



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Summer 2020

## Greetings from the BSCFA

As 2020 unfolded, who would have anticipated the many changes that a virus would bring to the world? The world's pandemic, COVID-19, has not just shut down the world economy, but also quarantined most of the world's population. How have we, as children of God, reacted to this change in our daily routine? Are we still grateful for the Lord's daily leadings or are we discontented? How well are we able to adapt to these changes in our lives? Do we face each day with a grateful heart anticipating the Lord's leadings? Do we look at these challenges and seek to turn them into new opportunities? Or do we long for what we once had because it makes us comfortable? Life is challenging and constantly changing. The question is how adaptable are we to the changes?

The Bible Students' Committee for Africa has always been there to help, encourage and support our brethren in Africa. We continue to foster a spirit among the brethren in Africa to be self-sufficient while supporting truth activities, witnessing, printing, conventions and humanitarian aid—filling the gaps where needed. It is encouraging to know many brethren are using electronic devices to continue their weekly meetings and communicate with those who are isolated.

We know a time will come when help from western countries will be curtailed. We will have to rely on relationships that we have developed over the years, and continue to trust in the Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. The coronavirus pandemic

has given us time to develop deeper and more lasting fellowship with our brethren.

Our thoughts are always in a prayerful attitude remembering, and always looking forward to the full establishment of God's Kingdom. This prayerful attitude does not exclude us from the trouble coming upon the globe. After all, the Scriptures tell us that our experiences are common to those in the world. Since we have this common experience with our brethren in the world, how are we being exercised by trials? Many brethren had plans this year for visiting our brethren in Africa. These plans have been put on hold waiting for the Lord's direction. We are unsure if our plans will resume later this year—or will we have to wait another year? May our Heavenly Father continue to watch over each one of us as we continue to diligently serve Him.

Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*

## EAST AFRICA

The following is a summary of recent harvest activities in this location since the start of 2020 as reported by Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko of Uganda.

### Malawi/Tanzania/Zambia Trip

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, I left Uganda and arrived in Malawi on the 13<sup>th</sup> met by Bro. Anthony Kapindula to follow up on Truth interests in that country. The following day, we began our studies with Bro. Anthony who originally had been a member of the Roman Catholic Church and came in contact with the 53 Lessons in 2014. Over the next several days I reviewed various

subjects with him and other individuals in Malawi including "The Three Ways," "Anti-Christ," "Revelation 18:4," "Christian Baptism," "Christian and Jewish Passover," and "Death and Resurrection." On February 17<sup>th</sup> Bro. Anthony symbolized his consecration through water immersion. I also invited him to attend the East Africa General Convention scheduled for later in the year.

After departing from Malawi, I spent time in various sections of Tanzania, first having studies with Isaya Ruhara and his wife—and subsequently with Bro. Bernardo Jordan and two pastors. The lessons I provided in this country between February 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> included most of the same areas (as described above) during my time in Malawi. I conducted an immersion service for Bro. Bernardo and also invited him to attend the East Africa General Convention presently scheduled for this summer.



**Bro. Eliezer Preparing to Immerse Bro. Bernardo**

Early on the morning of February 24<sup>th</sup>, I traveled to Zambia and because of safety issues in Kitawe, it was recommended that I sleep overnight on the same bus that transported me that far. With limited sleep the conductor took me to another bus headed for Solowezitown. While en route to our destination I had an opportunity to distribute tracts and ultimately was met by Samuel Mwebela, the pastor of a local Pentecostal Church. Throughout my several days of visiting various individuals in Zambia, I gave lessons similar to those



**Bro. Eliezer with Pastor Mwebela and Dorcas Ngare**

provided in Malawi and had many discussions with individuals who had shown interest in having Truth studies, remaining in Zambia until I departed for my home in Uganda and arriving on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Bro. Eliezer's expressions regarding his overall experience away from home acknowledged the prayers and support from those who enabled him to make these visits—by God's grace—with a desire to engage in yearly followup efforts to strengthen the new Truth interests as well as recommend study materials needed for believers at various levels (Psalms 18:1,2).

## **Kenya**

Below is a summary provided by Bro. David Mutei regarding a visit by Bros. Bill Dutka and Joe Dolan of the United States prior to the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak that impacted upon the travels of brethren on a global scale.

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

The three of us met briefly with Bro. James Onyango and a few elders in Kibera before arriving at my home around 5:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

We drove about 8 hours to Turkana in Northern Kenya where Bros. Bill and Joe met various classes.

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

We met with the Kodopa class. Bro. Bill asked the friends some Biblical questions.

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

There was a meeting with the Turkana elders at Victory Hotel. In attendance were Bros. Jacob Ekutan, Joshua Epenyo, Joseph Ekamais, Yohana Ekai, Samson Edome, William Erupe, Jairus Esokon, Joseph Esuguru and George Ekutan. They formed a committee that will translate Volume 1 into the local language and have appreciated pilgrim visits and seminars.

regarding world events, Israel and the importance of studying prophecy.

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

En route to Kisumu Migori we greeted Bro. Jamin Malova who had some orphans. At 8:00 PM we arrived at our destination and were welcomed by Bro. Zablon Anyumba who escorted us to a hotel.

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

Following breakfast, we had fellowship with a sister for about 90 minutes. In the evening there was a discussion concerning the



## Elders' Meeting in Turkana

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

We traveled back to Kitale where we met my wife, Sr. Ruth, the children and a few brethren.

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

We visited 3 classes in Mount Eglon and enjoyed a discourse of 2 hours on the Chart of the Ages.

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

An elders' meeting was held and representatives from Kitale and Mount Eglon were present. There was also a study

need for canceling the trip to Uganda because of the corona virus.

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

Arrangements were made for Bros. Bill and Joe to return home flying through Dubai. Much gratitude was expressed for this visitation as well as to the Dawn Bible Students for the materials received.

## Uganda

Bro. Laban Ssewanyana shares the following report of some of his experiences during this season of COVID-19.

By grace a few members of our class met together for the Memorial Supper served in their respective homes by deacons. It was a great encouragement to all—and very few missed out on this special privilege.

Our weekly meeting continued with small numbers in our homes—but we were encouraged that all the brethren who had smart phones connected on WhatsApp for group study throughout the week. We hope to witness through television or radio broadcasts as soon as the lockdown is over.



**Bro. Laban and Sr. Ruth Ssewanyana**

It has been a blessing to spread the Harvest Message through raised loud speakers on top of the roof. Brethren have received foodstuff and essential commodities. My wife is serving the little ones in the Bible Class and the women's fellowship meets every Thursday. On May 16th we started the local online meetings and we were able to connect with 4 classes and look forward to utilizing zoom for monthly meetings.

Bro. Laban also provides recorded devotional messages including hymns and elaboration upon scriptures for many brethren in distant lands through technology.

**Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko's Blessing**

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko expressed great gratitude that he and his family have been especially blessed because his son, Bro. Aaron Kayonda has made a full consecra-



**Bro. Aaron Kayonda**

tion and desires to receive water immersion as soon as it will be appropriate for the ecclesia to assemble together and witness this momentous undertaking.

**Rwanda**

We continue to appreciate the faithfulness of brethren who have utilized this period of lockdown to focus upon strengthening their faith and that of their immediate family. One such example of this is demonstrated by Bro. Omar Ndamutsa. At the Memorial celebration of Tuesday, April 7th, there was a deep reflection as to the true meaning of Christ's death. Additionally, Bro. Omar



**Sunday School at Bro. Omar's Home**

arranges for Sunday school lessons at home. During this season of anxiety on the part of mankind, we are especially reminded of the following adage. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

## Malawi

The following is a brief personal testimony from Bro. Anthony Kapindula (mentioned earlier during Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko's trip to three countries).

"Bro. Khurrsino of India started sending me the study lessons and on top of that he also linked me with other brethren like Bro. Israel Loji, Bro. Dean Oswell, Sr. Sarah Asare—all of whom live in South Africa and Bro. Edward Nkansah and Sr. Emelia Boahema in Ghana. And it was also through Bro. Israel, who took another initiative by adding me to some different WhatsApp groups whereby I have met additional brothers and sisters in our family of Truth.

"We have been attending Bible studies on Thursdays and Sundays, and our Mighty God has done a lot of wonderful things in my spiritual life and family as well. What I was learning from this class also made me to think of conducting my personal research about the Truth through Scripture reading. Bro. Israel also sent me to the Christian Bible Resources Application which I installed on my phone and it was through this application that I received more Bible resources and good information about the Truth whereby I was also able to listen to some of the sermons from different brethren through the application."

## WEST AFRICA

### Nigeria

Bro. John Isife extends his love to all the brethren during this time of limitations regarding travel because of the virus. Shortly before its outbreak, some of the friends traveled to his home for warm Christian fellowship with him as well as his dear wife, Sr. Gloria. They treasured this experience as it exemplified the bonds of mutual love that should exist among all the brethren. It was indeed a blessed occasion.



### Fellowship at Home of Bro. Isife

Bro. Cajetan Egbu reported that a group of brethren in the Ibadan Ecclesia celebrated our Lord's Memorial together while at the same time staying at home as directed by the government. How wonderful to be united in heart fellowship with all the saints on this special night of remembrance.



### Brethren Attending Ibadan Memorial Celebration

### Cameroon

Bro. Alex Mokom indicated sixteen brethren partook of the emblems together in commemoration of our Lord's death. They especially appreciated words of encouragement received from the friends in France, United States and other locations.



## Bro. Alex Mokom (Right) Translating Memorial Discourse Into English

### Ghana

The friends in Ghana have made excellent use of technology to have international gatherings of brethren—not only for the Memorial but also for regular mini-conventions. It is a source of encouragement for all to learn that their Truth activities have seemingly intensified rather than diminished during this season of relative isolation from others. The following report prepared by Bro. Noah Amoo illustrated the fervency of these brethren in striving to meet together despite the challenges we face during this global pandemic. They have taken to heart this admonition from the Apostle Paul. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24,25).

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 from 9 AM to 11:30 AM, the Lord's people in Ghana both home and abroad were blessed with an online joint service which connected thirty brethren with active participation of twenty-one. It was indeed a great blessing and joy for all who were able to participate. The Ghanaian government had placed a ban on all social, religious, political and all other forms of gathering since March 2020 due to the global corona virus pandemic. And so, hearing the voice of brethren near and far and realizing that each was still in good

health and zealous about the Truth brought consolation and encouragement to us all.

The telecommunication services in Ghana do not allow for a single telephone conferencing of more than five individuals at a time. The meeting therefore became possible because some individual brethren who are technologically inclined offered to connect others through a chain of conference calls. And those in very close proximity shared a device by placing it on loud speakers for everyone to hear and participate appropriately. No area in Ghana where the Truth had been received was left out. By the time the meeting was due to commence all the local brethren from Kumasi, Accra, Cape Coast, Dunkwa and the Western Area had been connected through the chain conferencing. The Ghanaian brethren abroad from South Africa, the United States of America and the United Kingdom were connected via WhatsApp conference calls. Their willingness to participate irrespective of the time difference was commendable.

The meeting's theme was "Love for the Brethren" and was based on 1 John 3:1-24. We began the fellowship with Hymns of Dawn (numbers 12, 23, 15 and 100). After an opening prayer, reading of devotions and expressions of greetings of love, the scriptures were read in both the Twi and English languages. Brethren who were willing and able to comment on the verses had

## MAY 2020 JOINT ECCLESIA MEETING: GHANA



two turns to express themselves without time limits, beginning with the first twelve verses, then the second twelve. It was reported that those who were unable to share their thoughts and comments equally found the discussions stimulating and interactive. We encouraged each other through references to other Scriptures in the Bible, reading of sections of the Expanded Biblical Comments and admonitions and counsel. All of this was especially faith strengthening, even without face-to-face meetings.

We do not know when government restrictions and bans will be lifted. And after they are lifted, there still remain uncertainties with regards to how social gatherings and religious activities will be carried out in the midst of the global corona virus pandemic. Notwithstanding, we are committed to having such gatherings once a month and the next one was scheduled for the 21st of June with Colossians 3:1-25 as the scripture to be discussed. Our hearts are always with the brethren worldwide. We love you all and continue to remember you in our prayers. May our Heavenly Father continue to strengthen our hearts and bless our mutual efforts in making our “calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10).

### SOUTH AFRICA

The brethren in South Africa are quite active in serving the Truth—despite not being physically in close proximity to each other.

Here is an overview prepared by Bro. Israel Loji regarding their endeavors.

We are having regular studies in Volume 1 every Thursday and Sunday from 7 PM to 8:30 PM where Sister Sarah Asare helps us also to learn new hymns before each meeting. This includes participation by the friends in Malawi. Among the other participants are Bros. Dean Oswell, Jonathan, Sass, Anthony and Srs. Emelia Boahema, Alisa and my wife Sr. Godelive. We also had a remote celebration of the Lord’s Memorial as a class.

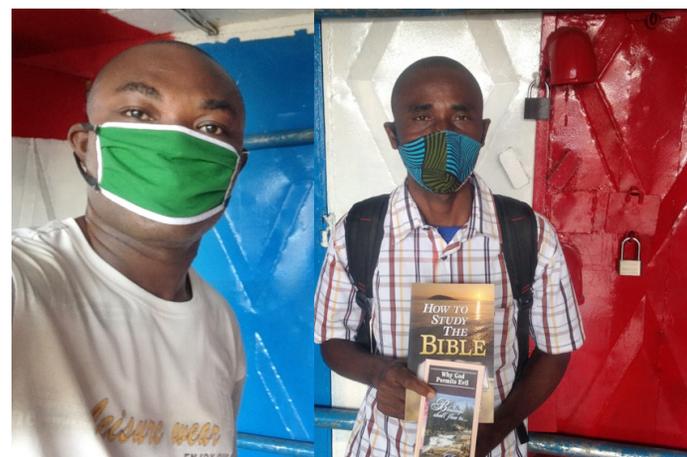


### South Africa Ecclesia’s Remote Memorial Celebration

### LIBERIA

In the Summer 2019 issue of this publication, Sr. Barbara Ostermann shared in part the following information. Within *Christian Resources* is a form inviting anyone interested in receiving the pdf copy of the book-

let produced by the Chicago Bible Students entitled "How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense," to fill in the form and provide name, address, cell phone and email. It also allows for comments or—as some prefer—to ask a question. When sending out the pdf of the booklet, a short message of Truth is included, with an invitation to respond if one requests a printed copy and/or other Biblical materials, and if desired, personal contact from designated brethren in their region. As part of a follow-up effort, Bro. Nicholas Toe in Liberia has met with Isaac Carter concerning possible Bible studies with him. There may be some natural reluctance on an individual basis to be involved in witnessing while this viral pandemic is still in existence. However this turns out, we appreciate the fact that COVID-19 has not prevented brethren from sharing God's plan as we have opportunity. Hopefully, this example of our brother's reaching out and using prudence while wearing a mask may prove to be a means of fulfilling our part in the "Great Commission" for the foreseeable future.



**Bro. Nicholas Toe  
Witnessing to Isaac Carter**

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:3,4).

## **FUTURE GATHERING 2020 Pan African Convention**

Throughout this issue of the Newsletter, the reports provided have reflected changes in plans occasioned by the unanticipated coronavirus that suddenly emerged. It has been rightly stated that “man proposes, but God disposes,” thus providing a stark reminder that we do not know what lies ahead! The Daily Heavenly Manna for October 9<sup>th</sup> seems appropriate in this connection.

**“Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?”  
Matthew 8:26**

“EACH experience should be helpful to us. If at first we were fearful and cried aloud, by and by we received the succor, with perhaps the reprimand, "O thou of little faith!" but as lesson after lesson has come to us, the Master will expect—and we should expect of ourselves—greater faith, greater trust, greater peace, greater joy in the Lord, greater confidence in His presence with us and His care over us, and in His power to deliver us from the adversary and from every evil thing, and to bring us eventually in safety to the port we seek—the Heavenly Kingdom.”

It is our plan to reschedule the 2020 Pan African Convention in Ghana for November 16-19, 2020. Whether or not that will ultimately come to fruition, is dependent upon the Lord's will in the matter. Many sisters from the United States as well as brothers have made tentative plans to be in attendance for this spiritual endeavor. May our collective attitude be in accord with waiting upon His guidance for direction. Your prayers that this spirit may permeate our hearts and minds in the interim will be greatly appreciated.

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

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