entitled "Shine as Light in the World."
- 2) Bro. Celestine Oledibe's discourse was "A Thousand Years Are as But Yesterday."
- 3) Bro. Lazarus Ukpai's discourse was "Heavenly Nature."
- 4) Bro. Chucks Jacob talked on "Separation of the Sheep and the Goats."
- 5) Bro. Hen Bassey's topic was "Contending for the Faith."
- 6) Bro. Maurice Uzor chose "Consequences of Sin."
- 7) Bro. Cajetan Egbu's PowerPoint presentation was captioned "Change."

It was a very successful convention which ended with joy. Bible Students' literature and magazines were distributed.

### Report from Bro. Moses Obire

I am very glad to report that by the special grace of our Heavenly Father we have had the privilege to hold another successful elders' seminar in Nigeria on October 1 and 2, 2010 in Agbaro near Warri.

On the first day, the theme discourse based on 2 Corinthians 4:2 was "Moreover It is Required in Stewards That a Man Be Found Faithful." This was followed by another discourse entitled "Special Times and Seasons Divinely Appointed." The main study of the day was "The Baptism of the New Creation." After dinner a film was shown on the Gospel of John.

On day two, the first discourse was titled "The Fulfillment of Time Prophecy at the First Advent of Christ." The next discourse was captioned "Times of the Gentiles." The final discourse was entitled "The Kingdom of God on Earth," taken from the 53 Lessons series.

The attendees at the seminar were:

Bros. Donatus Onochie, Peter Eke, Godwin Edoja, Simon Jada, Henry Igurube, Philip Otarunu, Godwin Otarunu, Benjamin Nushe, Daniel Obuwovwi, Essien Ettentia, Vincent Aggreh, David Ena-Obire, Moses Ena-Obire as well as Sr. Silver Egodo and Bro. Abaegbu.



**Nigerian Elders' Seminar Attendees**

## General Convention at Nbawsi

Following fellowship among the early arrivals on October 28th, on Friday, October 29th Bro. Donatus Ariwodor greeted the brethren with a welcome address entitled “Dwelling Together in Unity.” Bro. Monday Okoekoh then spoke on “Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.” A third discourse before lunch captioned “God, The Open Book” was provided by Bro. Godwin Adiele. Following lunch, Bro. Francis Edet spoke on “The Real You and Worship.” Bro. Donatus Ariwodor then gave another sermon on the subject “Duty of Brethren Toward Each Other.”



### Bro. Hen Bassey Giving a Discourse

On Saturday, October 30th, Bro. Godwin Edoja served with a talk entitled “The Secret of the Harvest Increase.” This was followed by the discourse, “Evidence” by Bro. Hen Bassey. Bro. Chucks Jacob then gave a sermon on “Prayer and Public Worship.” For the initial service in the afternoon, Bro. Donatus Ariwodor discoursed on “Principles of Spiritual Leadership.” The young adults later provided a thrilling drama captioned “Anything You Do God Sees You.” Bro. Godwin Edoja provided another talk on “What Kind of Member Are You?” Bro. Donatus Ariwodor concluded the day with part 2 of the topic “Principles of Spiritual Leadership.”

On Sunday morning, October 31st, Bro. Donatus Ariwodor gave a baptismal discourse entitled “Consecration.” Bro. Chimjike Godwin and Sr. Maria Samuel were immersed by Bros. Francis Edet and Donatus Ariwodor. The second of two testimony meetings then concluded the convention.



### Young Adult Singers at Ibadan Convention

## Ibadan Ecclesia Convention

On Saturday, December 4th the Ibadan Ecclesia held its end of the year thanksgiving convention. Its theme was “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” (Psalm 100:4) The convention was chaired by Bros. Edward Ekeh and Godwin Edoja in the morning and afternoon sections respectively. The following brethren also served:

1. Bro. Stephen Obayagbona gave a welcome address on “Ambassadors for Jesus Christ.”
2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu talked on “Life in Christ Jesus.”
3. Bro. Celestine Oledibe’s discourse was entitled “Prayer.”
4. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu’s lesson was on “Jesus, the Saviour of the World.”
5. Bro. Lazarus Ukpai’s lesson was “Be Thankful.”
6. Bro David Obayagbona captioned his discourse “There Is a Resurrection.”
7. Bro. Maurice Uzor conducted the Testimony meeting.

Bros. Cajetan Egbu, David Obayagbona and Celestine Oledibe were panelists during the Question meeting. Many questions were asked and satisfactory answers were given.

Brethren gave encouraging testimonies that were of great benefit to all in the convention and the young adult sisters entertained the conventioners with beautiful songs.



## **Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko (with Raised Hand) Witnessing in Congo**

### **Report from Uganda**

The following are highlights sent by Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko of Uganda regarding witness efforts by brethren in his class.

“On October 11th, three other brethren and I left Uganda and traveled to Congo for introducing the truth. After several days of delays related to transportation, accommodations and a postponement of our original plans by a pastor we were to visit, the Lord blessed our seemingly difficult mission. We were able to introduce the truth and Bible study opportunities to those who could listen to us. We started by walking to the town but got lost in the surrounding villages. As we were busy dealing with people gathered at homes, shops, and walking in the road, we came in contact with a lady walking in the same direction, greeted her and gave her a newsletter, then invited a brother to talk to her because personally I did not know their language, apart from greetings and saying I am a servant of Christ’s Kingdom. This lady with her daughter passed her home with the child continuing with us because she wanted to hear more. Then she told us she had passed her home and then she directed us to the town center. We visited markets and talked

to many and generally the people showed interest.

The tribal and national wars have affected much of this region and many are humbled, hence they are turning to God. The next day we introduced the truth to believers at Pastor Moses’ church. Many churches came including some we invited the day before arriving for our witness work. Pastor Moses is a bishop of about 60 revival churches in Eastern Congo, and he told us other believers and pastors are coming next week for their conference so we discussed the matter and requested Bro. Uucha to stay so as to introduce the truth and the free Bible study to them all as they loved the truth they heard. We gave them a copy of our French Lessons 1-20, and all agreed to make copies for themselves as well as their churches to start the studies.

The next day we continued our witnessing work and met a believer who attended the seminar. He took us to different believers and pastors who requested our studies as well as our newsletters. If the Lord so wills, below are a few future projected plans for Congo.

1. Believers will start the Bible studies in French using 53 Lessons.
2. We promised to be sending many French newsletters to many of the pastor's followers.
3. Bishop Moses Obia requested another seminar in which he will invite over 500 believers and pastors in the region in Bunia around February-March 2011.
4. Bishop Moses Obia proposed to have another two-day seminar in inner Congo where he oversees 37 revival churches.
5. The region is now at peace favoring the spreading of the Gospel of Peace, indeed the Lord permitting, we shall consider an extended visit to Congo for a minimum of two weeks."

## Report from Ghana

During the period June 17th-20th, the first locally planned all Ghana convention was held at the Amoo residence in Kumasi. There were approximately 63 attendees present including children from Dunkwa, Cape Coast, the Western Region as well as the Ashanti area with those from Greater Accra and Ashaiman being unable to participate.

Following a welcome address and supper on the first evening, the convention continued during the next two and a half days with a series of discourses on "Great Day in His Wrath," "Messiah's Second Coming," "Judgment of the Great White Throne," "Epochs and Dispensations," "The Bible in the Light of Reason," "Kingdoms of This World Supervised," and "Redemption from the Curse."

The brethren who had been serving as pilgrims in Ghana led a study from Volume 6 of Studies in the Scriptures on "Ordaining Elders in Every Ecclesia," "The Period of Eldership," "A Paid Ministry," "Accusations Against Elders," and "Warn Them That Are Unruly."

Three panel discussions, and a testimony meeting rounded out the gathering and the brethren are hoping to plan a second convention during the summer of 2011.

## Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Report

Bro. Moses Obire conducted the twelfth Ghanaian leaders' seminar at the Amoo residence during the period September 15-20, 2010. In addition to a series of discourses presented by the brethren, the pilgrims led studies based upon the topic "The Atonement Day Sacrifices" from the 53 Lessons.



**Ghana Convention Attendees**

Bro. Moses Obire conducted four studies during the seminar on the subjects, "Baptism of the New Creation," "The Foes and Besetments of the New Creation," "Temptations Peculiar to the New Creation" and "How to Locate Ourselves." There also were a few sessions with the brethren to discuss important items of business to advance the Harvest work in Ghana.

### **End of Year Local Conventions**

In November and December 2010, reports were received concerning locally sponsored conventions in both the areas of Dunkwa and Kumasi. As American brethren travel to Ghana in January 2011, it is hoped that planning will occur so that there will be an expansion of such efforts in other regions of Ghana as well.

### **Report from Kenya**

The following report summarizes some of Bro. Khurrsino Miranda's experiences in Kenya during October 2010 after a visit to Nigeria.

"On October 12th I departed from India and served in Lagos, Nigeria that evening where I was met by Bro. John Isife. The next day, Bro. Cajetan Egbu traveled from Ibadan to meet me in Lagos and we enjoyed blessed fellowship together.

Throughout the course of the next several days, I revisited various elders I had been with

during the earlier part of 2010 for follow-up purposes or to give discourses including Bros. Donatus Ariwodor, Godwin Edoja, Moses Obire, Essien Ettentia, Akpan and Okugod. Following a fruitful trip to Nigeria I departed for Kenya on the morning of October 22nd and was met at the Nairobi Airport.

That evening I was greeted with a warm hug by Bro. David Mutei. It was raining in Nairobi and thus we made our way to the hotel "Hillocks Inn" in the rain chatting about the great joy of meeting again after the last visit of April 2009 when I had the privilege to immerse Bro. David along with 6 others in Kenya. October 23rd began with the news that we were unable to get in contact with Sr. Ruth Nyunkari in Nairobi, who is a new sister to the truth and has a small group with her. We were scheduled to visit her and her group but this was now not possible, so we immediately made plans to travel to Eldoret and reached our destination at 7:00 pm. While we passed the beautiful lush green countryside and in the cool breeze I could not help but notice the great difference between Nigeria and Kenya, and did mention to the Kenyans of how blessed they were in so many ways. We checked into a hotel in Eldoret and turned in for the day. The next day, October 24th being a Sunday saw us journey to Mosoriot for joining a little group of 30-40 who Bro. David teaches. There I took Lesson #36 "The Study of Antichrist, Part II" and the brethren



**Bros. Khurrsino Miranda and David Mutei Leaving for Eldoret**



## **Small Group Meeting in Muhoroni - Bro. Ochola seated on the Right**

ren greatly appreciated the marvelous truth of the word, 'here a little and there a little.' Immediately after we were off by Bro. David's car to a place called Muhoroni to meet with Bro. Edwin Ochola and a little group. The journey took 2 hours through lovely hilly landscapes and tea gardens. We reached the little town and met with Bro. Ochola and then traveled a little distance away through a muddy track to a small village with thatched roofs. There we met with some 20 who are hungry for understanding the Lord's Word better. Thus we presented the 53 subjects in a nutshell so to speak giving little insights into what each lesson would be about.

The next day, October 25th began with us leaving Eldoret to Kitale. It was a journey of two hours through rains and muddy and broken roads. We eventually did reach Bro. David's home to find a group of 6 brethren including Bro. David's wife, Sr. Ruth ready for their immersions. After a short baptismal discourse and the asking of 'the three questions,' the little group proceeded with much enthusiasm to the Nzoia River. There we had six immersions.

October 26th began with the visit to my room by Bro. Kelvin and a little later Bro. Jamin Malova. We discussed their immersions and the significance of fighting the good fight of faith against the flesh, the world and the Adversary. Then I asked them of the Lord's second coming and explained the three Greek terms for the three stages of His presence to them. They expressed great excitement to take the truth to many others but I warned them that

the most important work now for them was to be within themselves and coupled with the study of the truth so that if faithful, the Lord would use them as a blessing to others.

Afterwards our journey began to Bungoma when as we proceeded we were caught in heavy rain and shortly thereafter the car's wipers stopped working and we stopped at a mechanic's workshop to solve the problem. We had planned to have fellowship with Bro. Pius Were and some of the brethren there but owing to some miscommunications, this did not occur and we returned to Kitale.

The following day, October 27th began with a class at Bro. Jamin Malova's house, where a group of six had gathered. I was told to take Lesson #13 "The Study of the Human Soul, Part II." This included the seeming Biblical contradictory passages to the doctrine of the soul dying, like Saul and the visit to Endor, the transfiguration scene with Moses and Elijah, the thief on the cross, etc. Immediately after this we left for Mount Elgon which was to be an extraordinary experience. It was in a hilly area about 220 kilometers from Kitale. As we neared the end of our journey, we found the road to be only thick, muddy sludge where vehicles slipped and turned as it was almost impossible for wheels to get a grip on such a road! Only by the Lord's abundant grace we reached the end of that stretch and arrived at a little home with no electricity, but with a small group having burning zeal for hearing the Lord's word. I was told that a little further on



## The Muddy Road to Mount Eglon

would be wild animals such as elephants, hyenas and even lions.

We presented the introduction to the 53 Lessons study and promised them that Bro. Kelvin would be provided those lessons to teach them. Bro. Kelvin who had been immersed only a day before was overjoyed as many of them thanked us for coming there and prayed we would visit them again and again. And thus it was, in faith that we made our return journey to Kitale through that sludge again and took the night bus to Nairobi.

October 28th was spent with Bro. David in Nairobi discussing the work of harvest and many scriptural meanings and insights. And thus it was that on October 29th I flew back to India, with a prayer of thankfulness to the Lord of the Harvest to help me to find and meet all the needs of these dear brethren in this work.”



**Bro. Khursino Returning to India**

## BSCFA Board of Directors

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

Chairman: Bro. Bill Dutka

Secretary: Bro. Austin Williams

Treasurer: Sr. Nannette Nekora

Other Board members include Bros. Richard Doctor, Joe Dolan, Lee Hicks, Ray Luke, Homer Montague and George Tabac.

The narrative of our dear Redeemer's shame, endured so patiently on our behalf, is most touching, and perhaps the relating of it and the reading of it brought more hearts to repentance than almost anything else. Nor does it lose its power with those who have already accepted our Lord and the redemption which his blood effected; it mellows our hearts every time we consider him who endured such great contradiction of sinners against himself, when we remember that it was unmerited by him, and that it was a part of his sacrifice on our behalf. The apostle points one of his most forcible lessons with this subject, urging that all of the Lord's followers should consider the meekness, patience, and sufferings of Christ, endured most unjustly, lest we should be weary or faint in our minds, when enduring comparatively light afflictions while seeking to walk in his footsteps.

□ *Songs in the Night, April 17*

## Our Lord's Memorial Sunday, April 17, 2011 (after 6:00 p.m.)

*“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 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 17:22,23

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**