



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Summer 2018

## Greetings from the BSCFA

As we reflect on the activities of 2018, the highlight was the Pan African Convention. The attendees came from the following countries: Benin (2), Botswana (1), Cameroon (5), Canada (1), Congo (1), Ethiopia (1), France (1), Ghana (37), India (1), Ivory Coast (3), Kenya (2), Liberia (1), Malawi (1), Morocco (1), Nigeria (31), Romania (3), Rwanda (2), South Africa (2), South Sudan (1), Tanzania (1), Togo (5), Uganda (1), United Kingdom (1) and United States of America (9) for a total of 114 participants.

We have met new brethren and renewed old acquaintances. We exchanged contact information and now is the time to correspond with our brethren remembering that we are one body made up of diverse parts. The challenge for the African brethren is to pick up the baton and make a goal to correspond with your African brethren at a minimum of once a month. Our goal should be to reach out and nurture deeper relationships not

just at conventions but throughout the year. This is how we form stronger bonds of love and nurture one another by corresponding on scriptural topics, sharing methods to witness and discussing our struggles and victories.

If we truly believe we are one body, then corresponding with that body would be an outward manifestation of what has taken place in our heart. Working with the body members starts with us in this present condition and if faithful will continue on the other side of the veil. Let us not just remember the body in prayer but let us continue to communicate, reach out, and work together with each other outside of the convention arrangement. (1 Corinthians 12:14-27)

Bro. Bill Dutka, BSCFA *Chairman*

## Report from Ghana

Since the 2018 Pan African Convention was held in Ghana, this issue mainly will describe the preparations made for this gathering, some specific features associated with this event and the



**Group Photograph of Pan African Convention Attendees**

post-convention visitations which occurred before all the attendees returned to their homes. We would note that during the 2016 Pan African Convention representatives from 15 countries participated. The fact that 9 additional nations were present in 2018 speaks to the intense efforts by a number of brethren globally through prayers, visitations and financial support to be involved in locating the final members of the body of Christ and thus help to end earth's weary night of sin, sickness and death which must occur before that glorious reign of righteousness is fully established. (Rev. 5:9 and 10; Chapt. 20:1-6)

We are reminded of missionary efforts by the Early Church whereby follow up visitations were made to various locations to strengthen the brethren where the seeds of Truth were planted. This is well documented in Acts where the labors of Paul and his companions are chronicled. Today, there are brethren who imitate that pattern and the significant increase in the number of countries in just two years that were able to have at least one participant attend the 2018 gathering in Ghana represents the fruitage of such efforts for which we thank the Heavenly Father. We shall share two such illustrations of this nature later as detailed in reports of pilgrim visits to Ethiopia as well as Togo and Ivory Coast. Once the potential attendees to the convention were identified, a detailed program of the proceedings was established, as well as arrangements for transportation to and from the host facility were confirmed. Despite various last-minute changes in airline schedules, all of the friends arrived at the convention site before the opening services. The following is a description of what transpired each day between the brethren's arrival in and departure from Ghana.

#### **April 16, 2018**

On Monday, April 16, 2018 at approximately 5 PM, Bros. Brian Montague, Homer Montague, Austin Williams and Sr. Cathy Sandridge boarded an airplane from JFK Airport in New York which took them directly to the capital city of Accra, located in Ghana, West Africa shortly before 7 AM the following day. Srs. Karen Earl and Leah Einhorn were unable to travel

with the others because their connecting flights into JFK were delayed by weather.

#### **April 17, 2018**

The travelers were warmly greeted and welcomed by Bros. Edward Nkansah and Isaac Danso and were driven to the Pilma Hotel in Accra where they met Sr. Lisa Dragos from Romania and rested from their long journey. Sr. Lisa was a guest at the Pilma Hotel the previous night because her early flight from Romania brought her to Ghana on Monday, April 16. During the day, brethren from Togo, Bro. Isaiah Amoo from Ghana and Bro. Samir El Mahir from Morocco arrived and joined the others for fellowship, meals and prepared welcome packets, name tag badges and other needed items for the convention. Sr. Leah Einhorn joined them for dinner after her plane arrived that evening. Subsequently, all of the friends left the hotel and were driven to a bus station to receive 3 additional brethren from Ivory Coast and then went to the Accra Airport to meet Bros. Noah Amoo, Regis Liberda and Sr. Karen Earl. The entire group then traveled to the Presbyterian Women's Centre and rested there for the evening.

#### **April 18, 2018**

Bro. Edward left the PWC early to begin one of his many trips to the airport by picking up additional brethren. Bro. Richard Doctor was the first to arrive at the Centre. Also, that morning, Bros. Isaiah Amoo and Isaac Danso escorted Bros. Samir and Regis as well as Srs. Karen and Leah on a tour of Accra. All the other brethren remained at the PWC not only to set up for the convention in the auditorium but also to finalize other preparation activities. At approximately 2 PM a van drove the friends from the PWC to a public witness effort held at the University of Professional Studies in Accra. Bro. Edward then met the group there after having driven his car to this location. The African Bible Students tent was raised in the university parking lot and the brethren mingled with the students on campus by distributing tracts as well as discussing God's plan with many of the young adults. Some of the brethren also distributed literature to individuals while standing on the steps



## Sr. Karen Earl Distributing Tracts on College Campus

of various student buildings. Shortly after these witness efforts began, the brethren that were on the tour of Accra joined the group to share in these witness efforts. There were many one on one private conversations conducted by the Bible Students with some of the college students. Phone numbers and email addresses were exchanged and the brethren assured the visitors that there would be a follow up. The witness effort ended by 4 PM and those who attended this gathering returned to the Presbyterian Centre. Upon our return, we observed that the majority of invited brethren had arrived. Soon thereafter, all on site enjoyed an evening supper meal together at the PWC. Bro. Brian ended the day by conducting a 2-hour vespers practice with those brethren who desired to participate. By the end of the night, all of the invited brethren were in attendance with the exception of Bro. John Bivol whose flight did not arrive until 4 AM the next day. However, Bro. Edward faithfully received him at the airport once his plane landed and brought him to the Centre to participate in the morning services.

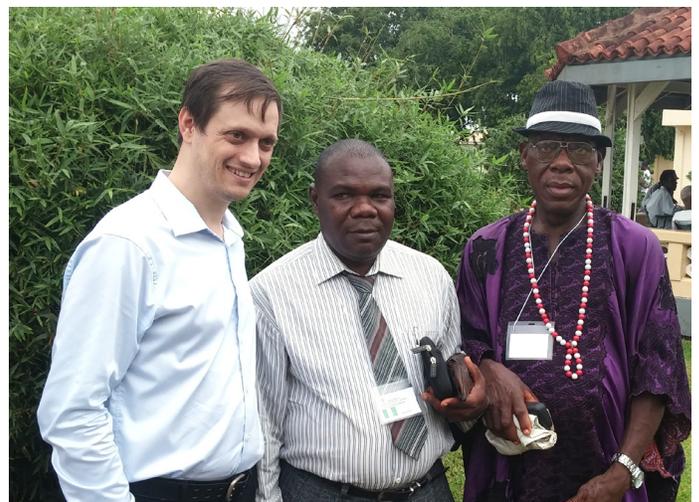
### April 19, 2018

The morning began promptly at 9 AM with devotional readings, hymn singing and a welcome address from Bro. Homer Montague. Along with reviewing details of the procedures which were to be followed at the convention, he also mentioned how the brethren were going to be divided into breakout sessions which were scheduled from 9:45-11:45 following his welcome

address. These included a Sisters' Meeting, Young Adults' Seminar and Witness Activity Report. Following lunch, the convention services officially began with a discourse on the theme text from Joshua 24:15, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve..." There were several 30-minute discourses throughout the afternoon and the evening concluded with a video presentation related to the 2016 Pan African Convention followed by a special meeting of the French speaking brethren conducted by Bro. Regis Liberda.

### April 20, 2018

The brethren quietly gathered into the auditorium well before the 9 AM service began. There were 4 discourses scheduled before lunch with an intermission in between for fellowship. Following the first afternoon discourse there was a



**Brethren During Convention Intermission**

tremendous thunderstorm during a panel discussion which was taking place. It ended shortly before the close of that session. Although the convention grounds were damp, a group photograph was taken outdoors. Following supper, a discourse, testimony meeting, panel discussion and a manna presentation on August 1 ended our very busy day of meetings. Before retiring for the evening, various items were distributed including souvenir booklets brought by Sr. Leah with photographs of the 2016 Pan African Convention as well as vitamins for most of the friends.

### **April 21, 2018**

The services began with eight 15-minute symposiums from brethren who spoke on a different manna text from August 2-10. After lunch there was a baptismal discourse given for 8 candidates. Because of some schedule adjustments, an outdoor testimony meeting was conducted beside the portable swimming pool prior to the immersion service. Following supper, we were served with a discourse as well as reports from each of the Thursday morning breakout sessions to conclude the day.

### **April 22, 2018**

On the final day, the program consisted of 2 discourses, closing remarks and a beautiful vespers service. After singing all 4 verses of "God Be with You," the brethren repeated the chorus several times, walked around the auditorium hugging one another, crying and shaking hands. This

formally ended 3 1/2 days of spiritual blessings. At 2 PM most of the North American, European and some of the African brethren boarded a van which drove them to the center of Accra. Some members of this group were also able to go shopping in a market place and then have dinner with the remainder of those who were on the van.

### **April 23, 2018**

Bro. Edward Nkansah escorted Bros. Brian Montague, Homer Montague as well as Srs. Karen Earl and Cathy Sandridge to the Accra Airport using the hotel's shuttle service at 6:30 AM. The travelers arrived at the Delta terminal gate shortly thereafter and received their boarding passes for their 9 AM flight to JFK Airport. After going through numerous check points for screening, the brethren finally boarded the plane which departed promptly at 9 AM and landed safely at JFK Airport shortly before 4 PM. The following narrative provided by Bro. Lee Hicks describes some of the experiences he engaged in during his extended stay in Ghana, having traveled the previous day to Kumasi and spending the night at the home of Bro. Samuel Amoo. After a good night sleep and a healthy breakfast, I had a study in the Scriptures with Bros. Samuel Gyekye, Samuel Amoo and Sr. Grace Boatema. Later in the day, we went to town, mailed letters and gave out tracts.

### **April 24, 2018**

I departed from Kumasi for the W.R. (Western Region) with Bro. Edward Nkansah in his



**Candidates for Immersion Service**

car. After many stops we arrived in Japa at a hotel where Bro. John Quaidoo and Bro. Collen greeted us.

#### **April 25, 2018**

We traveled to the W.R. Ecclesia. The brethren were eager to meet us. After three hours of study there was a break for fifteen minutes before returning for the study and questions. After the meeting I was told the water in the rivers and streams was poisonous due to gold mining. Three brethren desired to symbolize their consecrations in Dunkwa where there is clean water. After much fellowship and encouragement, we departed for Dunkwa to Bro. Plange's house and enjoyed warm hospitality and lodging for the night.

#### **April 26, 2018**

After breakfast we waited for the W.R. brethren to arrive in Dunkwa to take them to a clean stream of water for three brethren to be baptized. This place was quite a distance from Dunkwa over dirty, bumpy roads. Those who symbolized their consecration are Bros. Benson Ahodo, Edward Korchie, and Abernesi Dbeng. We returned to Bro. Plange's house for fellowship. We desired to visit two of the classes in Bro. Plange's area but could not do so.

#### **April 27, 2018**

After Bro. Edward had some repairs made on his car we arrived in Cape Coast around 12:30 PM. Without any mechanical problems we arrived in Mankessim around 6 PM and were met by Bro. Rogers at a guest house where we stayed for two nights. After dinner provided by Bro. Rogers' wife we retired to our rooms.

#### **April 28, 2018**

Bro. Edward and I visited the C.C. (Cape Coast) Class at Sr. Comfort's house. Bro. Rogers and I led the studies for two hours. Lunch was provided by the ecclesia. Many questions were asked and answered.

#### **April 29, 2018**

We met at the same place with all of the brethren for three hours of studies and questions. For the

two meetings we had with the C.C. brethren eleven attended with us. We did not visit the villages due to the rain and road conditions.

#### **April 30, 2018**

We departed C.C. for Winneba to visit Bro. Enoch Annan and two others at his house. We had a one-hour study and questions with them. After fellowship we departed for Accra and arrived at the Pilma Hotel for the night.

#### **May 1, 2018**

We traveled to Dorymu to meet with Joshua Dorh to see if there were any Truth activities in his area. All of the friends have returned to their churches. We greeted him and departed for Accra to our hotel until I traveled back the USA. I give thanks to our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for being able to extend my visit to see, encourage and fellowship with the dear friends who did not attend the Pan African Convention. They all welcomed me with warm Christian love. Those I visited are joyful to be part of the high calling, the little flock and ready to suffer for the cause with hope.

### **Expressions from Brethren**

The Pan African Convention was a great blessing. I met so many brethren from so many countries in Africa. I knew only one brother in Africa before the convention and now I know many brethren personally. I was able to meet all the brethren from all the countries except Ghana and Nigeria. In those countries, I met many brethren but not all. Some of my highlights were the sisters' meeting and hearing their participation and their personal experiences in displaying integrity in their lives, the discourses on the Manna texts from August 1-10 and Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko's witness report on East Africa. I learned much from them through their studies and through their example. I appreciated singing with the African sisters and brothers for the vespers and tracting the day before the convention. Everyone took my tracts. This is amazing.

Sr. Karen Earl, USA

My longing to attend the Pan African Convention started when I recollected the awesome

times that I had when I symbolized my consecration in the previous convention at the same venue in 2016. This thought continued to haunt me until I inquired whether I would be considered again among the 2018 convention attendees. The reply was not 100% promising but God used his faithful agents to make this possible. Before I left for Ghana, I was given an assignment to speak on Romans 8:28. When I was studying, I found out that the trials and difficulties of life are shaping and fitting us for glory, honor and immortality and that all things don't just happen to work out for good on their own, rather, God providentially causes them to work together for good for His people according to His purpose which is to make us his agents for the blessing of all mankind. More time was spent with brethren from across the world sharing experiences with them as well as the hope and faith-inspiring talks delivered at the convention led me to greater longing for the everlasting Kingdom of God. Interestingly enough, my wife has reassured me her vow to join me in this journey after sharing with her my second experience from Ghana. God has really moved me from uncertainty to faith-strengthening.

Bro. Omar Ndamutsa, Rwanda

I had been contacted already in 2015 by Bro. Joe Dolan, asking me to visit the brethren in Cameroon, since there was an increasing number of French speaking brethren there. Therefore, I visited them in October 2016, where I saw their joy to speak on the Truth in French and to sing also in this language. There are some new ecclesias existing now in French speaking states like Togo and Ivory Coast. Bro. Homer Montague invited me to attend the Pan African convention. I felt a warm welcome by all the brethren I met, especially by the brethren from countries where the life is very difficult (South Sudan). The French speaking brethren wanted to show me their exceptional joy, having for the first time the possibility to speak French with somebody from France. Having discussed with them, I decided to organize a translation for the brethren who did not understand English and to show on a wall the French words and the music of the hymns. If there is another Pan African

Convention, God willing, and if French speaking brethren from Africa are invited, it would be good to involve them in the understanding of the different discourses, panel discussions, information and even prayers.

Bro. Regis Liberda, France

It was a thing of great joy and spiritual refreshing with brethren sharing together in the love of Christ at the just concluded Pan African Convention held in Presbyterian Women's Center Abokobi, in Accra, Ghana. The convention was embraced with brethren from the four continents and precisely twenty-four countries. Despite whatever I may be passing through, my service to my Lord Jesus and God will be first, as it implies in My Morning Resolve, "I will never murmur nor repine at what the Lord's Providence may permit because Faith can firmly trust Him, come what may." There was lots of spiritual food at the convention from the discourses and special presentations given by brethren which stand as eye openers in the Gospel. There was abundant joy derived from the Christian fellowship with testimonies of how the Lord has been so kind in the expansion of the Truth with many new converts. We had a seminar organized for the youth and Bible expositions, discussion on questions and answers with officiating panels. Most interesting was the unity of faith and warm love shared with exchange of pictures and refreshment at the Lord's table. I am wonderfully blessed and want to say God bless the Bible Students' Committee for Africa, as well as the organizers and sponsors of this wonderful program and the great opportunity given unto us to share in the fellowship.

Bro. Emmanuel Okorie, Benin

## **Ivory Coast and Togo Trip**

The following report was prepared by Bro. Edward Nkansah of Ghana during his pilgrim trips in February 2018.

My trip to both francophone countries was very checkered because my health was not permitting me to embark on this journey, but I kept faith in God and as the apostle said "For to me to live is

Christ, and to die is gain.” This was a short visit where I spent two weeks going to both countries. I left home on the night of February 13th, traveled overnight to Accra and the next morning continued to Abidjan in Ivory Coast and was welcomed by Bro. Beni Roland who left his home town to meet me at the bus terminal. After a 15-hour journey we both spent the night in a hotel at Treshville. The next morning, we went to the post office to reclaim some Truth booklets before arriving at 4PM in Yamoussoukro and lodging at the Fondy Hotel. The next day we continued to Oume and rested at our hotel before Pastor Marus Yao came and arranged for us to meet with some of his church members. That evening I gave a presentation on the Chart of the Ages for two and a half hours before coming back to the hotel to rest. The following morning, we met only with Pastor Yao who wanted to know who the Bible Students were, whether we were a church or some other group, do we have a paid ministry as well as how we organize and do we help build structures for meetings. After answering his questions, he concluded that the Bible Students have the Truth based upon his studies of materials he received during previous visits to Togo by Bro. Khurrsino and myself.

During the next several days I was involved in a variety of witness activities despite dealing with my health concerns and on February 22nd after I bid farewell to Bro. Beni Roland, I returned to Accra, Ghana. There I purchased some medication for my illness before crossing both borders and traveled to Lome, Togo.

On the evening of February 23rd, Bros. Aboli Philip and Felix Afantchawo welcomed me at my hotel and then asked me to rest. The next day I met Bro. Aboli as well as his friend Francis and later Bros. Felix and Sergino Kpoedzou also joined us for discussion. We subsequently made plans for a study on Sunday. On that occasion, I was asked to make a chart presentation which ended at 12:30PM. It was a blessing to have fellowship with this new class in Lome, Togo. The next two days I met a few of their members who came to the hotel for study and then I returned to Accra, Ghana and continued home to Kumasi on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

## Visit to Ethiopia

The narrative which follows is based upon the observations of Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko of Uganda who on visited Ethiopia in March, 2018.

On March 1st I traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and was greeted by Bro. Haileyesus Adams who arranged a small taxi for our hotel stay, supper and rest. Since there was outside traffic and noise, the following day we relocated to the one we used last time. We had most of our meetings there with those who had an interest in the Harvest message. On March 2nd, we went to Bro. Adams' rented house, had breakfast together and shortly left to meet a Bro. Michael at the edge of the city, who had studied about 40 of the 53 Lessons and had a good interest in the Truth. We studied the "Grace of God in the Redemption of Man" and that afternoon went to



**Class in Lome, Togo**

Bro. Adams' home for local meals and that evening we studied "The Kingdom of God" in reference to Daniel Chapter 2.

On March 3rd we had scheduled a meeting with 4 new interests based on earlier correspondence, but actually only met two of them who had traveled 350 kilometers the day before and lodged in Addis Ababa. The Lord granted us a good morning at the hotel as we discussed Bro. Wolde Tsefaye's studies. His wife had an interest to start and I loaded their computer with all the 53 Lessons, video studies, as well as other materials and provided them with an overview of The Divine Plan of the Ages, while encouraging them to study the Truth. I also met with Bro. Adera Wobushet whom we had given much Truth materials for his learning during my first visit, but had stumbled on "Trinity," "Our Passover," "The Lord's Presence" .... etc. He was honest with me about these topics, being a local pastor and having contacts with American pastors in the Church of Christ. He told me he had shared our lessons on the personality of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and all rejected this teaching. He is a church leader and although they try much to follow Scriptures they stumbled on some of the teachings clearly taught in the Bible. Actually, he started dodging me without replying to my emails, and even when I informed him of my coming, he did not reply. After calling him to meet me, he said he was busy and in regards to the studies we gave him, I explained the major differences we had concerning "Trinity and Passover." With regard to the latter, they keep it often, thus every time they feel it is important to observe such as each Sunday. Therefore, this made him feel that he can have nothing to do with us, even if we were to meet again.

On Sunday, March 4th we had a morning family gathering at Bro. Adams' home with one brother who joined the group. One of the big challenges is finding time for study as Bro. Adams has to



### **Bro. Adams and Family Outside of His Home**

spend a whole day on his tailoring business to secure enough for family, food and house rent, and his income is very low.

On Monday, March 5th, the Lord blessed my personal studies in the hotel, followed by a mid-day visit to Bro. Adams' work place. Two brothers, (new interests) called, one explaining how he could not enter the city but would receive all study materials from Bro. Adams as I was scheduled to travel back to Uganda the following day. Another expressed regret for his failure to come to keep the appointment though he was nearby. Two others declined to meet me as one questioned our religion during a phone conversation and another not honoring the appointment three times! We returned home, then went to the hotel when it started raining. The brethren brought me Ethiopian coffee, I slept and early in the morning was picked by Bro. Adams in a hired taxi to travel to the airport where I was able to witness to travelers there. This was a fruitful visit and we thank the Lord for all blessings and the brethren for their support and prayers accordingly.

Newsletter items as well as  
fully tax deductible donations may be sent to:  
**Bible Students Committee for Africa**  
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