



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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Newsletter

Summer 2012

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## Greetings from the BSCFA

"BEHOLD, HOW good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1. We are privileged to see the fruitage of brethren in many of the African countries coming together and having spiritual fellowship with each other. It is amazing how all the brethren of the many countries within Africa have such a strong desire to meet and fellowship with each other. It reminds us of the text from Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together as believers, as is the habit of some people, but admonishing, warning, urging, and encouraging one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching."

The February Ghanaian/Nigerian seminar has certainly been a blessing and a springboard to bring brethren together from a variety of countries that quite possibly would have never had the opportunity to fellowship with one another on this side of the veil, let alone to even know each other. From that seminar, they have been communicating with one another about spiritual matters.

The fruitage of the winter seminar has been beyond our prayerful desires. Brethren from Kenya, Uganda, Congo and Rwanda are planning to assemble together in Uganda in the near future for a Bible convention. This blessing that the Lord has bestowed upon the continent of Africa reminds us of Psalm 133:2-3, "It is like the precious ointment poured on the head, that ran down on the beard, even the beard of Aaron the first high

priest, that came down upon the collar and skirts of his garments consecrating the whole body. It is like the dew of lofty Mount Hermon and the dew that comes from the hills of Zion; for there the Lord has commanded the blessing, even life forevermore upon the high and the lowly."

*Bro. Bill Dutka, Chairman BSCFA*

## Report from Nigeria

### 8th Nigerian Elders/Leaders' Seminar

During the weekend of April 6-8, 2012 another seminar was held in Kwale, Nigeria where various leaders assembled and led studies on appropriate topics. Following a welcome address by Bro. Moses Obire, Bro. Chuks Jacob's topic was, "An Intelligent, Loving Creator." Bro. Francis Edet's service was on "God's Revelation" and Bro. Godwin Edoja's theme was "Epoch of Time in God's Plan."

On April 7th, Bro. John Isife's lesson was, "Why God Permits Evil." Next, Bro. Donatus Onochie treated, "God's Judgment Day." Two Reprint studies chaired by Bro. Moses Obire, "The Spiritual Law" (R636) and "Falling Away from Steadfastness" (R2218) brought an end to this day's activities.

On April 8th, Bro. Donatus Ariwodor's subject was "Distinction between Heavenly and Human Natures." Thereafter, the final study, "Baptism and Its Import" (R1539) took up much of the balance of the day, followed by a short general question and answer session to close the seminar.



## **Agwa Convention Attendees**

### **Agwa Bible Students Convention**

The Agwa Convention was held on April 7, 2012. Its theme was "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."

(1 Corinthians 5:7) The chairmen for this gathering were Bros. Maurice Uzor and Vitalis Ekeh. The following brethren also served.

1. Bro. Boniface Obiukwu welcomed the friends speaking on "Partakers of the Kingdom."
2. Bro. Celestine Oledibe's topic was "Humility Before Honor."
3. Bro. Lazarus Ukpai's sermon was entitled "The Permission of Evil and Its Relation to God's Plan."
4. Bro. Chuks Edward gave a discourse captioned "Who Then Shall Be Saved?"
5. Bro. Maurice Uzor's talk was on the subject "Watch and Pray."

6. Bro. Cajetan Egbu led a study on "Christ Our Passover."

7. Bros. Celestine, Lazarus and Cajetan served as panelists during a question meeting.

8. Bro. Lazarus also functioned as the testimony leader.

Highlights from the ensuing business meeting included announcing the date for Servants (Leaders) Seminar, the next General Convention as well as the Onitsha, Ohoba, Lagos and Ibadan Conventions to be held later in the year. The brethren were very grateful to all who supported this gathering.

### **Report from Ghana**

The following overview provides highlights of a visit to Ghana by brethren from America, D.R. Congo, Uganda, India, Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria during various portions of February 2012.

### **Thursday, February 9th**

Following an overnight flight from Kennedy Airport, Bro. Lee and Sr. Ila Hicks, Sr. Lynn Murray, Bro. Len and Sr. Gretchen Griehs, Srs. Gabriella and Estelle Wittbrodt, as well as Bro. Homer and Sr. Beverly Montague were met at the Accra Airport by Bros. Samuel Amoo, Edward Nkansah, Felix Daddah, as well as Sr. Sarah Asare. Additionally, Bros. Eliezer Jjuuko and Uucha Done from Uganda and Congo respectively arrived in Ghana shortly before the Americans. This group traveled several hours by van before reaching their destination in Kumasi.

### **Friday, February 10th**

All of the aforementioned brethren plus Bro. Noah Amoo traveled by van for about four hours to Dewakrom. The ride was interspersed with the singing of hymns, discussions and viewing the surroundings as we looked through our windows. After reaching our destination, Bro. Amoo led a study on "What is a Christian?" Subsequently, Bro. Jjuuko spoke on "The Grace of God." There were at least 150 people in attendance. The brethren ultimately arrived in Kumasi for supper and rest after a very long day.

### **Saturday, February 11th**

Following breakfast the brethren traveled to the class at Asoufua for a study on "The Antichrist" led by a young local leader. That evening Bro. Len Griehs gave a power point witness presentation outdoors.

### **Sunday, February 12th**

At the Kumasi Ecclesia Sunday meeting, Bro. Homer Montague led a study on the Memorial. Subsequently, the group of travelers went to Dunkwa-on-Offin for a leaders' seminar. The first day of the seminar featured two studies by Bros. Griehs and Hicks respectively to round out the day.

### **Monday, February 13th and Tuesday, February 14th**

The schedule for studies led by the Ghanaian leaders as well as a demonstration of witnessing techniques as scheduled occurred at the seminar hosted by Bro. Plange. When the seminar ended officially at 1:00 PM on Tuesday we decided to travel to Afransie for a study in the Western Region led by a local leader. Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko also gave a public talk to those in at-



## **Public Witness Efforts in Ghana**



## Americans who Visited Ghana in February 2012

tendance after the study was completed.

### Wednesday, February 15th

Our group departed from Dunkwa for Accra and after a long ride, arrived at the Presbyterian Women's Centre, the site for the international seminar. In the evening we had supper and then retired for the day.

### Thursday, February 16th

There were no formal activities scheduled for the day and some of the brethren went sightseeing and/or shopping. Additionally, pickups from the airport were arranged for Bros. Brian Montague, Khurrsino Miranda and Zablon Anyumba as well as Srs. Marvie Hackney, Sandy Koterba and Cathy Sandridge. When everyone was settled in, the brethren had supper and fellowship with one another.

### Friday, February 17th

Following breakfast, all the brethren except Bro. Amoo traveled to Cape Coast. One group visited the Cape Coast Castle where

information was presented concerning the slave trade and others who had been there before, attended studies led by three groups of brethren from the Cape Coast area classes. Subsequently, Bro. Khurrsino Miranda conducted a witness presentation on "The Mystery of the Cross." Finally, the brethren returned to the Women's Presbyterian Centre for supper, fellowship and rest. As mentioned earlier, Bro. Amoo remained behind and while the brethren were in Cape Coast, he went to the airport to meet Bros. Bob Goodman, Pius Were and also Sr. Gracia Reid.

### Saturday, February 18th

The morning was devoted to sightseeing and shopping for those brethren who were interested in doing so in the Greater Accra area. In the afternoon, Bro. Zablon Anyumba received water immersion to symbolize his consecration at a service conducted by Bro. Len Griehs. In the early evening, the friends from Kumasi arrived at the Centre with Bro. Amoo and other brethren.

ren went out to a witness service conducted by Bro. Bob Goodman. After leaving the witness site, the Nigerian brethren met us and rode back to the Centre.

### **Sunday February 19th - Tuesday, February 21st**

The Ghanaian/Nigerian seminar went exceptionally well and everyone present received many blessings. The brethren presented their topics effectively as per the schedule that was received. In particular, the symposium on "The Precious Promises" in which the 5 Ghanaian Pilgrims plus Bros. Adam and Noah Amoo participated was the first time they spoke on their own at this gathering. During one of the testimony meetings which the sisters did not attend because of the sisters' meeting where they made presentations on "Women in the Bible," Bro. Pius Were mentioned he had been jailed for his beliefs. Of special note during the seminar was the provision for Young Adult studies led by Bros. Bob Goodman and Len Griehs.

### **Wednesday, February 22nd**

The Nigerian brethren departed early for home and arrived safely. There was a profitable meeting at the Centre with the Accra class prior to the brethren's departure for their respective destinations. Additionally, Bros. Lee Hicks, Edward Nkansah and Srs. Ila Hicks and Lynn Murray traveled to visit brethren in various parts of Ghana before returning to America.

### **Thursday, February 23rd - Tuesday, February 28th**

Following an overnight stay at Bro. Adam's home in Dunkwa-on-Offin, Bro. Lee Hicks and his entourage visited the Western Region, Cape Coast, Winneba and returned to Accra. They evaluated the skills of various leaders in these regions with regard to their ability to lead studies effectively. Where ap-

propriate, Bro. Lee gave discourses, provided encouragement to the friends and submitted his findings to the BSCFA Board of Directors. This information provided further insights as to how additional support could be given to the friends in these regions.

### **Testimonies from Brethren**

It was incredible; I went to Africa - to Ghana - with Bro. and Sr. Montague. Traveling by bus and taxi along the bumpy, red dirt roads -- it's exactly how I imagined it, which made it surprising in a way. The first week, we held witness meetings at the various villages we visited all over Ghana. These meetings were filled with nearly everyone from each town. They dropped everything to come hear questions and fellowship with the brethren. I've never seen so much interest in the truth before! In the US, many people come to witness meetings to mock us or find faults in what we are saying. But in Africa, people care about it; they respect it. I can feel God blessing these people with the understanding of His plan. I can feel it and that feeling brings a smile to my face just like the smiles on the faces of the African children. They would shout, "Camera me! Camera me!" with their eyes filled with such joy. And it's not just the children that were running around filled with happiness. The adults - working from seven in the morning until ten or eleven at night, seven days a week - were just as happy. No matter all the work they did, I never heard a single complaint. No one was upset or bored, just smiles on their faces and excitement in every act they did - just excited to be alive. The last week was a seminar. Brethren from all over Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Cameroon, India, America - we all came together with ears ready to listen to God's word, arms ready to hug God's people, and voices ready to sing praise to God. The singing was my favorite; everyone would sing loudly

with such enthusiasm. Harmonies were made up; some people were off key, but it didn't matter because they sang with such joy that it sounded beautiful. Everything, all of it - the lifestyle, the happiness, the interest and especially the excitement for learning God's truth - all of that helped me grow so much closer to God. I feel like a new person. I *am* a new person, for this experience has shown me our God and has allowed me to listen and respond to His calling. The consecration of my heart to my Father in heaven has brought me that same joy and excitement I found in Ghana; and I praise my Lord God for the blessing of finding it there, Asante!

*Sr. Estelle Wittbrodt, USA*

Our race is not a selfish race like that of the world. The more we help others to win theirs, the more we get closer to winning ours. Just like Paul the Apostle who cared less about his earthly life while serving God's people, brethren from around the world made bold but risky decisions of traveling by air, water and land from distances ranging from thousands of kilometers to hundreds of meters to attend the Ghanaian/Nigerian seminar held last February this

year. For the first time, there were brethren from more than three African countries in attendance, a bigger number of brethren from America compared to previous times, and most importantly, a Young Adults' meeting. We shared a beautiful time together for our spiritual nourishment and I know our Father in heaven was very glad for our collective efforts in proclaiming the Truth. I know our Father is glad because an appreciable number have taken the step of symbolizing their consecration to Him - the wisest decision that could be made in a person's lifetime. And again, He is glad because some brethren were so willing to come from afar and near but they could not. He appreciates their willingness and good intentions and the fact that they were with us in spirit. Our Master and the Father appreciate all the efforts that were put in to make the convention a successful one, and all the efforts we are making to help others win the race, and especially all the efforts by our dearly beloved Bro. Paul Mali whom many of us know only in spirit and by his deeds. It is our earnest prayer that the Kingdom will soon be established to end all this misery and woe in the world. But until the Father's will is done in this matter, we will always be glad to partici-



**February 2012 Ghanaian/Nigerian Seminar Attendees**

pate in such wonderful times of spiritual fellowship with our brethren whom we love most.

*Br. Noah Amoo, Ghana*

Concerning my impression of the International seminar, it was the first of its kind that I have ever attended. It was impressive, so much so that I determined to be present whenever any seminar of this kind holds, as long as the Lord provides. I was so impressed by the truths presented by the various inspired teachers in their discourses and the amount of blessings derived I cannot describe. I trembled when the discourse on "Paying Your Vows" and "Who Are the Foolish Virgins" to name a few were given by Bros. Griehs and Goodman. I came with some pride in my heart to this seminar thinking that I am in the Truth but soon discovered that being in the Truth is one thing and the Truth being in me is another thing. Where light shines, there is nothing of boasting but rather humility, joy and true love. I learned to have a proper judgment of my consecration to be faithful to the truth and the Lord. An old Chinese proverb says "I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand." During the seminar I heard, I saw and it is time now to do. After the seminar ended, the practical part of it began the following day until now. Finally, it was during the seminar I learned that one does not become holy over night but has to take time to be holy.

*Bro. Alex Mokom, Cameroon*

The privilege to attend the 2012 seminar in Accra in February was very precious .... and an opportunity for me personally to come face to face with many dear brethren from across the African continent ... and extending even to America. There was much "feasting and fellowship" over those days. The joy was to see 'growth' in these new creatures in Christ Jesus. We had many

moments of spiritual interchange ... and clarification of many facets of the Truth. I even got to meet new brethren, especially from Cameroon ... and a new one from Kenya, as also a few from Nigeria. My rooming experience too was very wonderful ... as I got close to a senior brother from Ghana who has had issues over the years. Then lest I forget ... the public witness in Cape Coast, too, was an interesting opportunity, though we would have wished for more planned publicity. And then there was the immersion of Bro. Zablon in the Atlantic Ocean. Ah! What a sight that was!! Finally we cannot forget all those who labored ... and had their parts in making all this possible. Shall we end by hoping to meet again for another seminar in two years?? Thank you gracious Father ... and thank you dear Master!

*Bro. Khurrsino Miranda, India*

I enjoyed the seminar very much. I returned home with a basket full of blessings from the holy gathering. Being the first time to attend an International convention, I learned so many things, especially how we should be conducting our seminars at home. I had opportunity to interact with brethren in the household of faith from various parts of the globe especially Africa, India and the US. Being my first time to travel by air, the plane experience is still fresh in my mind. This was a fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy on the increase of knowledge and people running to and fro.

*Bro. Pius Were, Kenya*

### **15th Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Report**

During the period of April 18-22, 2012, Bro. Moses Obire conducted another leaders' seminar at the home of Bro. Samuel and Sr. Elizabeth Amoo in Kumasi. Several leaders from various regions in Ghana led studies on the topic "Natures Separate and Distinct." Additionally, there was a group study

on the theme text of Romans 12:2. Bro. Moses Obire also conducted four detailed studies based upon appropriate Reprint articles. Question meetings and testimonies also were included as part of this overall gathering. The entire experience was deemed as a success and provided many practical lessons for incorporation into the brethren's daily Christian walk.

## Report from Uganda

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko wrote the Harvest work here continues to thrive. "We rejoice in the Lord's blessing in several internal seminars held and attended by many brethren from Uganda and Congo, especially those whom we serve. This was a blessing by the Lord through visitors Bro. Larry and Sr. Mariana Davis from Romania. In Kampala at Bro. Eliezer's home on January 13th-14th, 2012, about 25 brethren from various parts of Uganda attended. Bro. Larry Davis presented discourses. We had question time in between discourses which helped many to understand fully.

On January 16th, we left Kampala to join brethren in a fellowship at Bro. Kennedy's home at Oweko Village in Nebbi, before proceeding to Paidha border with Congo and found many brethren and some believ-



**Bro. Larry and Sr. Mariana Davis  
with Jjuuko Family**

ers waiting for us and enjoyed the fellowship for about two hours. We left for Paidha with about 6 brethren where we had scheduled two days of seminar for brethren from this region and Congo.

The meetings in Paidha were a blessing as many new brethren from Congo attended and attendance was about 40 adults. Bro. Larry Davis and Bro. Eliezer presented discourses and an overview was given of the Memorial of our Lord's death. On January 19th we arrived at Anger Village for fellowship."

## Report from Kenya

Kenya continues to have extensive Truth related activities. Bro. Pius Were indicates there are 16 established groups of brethren in the country led by consecrated leaders in Bungoma, Inyesi, Ematawa, Emayoni, Bumala, Buyengo, Segga, Kholera, Bulondo, Chepkorros, Cheptalis, Kibera, Kwangware, Emitibira, Kajiada and Matunda. Now that Bro. Pius has met Bro. Zablon Anyumba at the Ghanaian/Nigerian seminar and learned he also is from Kenya, we may learn about other groups of brethren that are meeting in that county as well.

Also, Bros. David Mutei and Jamin Malova visited Tanzania during May 2012. They had a wonderful experience there despite many difficulties with regard to transportation and vaccination issues. Among the joys they experienced was that of having a baptismal service for six candidates.

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