



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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Newsletter

Summer 2017

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## Greetings from the BSCFA

“And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field.” (Exodus 10:5)

On a beautiful November morning in 2004, it is clear even from afar that something is terribly wrong with the trees around a tiny village called Sebt-Bounaamane in Morocco, North Africa. They are covered with a pinkish-red gloss, as if their leaves were changing color - except these trees are evergreens. As you get closer, the hue becomes a wriggling mass, a giant cap of insects on every tree, devouring the tiny leaves. These are desert locusts that plagued the Egyptians at the time of the Exodus.

The desert locust is a dull-looking, shy insect that tends to stay in one place, avoid other locusts, fly by night, and never cause trouble. And then there's the desert locust, attacking the trees, either bright yellow-and-black - or bright pink when not fully mature - that bands together in swarms of billions that cross vast distances in broad daylight and devour tons of vegetation in their path.

So striking is the difference between the desert locust's "solitary" and mass grouping "gregarious" phases that it wasn't until 1921 that Russian entomologist Boris Uvarov realized they were the same species. And only recently have scientists at Oxford

University begun to piece together a detailed picture of how the insect switches from one phase to the other. The makeover is the locust's answer to harsh life in the desert, the sparse vegetation can sustain only small numbers of desert locusts, and they do best by staying out of one another's way. After intense rain, plants all around turn green and locust numbers rapidly increase. When the inevitable drought sets in, the insects find themselves collecting in high numbers around shrinking food supplies. This increased density is what triggers the shift from solitary to gregarious. Necessity forces the locust migration.

Today, we find that in parts of the world, necessity also is forcing migration not of locusts, but of men. Africa has not been spared from this trial of necessity. The prophecy of Joel 1:4 speaks of the special problems in our day. Joel's prophecy might seem like a literal plague of locusts, until we read in Joel 1:6 that it is "a nation...strong, and without number." Earlier this decade, I personally witnessed the human tragedy of such a forced migration while passing through a UN refugee camp in the Cape Coast district of Ghana. Christ-like compassion and wisdom is needed, for human efforts have no good answers. As we witness this suffering, possibly in our own countries, let us take hope that this is but one more sign that the promised deliverance into the glorious reign of Christ is near at hand and encourage our neighbors and families with the promises.

Bro. Richard Doctor, *Chairman BSCFA*



Nigerian Bible Students' Servants Seminar Attendees

## Report from Nigeria

The 2017 Nigerian Bible Students' Servants Seminar was conducted the third weekend of February and included representatives from several classes including Ibadan, Lagos, Abuja, Onitsha, Aba, Agwa, Ohoba, Obile, Ogwashiukwu, Okpuala Ngwa, Ota, Umuahia as well as the ecclesia in Benin. Its theme was "End Time Prophecies - Perilous Times Are Here." (2 Timothy 3:1)

The following brethren served as chairmen and led testimony meetings.

1. Bro. Boniface Onyenwe
2. Bro. Vitalis Ekeh
3. Bro. Gabriel Obayagbona
4. Bro. Eugene Ogbuji
5. Bro. Anthony Olinya
6. Bro. Valentine Ebepu
7. Bro. Chuks Jacob
8. Bro. Emmanuel Okorie

Additionally, one hour studies followed by 15 minutes of questions were conducted by the following brethren.

1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu led two studies on "End Time Prophecies - Perilous Times Are Here" and "Concerning Profitable Meetings." He also welcomed brethren to the seminar.
2. Bro. Peter Eke's topic was "Your Enemy Satan."
3. Bro. Celestine Oledibe's subject was "The Future of Israel and the World."
4. Bro. Chuks Edward entitled his study "The Time or Hour of Temptation."
5. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu captioned his service "Trinity."
6. Bro. John Isife's theme was "What Is the Grace of God?"
7. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike's topic was "Joy Cometh in the Morning."

8. Bro. Moses Shotunde's subject was "What is Required of You?"
9. Bro. Maurice Uzor entitled his study "A Warning to the Nation."

Films viewed at the close of the first and second days of the seminar included "The Truth About Hell," "Why God Permits Evil," "Israel Fulfilling Bible Prophecies," Prophecies Fulfilled," and "Creation Calls."

Bro. Celestine Oledibe conducted the business meeting. Additionally, several brethren evaluated the seminar in a favorable manner and there was a general expression of gratitude given to the Heavenly Father for his providence and protection relative to this undertaking as well as appreciation to all who made contributions towards its success.

**Nigerian Elders/Leaders' Seminar**

The sixteenth seminar of this nature was held at Okpuala Ngwa during the weekend of April 14-16, 2017. On the first morning, Bro. Moses Obire gave the welcome address which focused upon the "Christian Race." This was followed by assigned discourses of thirty minutes in length followed by ten minutes of questions and comments based upon "The Law of the New Creation" from Volume Six pages 369-378. Following lunch, the brethren had a study titled

"These Things That We Must Do" based upon Reprint 5677. A question and answer session followed by a testimony meeting and dinner plus sweet fellowship ended day one.

On Saturday, April 15th the format of the previous day with morning discourses was followed. After lunch there was an extended study captioned "Christ in You the Hope of Glory" taken from Reprint 3250. After a question and answer period, the day's activities concluded with "Songs in the Night" and a closing prayer.

On Sunday, April 16th discourses were again given during the morning session. In the afternoon the topic of study included questions and answers on "God's Work in Our Wills and Hearts" based upon Reprint 5303. The seminar concluded with a testimony meeting moderated by Bro. John Isife. The brethren present expressed appreciation for the in-depth nature of this spiritual gathering.

**Report from Ghana  
Kumasi Leaders' Seminar**

The twenty-fifth Ghanaian Leaders' Seminar (February 23-25, 2017) was conducted by Bro. Moses Obire in Kumasi. Discourses followed by questions on "The Law of the New Creation" involved 19 participating



Group Photograph of Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Attendees

leaders. Additionally, Bro. Moses Obire conducted studies on "The Christian Race," "Christ in You the Hope of Glory," and "God's Work in our Wills and Hearts." Testimony and business meetings as well as appropriate devotional services were included as part of this overall gathering. The brethren expressed much gratitude for the lessons gleaned from the weekend.

### **Visit by American Brethren**

Bro. Homer Montague and Sr. Cathy Sandridge arrived in Accra, Ghana on the morning of Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Along with Bro. Edward Nkansah of Ghana, they met with Bros. Beni Roland and Felix Affantchao who traveled from Ivory Coast and Togo respectively to greet them. Both of these brethren intend to symbolize their consecration at the 2018 Pan African Convention. Since Ivory Coast and Togo are predominantly French speaking countries, these two brethren were given materials related to the Harvest message which they could utilize for witnessing purposes when they return to their own lands.

On Thursday, April 13, 2017, Bros. Beni, Edward, Homer and Sr. Cathy traveled to the home of Bro. Samuel Amoo in Kumasi where they had fellowship and also met Bro. Roland Osipov from Canada who was spending slightly under two weeks with the friends in Ghana.

From Friday, April 14 through the morning of Sunday, April 16, 2017, a Young Adults' Seminar with about 30 individuals was conducted at the Amoo's residence. The presenters on this occasion were Bros. Noah Amoo, Samuel Amoo, Roland Osipov and Homer Montague. Discourses and studies during the weekend covered such areas as "The Battle of World Views: Christian and Worldly," "Fundamental Bible Doctrines," "Challenges and Concerns Faced by Young Christians," "Marriage and Morality," "Christian Marriage," "The Law of Liberty and Self Control," "The Purpose of the Gospel Age," as well as question and answer sessions, testimonies and the viewing of films. A highlight of this visit was the baptismal and immersion service for Bro. Dennis Afare from Dunkwa-on-



Young Adults' Seminar Attendees

Offin. At the conclusion of the seminar, Bros. Homer, Edward and Sr. Cathy traveled to Accra and met with Bro. Felix Dadah for a meal and fellowship before retiring for the evening. On Monday, April 17, 2017, at 5:30 A.M., Bros. Homer, Edward and Sr. Cathy boarded a van which took them directly to the Accra Airport where Bro. Homer and Sr. Cathy were scheduled to take an early morning flight to the USA. The flight to New York took off shortly before 10 AM and arrived safely to JFK at 4 PM. Although the trip was 10 hours, the flight seemed to go quickly but many precious memories remained.

### **Report from West Africa**

For approximately three weeks in March 2017, Bro. Khurrsino Miranda of India was involved in visitations to Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Togo. Below are some highlights from this sojourn as summarized by Bro. Khurrsino.

After arriving in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, I was met by Bros. Edward Nkansah of Ghana and Beni Roland with whom extensive correspondence had occurred as an outgrowth of the "How to Study the Bible" booklet.

Although a portion of my time in Ivory Coast involved obtaining a visa which would enable me to travel next to Cameroon, after that was completed, I spent several days conducting various studies along with Bro. Edward from the "53 Lessons." Some of the topics included "The Keys to Unlock the Bible," "The Mystery of the Cross," "The Human Soul," and "The Three Worlds." Since these lessons were given at various locations, they were repeated and we also had fellowship with Pastor Marcus Yao as well as some group presentations at Bro. Beni's village named Tiebiasson. (As of this writing, I am still corresponding with Pastor Yao) and with the French materials given to Bro. Beni and his zeal for God's word, I trust that there

will be an expansion of the Harvest message in Ivory Coast.

I reached Yaounde, Cameroon at 11:00 PM and met the smiling faces of Bro. Alex Mokom and his son, Akowa. It was a warm reception from "old friends" and we chatted nonstop until we arrived at the home of the Vitalis family where we spent the night. On March 14 we had a long drive to Doume and reached the home of Bro. Alex at 1:40 AM the next day. That evening we met in Paki with Bro. Bruno and 12 brethren to review the significance of the Memorial emblems and also to discuss various symbols mentioned in the 12th chapter of Revelation. On March 16 we studied Luke 22:8-12 with members of the Kobilala class. The next day we had a public meeting in the village of Loumbou. Bro. Alex also distributed "Jesus, the World's Savior" in the French translation. On March 18 I accompanied Bro. Alex to attend the funeral of a pastor friend. During the evening I attended a prayer meeting with six of the local sisters and then answered some questions regarding the justice of Jacob's taking Esau's birthright. My final day in Doume before traveling back to Yaounde en route to Togo was Sunday, March 19. Sr. Veronique Bruno directed the children in presenting a series of hymns. I gave a discourse for about 2 hours on "Know Ye Not" based upon Romans 6:3. This was translated into French by Bro. Calvin. Following lunch we had a lesson on "The Lord's Supper" which also was translated into French. We closed with thanksgiving and prayer before the brethren departed for their homes.

On March 21 I reached Lome in Togo and was welcomed by Bros. Edward Nkansah and Felix Affantchao. The next day was largely utilized for making telephone calls in this country. On March 23 a pastor named Michael visited us and seemed enthusiastic saying that he would return later with his senior pastor but that meeting did

not materialize. Since there was an additional need for translating into French, Bro. Beni Roland traveled 18 hours from Ivory Coast to meet us. We studied "The Mystery of the Cross" and had another lesson on the "Ransom Price." Bro. Felix was very grateful for Bro. Beni's assistance and the day ended satisfactorily. On March 25 we met with two visitors and utilized the "Chart of the Ages" to explain basic Truth concepts. We also had studies from the "53 Lessons." On March 26 we had a study on "The Divine Plan of the Ages" as well as studies on "The Trinity," "The Significance of the Bread and the Wine," and the meaning of Galatians 6:6 before I departed for my return to India.

Subsequent to the visits to Ivory Coast and Togo, we formed a Bible study group on WHATSAPP called "West Africa Bible Study Forum" where the following were assembled:

1. Bro. Felix Affantchao
2. Bro. Kpoedzou Sergino
3. Sr. Deborah
4. Bro. Koffi Abelik
5. Bro. Beni Roland

Additionally, we have joined Bro. Alex and Bro. Calvin from Cameroon and Bro. Israel

Loji from South Africa. It is a French and English speaking group which we hope is a great spiritual blessing!

## **Report from East Africa Congo/Uganda Regional Convention**

This spiritual activity was conducted on May 7 and 8, 2017.

1. These brethren served as chairmen: Bros. Thofa Juadi, Wenduga, Rodgers and Opio Emmanuel. Studies, discourses and other services included:
2. "Christ our Wisdom" - Bro. Kafeero Reuben
3. "The Spirit of Sound Mind" - Bro. John Iragena
4. "Be You Doers of the Word" - Bro. Uucha Die Donne
5. "The Hour of Temptation" - Bro. Enock Agenonga
6. "When These Things Begin to Pass" - Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko
7. "General Questions" - Bro. Pascal Mungu-acel
8. "Faith Conquerors" - Bro. Friday Awekonimungu
9. "Overview of Volume One"- Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko
10. "The Most Holy of the Tabernacle" - Bro. Daniel Utoba
11. "The Temptation" - Bro. Ezekiel



Bro. Khurrsino, Sr. Madalene, Bro. Luc, Sr. Veronique and Bro. Alex in Abongmbang, Cameroon

- 12. "Character Development" - Bro. Ogwoki Patrick
- 13. "Panel for Sisters"- Bro. Friday Awekonimungu
- 14. "Testimonies" - Bro. Meshack Odaga

Items discussed during the business meeting included a variety of new witnessing initiatives. Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko indicated his involvement relative to correspondence Truth studies with individuals in Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Botswana and Kenya.

The brethren sent much love to all in the "one hope of our calling" and requested your prayers that they should be steadfast in the faith. (Jude 3)

### Report from Liberia

Bro. Nicholas Toe who symbolized his consecration at the 2016 Pan African Convention reports the following which has occurred since that time.

"About nine months ago I handed to a brother the "How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense" booklet for him to read. He consented and later received a copy of the Divine Plan of the Ages which he studied and completed. Philip S. Jackson has committed his will to God and symbolized his consecration. Please join us in prayers for him that God will lead him in the narrow way."



Bro. Philip Jackson in the Middle



Congo/Uganda Regional Convention Attendees

In an effort to expand the Harvest Message in Liberia, Bros. Austin Williams and Edward Nkansah will visit the country at the end of June 2017 and conduct public witness activities in several locations as well as hold a meeting with some of the brethren who have begun to have regular studies with Bro. Nicholas who formerly was the only known member of the Bible Students' fellowship in Liberia. It is hoped the Lord will bless this entire endeavor and that we shall be able to share some of the results of this initiative in the next issue of this publication.

### **Report from Bro. Joe Dolan**

During the interval April 5-May 9, 2017, Bro. Joe Dolan visited Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana. His lengthy sojourn enabled him to meet with many brethren in various countries and he also arranged for Bro. Alex Mokom of Cameroon to travel with him to several of these locations on the African continent. There were many expressions of Bro. Joe's devoted service in this realm. Space does not permit us to include the details of his travels but for those of you who would like to receive a written report of his experiences, please contact Bro. Joe at [jmtd1@citlink.net](mailto:jmtd1@citlink.net).

### **2018 Pan-African Convention**

If the Lord wills, there will be a Pan-African Convention in Accra, Ghana from April 19-22, 2018. The Bible Students' Committee for Africa website, [africabiblestudents.com](http://africabiblestudents.com) has a link for previous Newsletters that have been posted. For brethren who may be interested in considering a visit to Ghana in 2018, you will be able to "get the flavor" of what such an experience would entail by reviewing the report from Ghana from pages 4-8 in the Summer 2016 Newsletter. On that occasion, there were representatives in attendance from fifteen nations and as a result of increased active witnessing efforts, it is anticipated that individuals from additional countries will be

present at next year's gathering, Lord willing. Plans are also underway to provide special activities the day preceding the convention that will enhance the spiritual well-being for those attendees who may not be serving as speakers. There will be several opportunities for visiting sisters to interact with some of their overseas counterparts in very meaningful ways. Additionally, recognizing the special needs of the young adults, such as were mentioned briefly earlier in this newsletter concerning the Young Adults' Seminar in Ghana as noted on page 4, there will be provision for special gatherings for attendees under the age of twenty-eight. These would have unique needs/interests that might not be included in the overall convention format, even though the programming is expected to be such that they will spend most of the day in the regular convention setting with the other brethren. This feature should provide special opportunities for meaningful service and interaction that would promote fellowship in a more informal setting.

Finally, if you have not been to Ghana previously, we believe this convention will provide a unique opportunity in a spiritual environment that you will enjoy and from a cultural perspective, it has much to offer that may captivate your interest. We trust that many of our readers will desire to take advantage of this overall endeavor and most of all, your prayers will be greatly appreciated that all things may be done in accordance with the Heavenly Father's will. Early in August 2017, more detailed information will be sent to all the brethren who either visited Ghana in the past or expressed an interest in the Harvest work in Africa.

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**