



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA



Newsletter

WINTER 2020

GREETINGS from the BSCFA

Having passed the recent holiday season, our thoughts draw us to our Lord Jesus and our sincere thankfulness for his sacrifice and God's unmerited favor toward us by calling us to this great opportunity, the High Calling or Upward Call described by the Apostle Paul as mentioned in Philippians 3:14. Reflecting on our individual progress during the past year, we examine how closely we walked in Jesus' footsteps and are ever thankful for his mercy toward us by keeping us in the Way. This New Year affords us another opportunity to emulate our Master.

We are pleased that the world took time to reflect at Christmas—and to their degree of knowledge—appreciate the birth of the world's Redeemer. We read the good news so beautifully described in Luke 2:10,11, and found opportunities to witness the reason for the season.

Our message went much deeper than going to church and hearing a good sermon on the birth of Jesus or exchanging gifts with our loved ones. We daily expressed prayers of thanksgiving and shared God's Plan for not only providing his Son as a sacrifice, but also for developing a program to heal the sin-sick world. Brethren, we have been given the opportunity to be co-laborers with Jesus not only in this End of the Age—but to be Kings and Priests during the Reign of Righteousness—and if faithful, assist the world of mankind up the Highway of Holiness. What an amazing calling we have received!

Let us reflect on the past to glean the lessons needed to mold our character into the likeness of God's dear Son but also not become

discouraged with our shortcomings, but consider those experiences as a means to grow into the image of Christ. Let us continue in this spirit of camaraderie and resolve to enlarge our circle of fellowship during 2020. We can be an encouragement to those who are discouraged and a strength to those who express doubts.

We must not only study the Word of God—but must put it into practice in our daily lives through our actions and conduct by heeding the Apostle Peter's exhortation to successfully complete our course. (2 Peter 1:5-8 NRSV) Brethren, let us go forth as soldiers, sharing this beautiful message of God's Plan for all mankind!

Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*

WEST AFRICA

The following is a summary of various harvest activities that have occurred in this area of the Lord's vineyard since the previous edition of this publication.

Nigeria

The 2019 Nigeria Bible Students Ecclesia Mission General Convention was held from Friday, August 23, to Sunday, August 25, 2019, at Central School Obudi Agwa Owerri Imo State Nigeria. Twelve ecclesias were in attendance. Its theme was taken from Philippians 2:5. The total attendees was 413 and 11 friends symbolized their consecrations. Nine brethren served as chairmen and testimony leaders. 1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu welcomed brethren and spoke on "The Mind of Jesus Christ" and also gave the "Baptismal Discourse." 2. Bro. Celestine Oledibe's talks were "The Renewed Mind" and "If You Do These Things." 3. Bro. Chuks Edward's



Brethren Singing at Nigeria Bible Students' Convention

subjects were "In the Beginning" and "Consecration Vows and the Fruits." 4. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu spoke on "Jehovah Our God" and "Bible in Stone." 5. Bro. Moses Shotunde entitled his subject "The Kingdoms." 6. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike addressed "What is the Soul?" 7. Bro. Maurice Uzor's discourse was "Importance of Self Control." 8. Bro. Boniface Onyenwe's talk was "Secrets of God's Peace." 9. Bro. Anthony Olinya captioned his remarks "Run According to the Rules." In addition to participating in a business meeting, the brethren expressed appreciation to all who furnished an extensive amount of literature for this occasion.

8th Agbarho Bible Students' Convention

The convention on November 19, 2019 began with a welcome discourse by Bro. Moses Obire titled "More Than Lip Service" with an emphasis on Matthew 7 verse 21 at 9:30 a.m. The day's study was entitled "Make Sure of Winning in God's Election" from Reprint 3585. The presence of Sr. Mercy Okalowe from Canada was greatly appreciated by the brethren. She inspired other sisters to make contributions during the study.

Ibadan Bible Students' Convention

The 2019 Ibadan Bible Students Ecclesia Thanksgiving Convention was held on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Its theme was from Psalm 69:30. The convention was chaired by Brothers Vitalis Ekeh and Gabriel Obayagbona in the morning and afternoon sessions respectively. The following brethren gave discourses and served in different capacities: 1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu welcomed the brethren and gave a discourse on "Praise the Lord." 2. Bro. Celestine Oledibe spoke on "Why Does God Permit Evil?" 3. Bro. Chuks Edward's subject was "The Signs of the Establishment of the Kingdom." 4. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu's subject was "The



Attendees at Agbarho Convention

Book." 5. Bros. Cajetan Egbu, Celestine Oledibe and Chuks Edward were the panelists during the Question Meeting. 6. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu led the Testimony. Sr. Chidinma Ashiegbu led the children in reciting some verses in the Bible and singing some beautiful songs. The convention ended with Hymn 64, "God Be with You till We Meet Again."



Sisters Attending Ibadan Convention

Benin

On Saturday, July 27, 2019, the Benin Bible Students conducted its second convention and had 1 Peter 2:9 as its theme. Bro. Ikechuku Ashiegbu chaired the convention. The following brethren also served: 1. Bro.

Emmanuel Okorie welcomed the brethren with a discourse entitled "A Chosen Nation." 2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu spoke on "Who Is a Christian?" 3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu's discourse was on "Christ In You the Hope of Glory." 4. Bro. Moses Shotunde's topic was "Ambassadors of Christ." There also was a Question Meeting. The questions were answered satisfactorily. The brethren were encouraged to remain steadfast in the Truth.

Ghana

The 2019 Ghana General Convention was held from Friday, September 13, through Sunday, September 15, in Greater Accra. Its theme was based upon 2 Peter 1:10 and began with a devotional by Bro. Noah Amoo on Matthew 5:1-16. The next day, brethren gave discourses as follows. 1. Bro. Jerome Rogers—"Our Advocate, the World's Mediator." 2. Bro. Leonard Plange—"Thou Shall Surely Die." 3. Bro. Emmanuel Menu—"Resurrection of the Dead." 4. Bro. Edward Nkansah—"Christ's Millennial Reign." 5. Bro. Isaiah Amoo—"The Divine Plan of the Ages." 6. Bro. Isaac Danso—"Making Your Calling and Election Sure." After these talks there was a study on Revelation Chapter 20 led by Bro. Samuel Amoo and then an extended discourse on "Witnessing" by Bro. Noah Amoo. The Saturday activities concluded with a prayer meeting based on 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 on "Love" led by Bro. Edward



Attendees at Benin Convention



Ghanaian General Convention Attendees

Nkansah. The final day of convention included a Question Panel, a Business Meeting and concluded with a Testimony Meeting. This blessed occasion was enhanced by visiting brethren in attendance from Nigeria and Togo.

Cameroon

Bro. Daniel Wozniak from France visited the brethren in Cameroon, commencing the last week of November 2019. Here is a brief report from him concerning his observations:

Monday, November 25, 2019

I arrived at the home of Bro. Alex and Sr. Paulena Mokom around 12:30 a.m. and slept well until I awoke around 6:00 a.m. Although there was no electrical power, I was made to feel most welcome and had a delicious breakfast. Throughout the day I took care of monetary exchange, shopping and becoming familiar with the Cameroonian economy and



Bro. Wozniak and Cameroonian Brethren

culture. That evening I met about twenty brethren at the home of Bro. Alex as well as all the members of his household. We sang a dozen hymns and talked about the importance of a faith based on the Scriptures and the "Ransom," the "Soul," the "Trinity," as well as points that differentiate us from other movements. Unfortunately, there still was no power.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

This afternoon we had a meeting at 5:00 p.m. Bro. Alex took me to see the mayor where we had an interview of 5 minutes. We then arrived at Bro. Bruno's house in Paki. We discussed the subject of faith. The meeting took place in a room belonging to the Pentecostals, and it was a room without electricity. At this meeting I was invited to make a presentation entitled "Powerless in the Face of a Situation." We returned to the home of Bro. Alex and enjoyed a good dinner prepared by Sr. Paulena in the dark.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Around 6:00 a.m. the power was restored. Almost all of the people live off their garden or jungle products. There is no economic activity in this area of Doume, so everyone has to be satisfied with their crops to survive. Much of the day was spent in various discussions with Bro. Alex.

Thursday, November 28, 2019

At 7:30 a.m. it was time for the children to go to school. Bro. Alex realized that the children might be late so he subsequently crammed 13 children into his car and drove them to school. We then visited various families with financial needs throughout the day and in the evening, about fifteen brothers came for a meeting in Kobila and then I led a service on "All Scripture is Inspired by God." The brethren sent their thanks for the greetings and for the gifts received.

Friday, November 29, 2019

After breakfast we went to Bertoua to meet a Pentecostal sister whom Bro. Bruno knows very well. We spoke for a good hour and presented to her all the arguments that contradict the "Trinity" and "Hellfire." Bro. Bruno gave her a first volume that she wanted to read before taking a stand. Later Bro. Alex took us to visit the Pygmies. In the evening after supper, Bro. Alex had a study in his home with the children on Hebrews 2:9, thus bringing a wonderful day to a close.

Saturday, November 30, 2019

At 10:00 a.m. we traveled to Paki for a meeting. The small children are numerous. I presented, in a few words the story of David and Goliath. Subsequently, I gave a presentation on our Christian responsibility. As is customary here, the meeting ended with questions. We then answered seventeen of them fairly quickly and left around 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Several brethren traveled all night to come to this meeting, yet they are all in good spirits. At 10:00 a.m. the meeting started with the activity of the children. Sr. Paulena had all the children sing in chorus and by heart. I chose to speak to them on the shortest verse of the Bible: "Jesus Wept." Bro. Bruno followed me and discoursed on "Faith and Knowledge." After lunch some brothers presented short talks encouraging the brethren and young people to walk in a dignified manner and to strengthen their faith through the knowledge of God's Plan. The sisters also expressed great happiness after being taken out of darkness and into the light of Truth.



Sunday Morning Meeting of Brethren in Cameroon



Bros. Sergino and Khurrsino in Burkino Faso Flanked by Two Visitors

Monday, December 2, 2019

It's the day of departure and we left at 8:00 a.m. to avoid driving during the hottest period. I have fond memories of this trip. It taught me how grateful we should be to the Heavenly Father for whatever He gives us. I was very well received and noticed a great solidarity among the brethren and love—but also the great need they have for our help, both spiritually and materially.

Pilgrimage to Three Countries

From December 3 through December 22, 2019, Bros. Khurrsino Miranda of India and Edward Nkansah from Ghana traveled to meet individuals in Benin, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone who were introduced to the Truth previously or had demonstrated interest in God's Plan through various leads that were supplied by brethren in America. As part of an ongoing effort to assess the receptivity of contacts in each of the above-mentioned countries to have visitations, responses to the "53 Lessons" and participation in WhatsApp groups, were determining factors for instituting this pilgrim journey. From December 3-9, there were several sessions conducted in Benin with Bro. Emmanuel Okorie and those of his fellowship to provide instruction in better understanding the Scriptures. A follow-up plan was developed for completing the "53 Lessons" as well as subsequent Volume studies and the use of additional materials associated with the Harvest Message. After

departing from Benin, Bros. Khurrsino and Edward flew to Burkina Faso and subsequently were met there by Bro. Sergino Kpoedzou of Togo for a few days, primarily to assist with issues of translation because some of those being witnessed to had French as their native tongue. Since this was the initial visit to Burkina Faso by the brethren, it was agreed to begin a WhatsApp Bible Study classroom commencing in January so that the newcomers receiving the Truth could continue to make progress. When the brethren finally departed from this second stop, they felt that although they had come as strangers, they were leaving with hearts full of blessings because of the reception received. As Bro. Sergino went back to Togo, Bros. Khurrsino and Edward traveled on to Sierra Leone where they remained between December 15, through 22, 2019. On the first evening there was an opportunity to witness to a group between 20-25 individuals at a church where the reception was *electric!* The attendees indicated they wanted more studies so a follow-up WhatsApp group will be formed. Most of the remainder of Bros. Khurrsino's and Edward's very productive time was spent with two individuals named Solomon Kamara and an elderly Pastor, Christopher Swarray, who runs a school and had previously participated in about 80% of the "53 Lessons" in a WhatsApp group. Among the in-depth studies considered with him during this visit were the "Jubilee Law," "Trinity," "Christ's Second



Bro. Mark Chastain with Brethren at East Africa Convention

Coming" and "Chronology." The two pilgrims are watching for the Heavenly Father's leadings to determine the possible fruitage that may result from this eventful journey of three weeks' duration.

symbolized their immersion into Christ through water baptism. Much gratitude through testimonies was expressed towards the Oakland County brethren in America who provided temporal and spiritual support in order to enhance everyone's growth in Christ.

EAST AFRICA

Many brethren have also been engaged in the Lord's service in this part of the continent. Here are some of the recently reported activities in this region.

East and Central Africa Convention

The East and Central Africa General Convention was held in Kampala, Uganda, as reported by Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko commencing with presentations on August 29, 2019, led by elders on the subject of "Our Calling" to benefit the friends who were newly consecrated. Most of the brethren departed for their homes on September 2, 2019. The theme of this gathering was from 2 Corinthians 7:1. The attendees hailed from Zambia, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, D.R. Congo, Rwanda, Uganda as well as Bro. Mark Chastain from the USA. There were various studies as well as three panel discussions—plus a symposium where there were opportunities for brethren to speak and manifest their teaching skills. As a highlight, there was a special service on the final day when five newly consecrated brethren



New Brother at Wakiso Convention in Middle

Wakiso Annual Convention

The Wakiso Annual Convention was held from December 13-15, 2019. Here are some highlights of this gathering as reported by Bro. Laban Ssewanyana. The number of attendees present was 100 plus and kept on increasing each day! Systematic Bible study was

observed and revealed a reasonable development of all members in knowledge of the Truth. There were two converts—one from the Catholic religion and another from the Muslim community. Two sisters symbolized their consecrations.

Kenya

During the weekend of October 26, 2019, Bro. Zablon Anyumba reports the blessings from a convention held in his region. Those who gave discourses were Bros. Zablon Anyumba, William Obura, Famuel Moi, Samuel Omondi, Ben Okello, Albert Okwaro and Julius Onyango. Two brethren also symbolized their consecrations through water immersion.



Bro. Zablon Conducting Immersion

Rwanda

Bro. Omar Ndamutsa reports concerning the growth in the Rwanda Bible Students' spiritual development reflected during its annual convention the weekend of November 23, 2019. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the resource materials received.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS

Spring 2020 Pan African Convention

As noted earlier, brethren have traveled beyond the boundaries of their native lands in fulfillment of Christ's exhortation found in Matthew 28:19, 20. Lord willing, there will be another Pan African Convention scheduled in Accra, Ghana, during the period April 16-19, 2020, involving representatives from several countries from the continents of North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Not only are several attendees from previous

gatherings of this nature expected to be present on this occasion, but also several new brethren, especially from East Africa have indicated a desire to be participants. If you would like further information concerning this matter, please so indicate by sending an email to Bro. Homer Montague at:

montags3ny@aol.com

Fall 2020 Seminar

There are many opportunities for individuals to be engaged in the Lord's work through personal example, adherence to the principles of righteousness, service from the platform, witnessing, testifying, participating in devotionals, asking questions plus sharing one's understandings as well as encouraging others. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) Lord willing, there will be an "Emerging Adult Leadership Seminar" scheduled for Monday, November 16 through Thursday, November 19, 2020. It is anticipated that this spiritual occasion will prove to be a great blessing.

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 (after 6:00 p.m.)

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." - John 15:18

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