



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Summer 2014

Greetings from the BSCFA

The labors of many, many brethren witnessing to Present Truth throughout Africa in Nigeria, Ghana, West Africa, East Africa and South Africa over the last 40-50 years are now showing fruitage. Recognizing this fruitage and with prayerful expectation that we who have tasted the blessings of fellowship in Christ Jesus for those of "like precious faith," who are rejoicing together in the Harvest Message of Present Truth would like to share this joy with our brethren in Africa - it is proper to ask, "What would be the course that the Lord would most approve?" In answer, it seemed that now was the time to consider hosting a "Pan-African Seminar." Here are some highlights.

* More than 100 brothers and sisters in attendance. The breakdown by national borders was Ghana – 53, Nigeria – 31,

U.S. – 15, Cameroon – 2, Kenya - 2, Romania – 2, Uganda – 2, Congo – 1, India – 1, Pakistan – 1, Rwanda – 1, and South Africa - 1.

* Over 25 discourses by brethren from Africa and overseas.

* Three international panels presented by the brethren with insights into {1} "Pre-Kingdom Prophecies Awaiting Fulfillment," {2} "How Do You Know You Have the Truth?" and {3} "Bible Student Activities in Various Lands."

* Two special visual presentations; two testimony meetings; two song services and devotions to mark the opening and close of each day.

* 25 computer tablets of current design were prepared by Bro. Bob Goodman for distribution.

The rich fellowship of this seminar is indeed a sweet memory for all of us.

Bro. Richard Doctor, *Chairman BSCFA*



Group Photograph of Seminar Attendees

Report from Uganda

Space will not permit a detailed account of Truth activity of this part of Africa which continues in a comprehensive manner. The following summary prepared by Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko provides highlights of the Kampala and Congo border mini conventions held earlier this year.

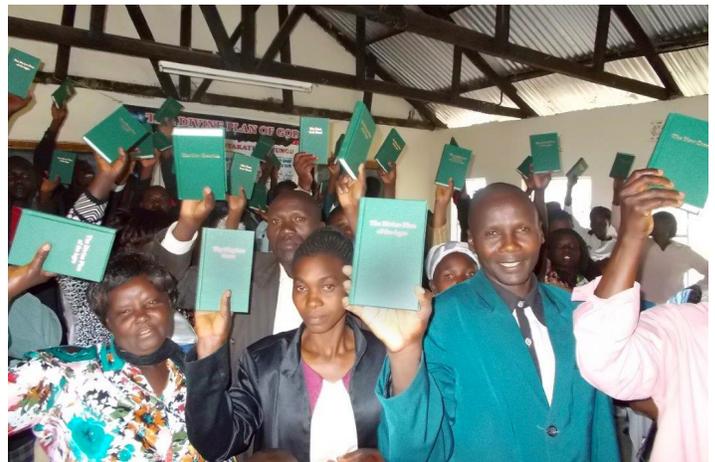
“On February 28, 2014 brethren from upcountry and Rwanda arrived at Kampala, Uganda for studies on March 1st and 2nd. Bro. Larry and Sr. Mariana Davis from Romania were present as well as 5 brethren from Rwanda and about 60 from Uganda. There were two panel discussions on basic truths as well as the Lord's second presence. Discourses also were presented by various brethren. Some brethren from Romania, Germany and Croatia viewed these sessions via the Internet.

On March 3rd, we traveled to Congo border and met with a small class at Oweko before traveling to Paidha where many brethren gathered from both sides of Uganda and Congo. On March 4th and 5th we had discourses from various brethren and an immersion service for one brother and one sister. On March 6th we visited Bro. Albert Uliya's home in Nyaruvulu, and Bro. Cameras' home in Anger region. The friends are showing progress in the Truth from this border region, amidst their various trials. We rejoice in thanking our Father for these meetings.”

Report from Kenya

There are many brethren engaging in Truth activities in Kenya and surrounding countries. The following report from Bro. David Mutei describing his travels during the third week in March 2014 is illustrative of these labors.

“On Tuesday, we had a one day convention in Maili of 110 brethren from various classes and locations at a lovely Anglican church conference center just outside Kitale. Several attended from Turkana and three from Tanzania including Bro. Reinhard Kabika Zegula. On Wednesday we began four days of travel and met with a group of leaders in preparation for meetings in Chavakali with Bro. Jamin Malova. Thursday morning we attended a large meeting in the hills of Kenu where the maximum number of attendees was 200, some consecrated, some in the process and others newly interested. Friday morning we attended a meeting at the home of Bro. James in Uriri and in the evening we traveled into Migori to the meeting hall of Bro. Zablon Anyumba.”



Recipients of First Volumes in Maili

Report from Ghana

January 24-26, 2014 Leaders' Seminar

Bro. Moses Obire conducted his 19th such seminar in Kumasi at the Amoo residence. Sixteen brethren conducted studies based upon Biblical texts that illustrated various scriptural principles. Bro. Obire provided extended lessons on "Love," "Man and Woman in God's Order," and "Evil Speaking." The leaders demonstrated growth in the level of their presentations and during intermissions admonitions from

the various lessons were repeatedly mentioned in conversations.

At the Women's Presbyterian Centre

A Ghanaian leaders' mini seminar was conducted at this site during portions of April 17-18, 2014. Each participant gave a brief explanation of selected passages in Exodus 20 or 1 Thessalonians 5. These were critiqued by the other presenters and/or American elders. Brethren in attendance from other countries remarked that leaders' seminars appeared to be an effective model for the development of study leaders who are well grounded in the Truth.

The Pan African Seminar also held at the Women's Presbyterian Centre was conducted from April 19-21, 2014. This activity was an outgrowth of biennial Ghanaian/Nigerian seminars held in Accra, Ghana from 2004-2012. Since there were a dozen countries that had representation at this gathering, should the Lord permit another similar coming together in 2016, it will probably be styled as a Pan African Convention.

The brethren who attended the Pan African seminar were very grateful concerning the Lord's overruling in bringing to fruition the gathering of the Lord's people together in Ghana from various parts of the world. In



Brethren who Symbolized their Consecration

addition to the many highlights included in the Chairman's message on the first page of this publication, another significant event was the fact that ten brethren symbolized their consecration through water immersion for which there was much rejoicing.

Expressions from Brethren

The words of a fellow traveler before we left: "The trip we are embarking on is a gift from God" stuck with me throughout the trip and beyond. It has been my desire for a long time to visit the brethren in Africa and now it was finally coming to pass. I did not know exactly what to expect, but the Lord provided deep blessings, richer than I could have imagined. I was to travel with Sr. Leah Ruggirello and Sr. Johanna Gawronski, but in the middle of our excitement of finally boarding the plane for Accra at the JFK Airport, we were forced to say goodbye to Sr. Leah and leave her at the airport due to a visa issue. Thankfully, she was able to follow us three days later after getting a new visa.

Upon our arrival in Accra, Sr. Johanna and I were met by Bro. Felix Daddah and Bro. Edward Nkansah holding up the Chart of the Ages. One hour later Bro. Edward, Sr. Johanna and I made our connecting flight to Kumasi, where we took a taxi to the Amoo residence, our home for the next three nights. Dinner was waiting for us when we arrived and after greeting the family, as is the custom, the head of the family Bro. Samuel Amoo joined us in the dining room, while everyone else ate in the kitchen.

After a restful night, we awoke to sounds of friendly chatter and laughter, women with children washing clothes just outside our window. It was the Sunday of the Memorial and the whole class in Kumasi was invited to spend the day with us at the Amoo residence, where the meeting hall is

located. There were 14 consecrated and I counted 15 children that came that day. We had two studies on the Memorial in the morning. Sr. Elizabeth Amoo and her willing helpers had prepared a delicious lunch for everyone. In the afternoon, we had lovely fellowship with the brethren and shared a testimony meeting. During dinner, the electricity was lost and we had the special privilege of enjoying our Lord's Memorial service by candlelight.

On Monday, Bro. Amoo took us along in his witnessing activities, and we had two long and engaging discussions on *God's Grand Plan of the Ages* with a couple of interested friends. In the afternoon, young Sr. Sarah Asare joined the three of us for a visit to town where we had the blessing of sharing tracts and talking to people in the market about the hope of the Kingdom. Early the next morning, Bro. Edward picked up Srs. Sarah, Johanna and me



Kumasi Ecclesia Meeting Hall and the four of us flew back to Accra where we had a couple more days before the start of the seminar at the lovely Presbyterian Women's Centre.

On Wednesday, Srs. Johanna, Leah and I were joined by Bros. Felix Daddah, Austin Williams and Dean Oswell on a delightful excursion to a nearby village to visit a museum about the history of the place, of its native tribes and of the European colonizers. With each day, our numbers grew and that evening we shared a lovely dinner with the brethren who had arrived early from India, Kenya and the USA, followed again by a Bible study. Thursday



Seminar Attendees from America



Brethren at Cape Coast Excursion

about 10 of us travelled in a mini-bus to Cape Coast to visit one of the Slave Castles right on the ocean's shore and to learn a drop of the very sad history of man's inhumanity to man. The best part of this day was traveling with and getting to know the brethren from different countries who arrived a couple of days early. I am very thankful to God and to all involved for this gift of meeting our brethren from many far countries and providing this seminar where our "hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ," Col. 2:2.

Sr. Claudia Tosa, USA



Brethren from Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Congo

The Pan African Seminar has come and gone but the memories will linger long in our hearts. We thank all who made it possible for us to attend. Bro. Larry Davis informed us about the Pan African Seminar and assisted almost all to obtain e-passports. He connected us to Bro. Homer Montague who followed up with a lot of correspondence and facilitated our transportation. We arrived at Abokobi Accra, Ghana, the venue of the seminar on April 19, at about 2:45 AM. The seminar was very successful. It was a great joy to see brethren from different places especially elderly ones like Bros. Ray



Brethren Eating in Dining Hall

Luke, Homer Montague, Lee Hicks, Larry Davis and Joe Dolan as well as Srs. Beverly Montague, Ila Hicks and Mariana Davis. The love and services of Srs. Cathy, Claudia, Leah, Johanna, Emelia and others was praiseworthy. We shall attend the seminar again in 2016, if invited, and we thank God for safe and journey mercy granted to all brethren worldwide.

Bro. Cajetan O. Egbu, Nigeria

I am really delighted to report the Heavenly Father gave me the opportunity to attend 3 days of seminar from 19th April 2014 to 21st April 2014 in Ghana. Concerning my compliments about seminar, it was the first



Vesper Service Participants

of its kind that I had ever attended. The results of 3 days studies and sweet fellowship had deep effects on me and are still fresh on my mind. I believe that the seminar went exceptionally well and everyone present received many blessings. The brethren presented their discourses effectively as per the schedule. All topics provided encouragement to help us live and serve the Lord more faithfully. Personally, I felt the uplifting effects of the subjects to such an extent that I wished. I can feel God's blessings with the understanding of His plan. 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 him. I wish to share these lessons with the Pakistan Bible Students by teaching in their classes to help them improve their relationship with the Heavenly Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Br. Nadir Niazi, Pakistan

During my travels to the Pan African Convention in Ghana since the year 2012 I have come to meet brethren from various countries. This has been a blessing and has helped me gain a lot of experience in Biblical matters. The meetings in Ghana were one of the ways by which God is preparing us for His soon coming kingdom on earth for 1000 years. Those who wait patiently gained a lot. God wants

us to wait on him in order to save us from the evils that one reaps as result of sin and errors. We need to trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock as we can see from Isaiah 26:4. The whole creation awaits God's good pleasure, but those who have an understanding of the plan of the Ages do not wait in ignorance. The children of God wait because they believe that the Lord's times are best. The children of the world wait because they must.

Bro. Zablon Anyumba, Kenya

Brethren, my heart was gladdened to serve the brethren which the Lord permitted me to do and I thank God for the strength that he gave to me and for the travel mercy throughout this Pan African Seminar. I also like to thank the Bible Students' Committee for Africa for the support in this ministry and all those who made this seminar a success and a memorable one. Many lessons have been learned throughout this seminar and the last thanks goes to those who had the foresight in making this dream a reality as their labor has not been in vain. I pray that may the Lord of all peace and grace bless you and I will end with what the psalmist said. "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the

sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." To him be the glory and honor forever more till we meet again - this has been the hymn of my heart.

Bro. Edward Nkansah, Ghana

Bro. Joe Dolan's Travels

Following his visit to Ghana and participation at the Pan African Seminar, Bro. Joe Dolan visited brethren in two other countries, remaining on the continent for several weeks. The following brief report outlines the scope of his travels and activities in Uganda from April 24 – May 14, 2014 as reported by Bro. Jackson Kyaligamba.

"I am so thankful to the Heavenly Father who permitted and made Bro. Joe's visit to Uganda a success. Special thanks to all

brethren who contributed towards his travel expenses and also those who kept his trip in prayer every day. The Lord allowed him to visit and fellowship with eight different classes of which a majority are well established and a few are still establishing themselves.

The following are the various classes which had fellowship with Bro. Joe Dolan of New York with at least a two days seminar each: Mengo Bible Students Eclessia in Kampala, Wakiso class in Wakiso, Bakka class in Wakiso, Kasabwembe class in Mubende, Rusaka Class in Hoima, Wanseko class in Bulisa, Kasambya study group in Kasese and Juru- Nakivale class in Isingiro.

The distances between these classes are relatively large so that full day travels were needed in order to connect with the majority of them. The entire journey covered about 1800 kilometers (1,116 miles) round trip."



Group Photograph of Wakiso, Uganda Seminar Participants



Group Photograph In Bertoua, Cameroon

Additionally, Bro. Joe served the friends in Cameroon from May 16 – 29, 2014. This was his second trip to the country. His overall focus was to determine the degree of progress made by the brethren since his earlier visit four years ago and to emphasize the need for systematic Bible studies utilizing the 53 Lessons, the Volumes as well as other Truth literature. He also informed the brethren concerning a seminar that is planned for the fall of this year when Bro. Moses Obire of Nigeria will initiate a series of visits to Cameroon and assist the brethren with gaining a more in-depth understanding of the Truth as has been gained in other parts of the continent. During Bro. Joe's time in Cameroon, he traveled extensively throughout the country, giving discourses, leading studies and meeting with brethren and pastors in various settings. One aspect of Bro. Joe's visit that was very encouraging is the fact that there was a general receptivity to the message of Truth. A challenge to be addressed is that of supplying materials in French for those regions of the country where that is the main language. Fortunately, there are resources among the brethren worldwide that can be coordinated to assist in resolving this need.

For those of you who wish to receive more information concerning Bro. Joe's experiences in Uganda and/or Cameroon, he would be happy to send you detailed reports. You may contact him in this regard either via email at jmt1@citlink.net or send your request to him using the Bible Students' Committee for Africa mailing address listed at the bottom.



Bro. Dolan in Kumba, Cameroon with New Brethren

Newsletter items as well as fully tax deductible donations may be sent to:

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