



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Winter 2019

Greetings from the BSCFA

Another new year and another opportunity to consider, no to reflect deeply upon all the blessings that the Lord has so bountifully provided to and for us. It was a year of excitement as the United States moved their embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; thus, bringing us closer to the full establishment of God's Kingdom. It's these visible reassurances that strengthen our faith, and remind us of our privileges in understanding God's arrangements. What a prospect, dear brethren, to open the Scriptures and see and understand that paradise will soon be restored!

As we reflect on the Lord's providences toward friends, family and brethren, and see the footprints that mark the Lord's leadings in their lives we remain speechless with gratitude. We rejoice with our brethren's mountaintop experiences, joys and opportunities to serve the Creator of our universe. May the Heavenly Father grant you opportunities to continue in His service, a determination to deepen your commitment and a resolution to press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call. Let this new year knit us together with a common purpose to help serve, nurture, and lift up one another. As Jesus states, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35) NRSV

Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*

West Africa

As noted in the Summer 2018 edition of the Africa Newsletter, representatives from eight countries in this region attended the April 2018 Pan African Convention. Although space will not permit details to be recorded in this publication concerning the many and varied harvest activities that have continued since that time in each of these nations, the following is a synopsis of a few reports from some of these locations that may be of interest.

Ohobo Nigeria Convention

On Saturday, September 1, 2018, the Ohobo Ecclesia held its annual convention. Its theme text was "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*". (John 17:17) The chairmen were Bros. Joseph Ogbunike and Vitalis Ekeh. The following other services occurred.

1. Bro. Harrison Uzor's welcome address was entitled "Sanctify Them with Thy Truth, Thy Word Is Truth."
2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu's sermon was captioned "Evangelism."
3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu spoke on "Jesus the World's Savior."
4. Bro. Moses Shotunde gave a talk on "The Finished Mystery."
5. Bro. Chuks Edward's discourse was titled "Everything Works Together for the Elect."
6. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike's message was "Overcoming the World."
7. The friends also enjoyed viewing a film on "The Kingdom of God."



Lagos Convention Attendees

Much gratitude was expressed for the Heavenly Father's overruling in this endeavor as well as appreciation for the contributions of all who had a part in this undertaking.

Lagos Nigeria Convention

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, the Lagos Ecclesia conducted its convention. The theme was *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13) The chairmen were Bros. Gabriel Obayagbona and Anayo Obi. The following brothers also served.

1. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu welcomed the friends with an address on 1 Corinthians 10:13.
2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu discoursed on "Trials of Faith."
3. Bro. Chuks Edward spoke on "Behold I Will Make All Things New."
4. Bro. John Isife captioned his sermon "The Resurrection of the Dead."
5. Bro. Celestine Oledibe's talk was titled "The New Creation."

6. Bro. Moses Shotunde led the testimony meeting.

The convention was successful and greatly enjoyed.

Ghanaian Leaders' Seminar

Bro. Moses Obire traveled from Nigeria once again to conduct the 26th Leaders' Seminar at the home of Bro. Samuel Amoo in Kumasi during the period of October 12-14, 2018. The highlights for each day included the following.

October 12, 2018

After the morning devotions and a welcome address, a series of mini discourses followed by questions based upon "Provoking One Another" (Reprint 4076), were given by Bros. Jerome Rogers, Leonard Plange, Enoch Annan, Thomas Nti and Jean Claude. During the afternoon and early evening, Bro. Moses Obire led a study on "How We Attain Development as New Creatures." (Reprint 5931)

October 13, 2018

Using the same format as the previous day, discourses were given by Bros. Samuel Amoo, Emmanuel Menu, John Sakyi, Emmanuel Amoabeng, Felix Daddah and



Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Attendees

Collins Asumani. The second main study of the weekend was titled "Training Our Affections Heavenward." (Reprint 5905) After supper, there was an extended business meeting relative to witnessing and the use of technology for conducting some of the meetings.

October 14, 2018

The last series of discourses were provided by Bros. Joseph Aponsah, Isaiah Amoo, Edward Nkansah, Samuel Gyekye, Stephen Mensah and James Menu. The afternoon study was titled "How We May Grow Up into Christ." (Reprint 5977) Overall, it was quite evident this profitable gathering reflected growth by the attendees. It concluded with a testimony meeting, "Songs in the Night," and the singing of Hymn 64.

Harvest Work in Cameroon

Bro. Alex Mokom reports the extreme civil unrest in this country occasioned by oppression from the French speaking majority against those residing in regions where English is the dominant language. This has resulted in a desire in the hearts of the people to know more about God. Additionally, the following overview from Bro. Alex describes several days of special encour-

agement received by some of the friends in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

October 6, 2018

Bro. David Sutryk from France arrived at the Yaounde Airport at 9:30 PM where he was met by Bro. Eloi as well as Bro. Alex and Sr. Paulena Mokom who journeyed through numerous checkpoints before arriving home at 3:00 AM for rest.

October 7, 2018

A youth conference was arranged from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Following a welcome address by Bro. Alex, Bro. David gave a power point presentation from a recent youth seminar that included greetings from the brethren in France. Bro. David gave a discourse on "Ten Commandments" which ended with questions and answers. After lunch, Bro. David spoke on "The Parable of the Sower," again followed by questions and discussion. This wonderful day concluded with the distribution of school materials including books, pens and pencils which were brought from France. They were greatly appreciated.

October 8, 2018

A portion of the time was spent visiting the Pygmies in the forest. In Mayos Village the



Sr. Paulena, Bros. David and Alex

gospel was shared, hymns sung and tracts distributed. Additionally, dresses and pens were supplied. In the evening the brethren in the Mendim class were served with a discourse on "Faith" and there was joyous praise as the friends sang hymns embellished by Bro. David's flute accompaniment.

October 9, 2018

There was a meeting at Doume Center. Hymns of Dawn were sung accompanied by Bro. David on the flute. His discourse was captioned "The Mystery of God" and was well received.

October 10, 2018

A meeting was scheduled for Paki. In view of mechanical troubles with the car, we arrived very late and were met by Bro. Bruno and his wife. Bro. Bruno testified as to how he came into present truth.

October 11, 2018

We visited the Kobila class. Along with music and warm fellowship the brethren were blessed from Bro. David's discourse on "The Hidden Mystery."

October 12, 2018

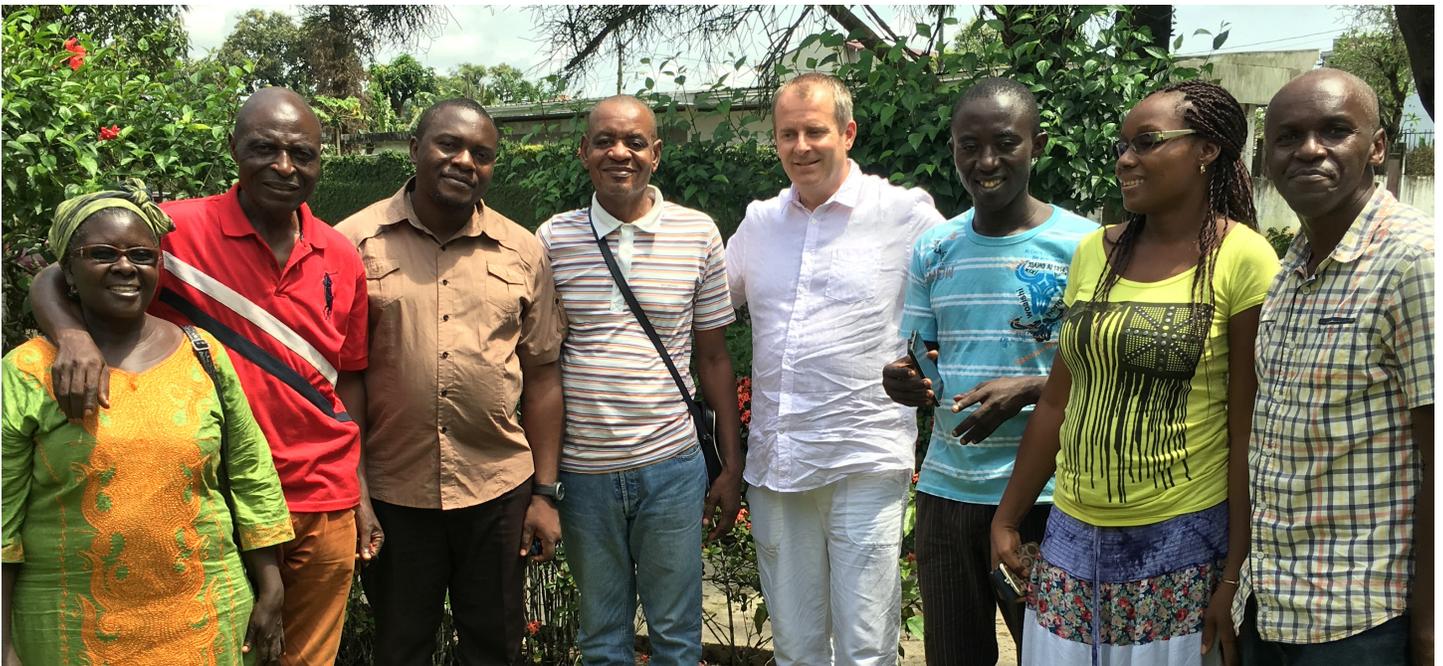
We left Doume and traveled to Douala. En route, we visited Bro. Valentin Efontse and spent five hours clarifying various Scriptural questions. We arrived at the hotel in Douala at 5:00 AM the next day.

October 13, 2018

This was a day of fellowship with brethren greeting us at the hotel as well as our having the opportunity to spend time in the homes of some of the friends.

October 14, 2018

This was our final day in Douala. We enjoyed singing hymns and Bro. David gave



Brethren Assembled at Hotel in Douala



Testimony Participants During Kampala General Convention

two discourses after which we traveled to Yaounde and bid him farewell as he returned to France.

East and Central Africa

Earlier in this issue, reference was made to representation at the 2018 Pan African Convention by many countries in West Africa. Although it was not possible to accommodate everyone that might have desired to be present for that gathering, the following reports are provided by Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko of Uganda. He coordinated travel arrangements for brethren from nine nations in that part of the continent who attended the spring 2018 Pan African Convention.

The East and Central Africa General Convention was held in Kampala from August 31 - September 2, 2018 at the home of Bro. Eliezer. Consecrated brethren in attendance hailed from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, Congo as well as Uganda. The theme text was *"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."* (Proverbs 23:26).

A special highlight of the weekend was an extended seminar to further prepare and nurture ten brethren who symbolized their

consecrations near the close of this spiritual feast. During this fruitful gathering brethren were afforded the opportunity for leading as well as participating in panels. As part of a symposium, a number of the friends were given 8 minutes to discuss subjects in the form of a question which provided experiences in public teaching as well discourse presentations. Many Truth charts were on display throughout the convention and sets of the Volumes and Tabernacle Shadows were distributed to those lacking these materials who had the ability to read and speak English. Much gratitude was expressed for the sacrifices of brethren in the United States who provided materials and other forms of support which enabled the convention to be a great blessing for all in attendance.

Congo and Uganda Services

From November 16-18, 2018 Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko and 60 other brethren enjoyed much fellowship at the Congo Convention. A few of the 19 topics considered during this interval through studies, discourses and panels included "Be Ye Transformed," "Ransom and Restitution," "The Fruits of the Spirit," "Christ's 2nd Advent and Reign," "The Adversary's Tactics," "The Trial of Our Faith," "Baptism of the Holy

Spirit," and "Exceeding Great and Precious Promises." A period for general questions as well as a testimony rounded out the program over these three days.

Parara-Paidha Convention

From November 19-21, 2018 the convention at the border between Uganda and Congo occurred and was filled with many blessings. Some of the 19 topics covered in similar fashion as those at the earlier Congo Convention included "Keep Your Heart with All Diligence," "The Call of the New Creation," "Sound Doctrine," "The Eyes Which See," "Not Forsaking Assembling Together," "The Life of Joseph," and "God's Use of Things in Our Hands." Bro. Eliezer spent November 22, 2018 with Bro. Albert (semi-blind) and had a study with him, a few sisters of Paidha as well as a small group of other brethren who were available. He provided an overview of Volume Two and answered some general questions regarding the Harvest Message.

Bro. Eliezer returned home on November 23, 2018, tired but thankful for the privileges enjoyed during two conventions and an extra day of service in Paidha.

Witnessing in Africa

The great commission (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8) though given at the onset of the Gospel Age continues even until this day as we await the completion of the body of Christ and the full establishment of God's kingdom that will bless the world of mankind. Brethren in Africa engage in face-to-face meetings with individuals who may have an interest in God's plan through the use of tract distribution, public meetings, tent witness efforts (similar to fair booths utilized by brethren throughout the globe) and visiting various churches where pastors are willing to receive them. Globally, many of the brethren promulgate the truth message on the Internet and there is public response. Such information is dealt with in



Bro. Ucha Donne and Other Brethren During Congo Convention Fellowship

a variety of ways depending upon the origin of this electronic contact. For example, some of the friends receive Biblical inquiries which they answer and these responses are posted on various webpages. This obviously provides accurate information on many questions that individuals in Africa as well as in other parts of the world are seeking to have resolved in their minds. Additionally, sometimes Truth literature may also be offered to provide them with information concerning other related aspects of God's divine plan of the ages for the entire human family.

From time to time, there may be sustained interest on the part of some in understanding the Bible, based upon having had their queries answered in a meaningful way and those correspondents might forward these "leads" to brethren who are actively involved in promulgating the Truth in different parts of Africa. Through electronic contact, a series of Truth lessons if desired, might then be sent to these individuals and upon satisfactory completion of same, pilgrim visits are arranged to meet with them as well as with any other interested parties in the region. Where appropriate, invitations may be extended to meet with established ecclesias as well as attend Bible Students' conventions and on occasion, possibly symbolize their consecration through water immersion. As this newsletter is being disseminated, two brethren, one from Ghana and the other from India, are making final preparations for a follow up visit to Togo and Ivory Coast in West Africa where they have travelled together previously as well as an initial foray into Sierra Leone, also in the same general region. In the Summer 2019 issue of this publication, Lord willing, details of this sojourn of approximately three weeks duration will be shared. Finally, in order to support consecrated new members of the fellowship, arrangements are made for them to participate in meetings of established ecclesias through various cross platform messaging and voice

over IP services. It may be well said that "the Harvest goes grandly on!"

Young Adults' Seminar

One of the important aspects of the 2018 Pan African Convention held in Ghana was the provision for a Young Adults' Seminar that was embedded within the overall program for seven hours over the course of 3 ½ days. In addition to prayer, devotions and question sessions, there were focused studies on "Following Christ" (Isaiah 53), "Love Not the World" (1 John 2:15,16) and "Marriage." Based upon the feedback received, Lord willing, it was decided to conduct an international Young Adults' Seminar in Accra, Ghana during the week of June 10, 2019. The probable attendees will include consecrated representatives between the ages of 20-35 from Africa, North America and India. What is of interest, is the fact that some of the expected participants have never met one another in person, but through social media, a number of them know of or have corresponded with their fellow sojourners in Christ. The program will involve various small as well as large group activities and input will be sought from the participants prior to finalizing all details. Additionally, some of the brethren from the United States who previously participated in Pan African Conventions are expected to attend and serve in various capacities at this gathering. Your prayers that this endeavor will bring praise and honor to our Heavenly Father's name will be greatly appreciated.

BSCFA Board of Directors

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

Chairman: Bro. Bill Dutka
Secretary: Bro. Richard Doctor
Treasurer: Bro. Austin Williams

Other Board members are Bros. Joe Dolan, Bob Goodman, Bob Gray, Lee Hicks, Brian Montague and Homer Montague.

Our Lord's Memorial

Thursday, April 18, 2019 (after 6:00 p.m.)

WHY GETHSEMANE'S AGONY?

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."--[MATTHEW 26:41](#).

FOLLOWING the institution of the Supper which memorializes His death, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn, and then went out of the city to the Mount of Olives opposite --a distance of perhaps a mile. Apparently several important lessons were given to the disciples en route to Gethsemane. These St. John's Gospel records in Chapters 15-17. The word Gethsemane signifies an oil press--a name that is full of significance. When we remember that the Jews used the oil of the olives both for food and for light, and that Jesus is the Nourisher as well as the Enlightener of the world, we see a special fitness in His having His trying experiences, which almost crushed His soul, in a garden used for the crushing of olives and the extraction of their oil.

Gethsemane was not a flower garden, but an olive orchard or garden. The supposed site is still carefully preserved, and guarded by Franciscan monks. In the Garden are some very ancient olive trees and one extremely old oak. The Garden is supposed to have belonged to some of Jesus' friends; and there is claimed to be some evidence that John Mark, the writer of the Gospel of St. Mark, was the lad who was awakened from his slumbers by the commotion incident to Jesus' arrest and who came forth in his nightgown.--[Mark 14:51,52](#).

A NOTE OF WARNING

En route for Gethsemane, Jesus sought to impress upon his disciples the fact that they were entering a great crisis. He quoted to them the prophecy, "I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." ([Zechariah 13:7](#).) He said to them

plainly that as a result they would all be offended--discouraged, stumbled, amazed. The thing that they were not expecting would occur.

St. Peter, full of confidence in his own devotion to the Lord, denied this, declaring that it would not be true in his case--that even though it should be true of all the others, he was ready to die with the Master, rather than to deny Him. Jesus still insisted that St. Peter was in great danger. He was trusting too much to his flesh, and not looking to God and prayerfully watching against temptation. Indeed, all the disciples joined in the same remonstrance against the accusation that Jesus had made. They declared themselves loyal and ready for death. How little they knew what severe trials would come upon them!

Surely there is a lesson here for all the followers of Jesus--today as well as then. It is right that we should feel ourselves thoroughly determined to be loyal to the Lord's Cause to our very last breath; for such a determination is very necessary to victory. The mistake made by many is in not realizing how severe the trials and temptations may become--in not realizing the necessity of Heavenly assistance in our every time of need. The Apostle wrote, "When I am weak, then am I strong." ([2 Corinthians 12:10](#).) By this he doubtless meant, When fully loyal to the Lord, I feel my own weakness and insufficiency, but I am strong because then I rely especially upon Heavenly aid--then I watch and pray, and am thus forewarned against the temptations.

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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