



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Summer 2021

## Greetings from the BSCFA

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging not only for the world of mankind, but also for the brethren. Many countries have experienced a lockdown that limited travel, impacted the economic pillar, and certainly brought the tears of death to the forefront. It disrupted brethren's ability to meet in person as Christians have been accustomed to meet for millennia. But looking at the bright side, these very challenges afforded many brethren an opportunity to reach out and attend meetings across the globe. We have been truly "running to and fro." This has turned out to be a blessing for those who have availed themselves of such opportunities. This pandemic brings to mind the ninth plague in the book of Exodus where no one was able to move because of the thick darkness that fell over the entire land of Egypt and only the Israelites, typical of the Church, had "light" in their homes. (Exodus 10:21-29)

In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins it is not that the wise are selfish and don't want to give their oil to the foolish: No! The wise have been witnessing, trying to give their oil to others for the past two thousand years. This is the great commission spoken of in Matthew 28:19-20. The simple fact is that the wise virgins can't give their oil away because study, witnessing, and sacrifice is an individual walk. The foolish virgins have held back, limiting their exposure to sacrifice and suffering with Christ; thus, not obtaining the needed oil. The question begs us how do we obtain the holy spirit or the oil that is needed to

keep our lamps lit and glowing as lights in the world? (Matt. 5:13-16) We can do this through personal study, witnessing and personal sacrifice. Our personal study is refined when we meet together in an ecclesia arrangement and share the joy of our personal studies. Another opportunity is witnessing the Gospel to others on a personal or larger-scale venue. Lastly, the sacrifice of our personal preferences, desires and interests for the greater interest the Truth and the brethren. Let us keep our consecration vow that we made on the altar continuing to pray for opportunities to serve. Most of all, "not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25 NRSV)

—Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*

## EAST AFRICA

Despite various challenges connected with the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic related to health and economic issues, the brethren have continued to labor in the Lord's vineyard while it is yet day.

### Malawi

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko of Uganda traveled to and from Malawi over a period of three weeks, commencing on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Although some of his anticipated outcomes from this visit did not materialize, he had extensive witnessing opportunities whereby more than 700 tracts were distributed. Some of the pastors he interacted with promised to study the Truth materials they had received. Perhaps the crowning joy

connected with this sojourn was the immersion service for Bros. Baxter Mwale and Phiri Witboyi who after completing the 53 Lessons had begun to study Volumes 1 and 6.



**Immersion for Bros. Baxter and Phiri**

## **Uganda**

### **Wakiso Ecclesia**

Bro. Laban Ssewanyaa reported concerning some of his activities during May when he traveled to Budaka and Nabusera—located in the eastern part of Uganda. Despite the rigors of travel through impassable roads and the need for those traveling with him to push their van at one point, they persevered and eventually reached the home of their host, Bro. Alex



**New Class Members Following Bro. Laban's Visit**

Ouma where they spent the night receiving warm hospitality. A joyful outcome of this visit was 7 individuals publicly confessed an appreciation for the Harvest message after hearing explanations given in Volume 1 relative to “The Three Worlds, Planes of Existence and The Ransom.”

### **Mengo Ecclesia**

Bro. Jackson Kyaligamba reports concerning the radio witness program sponsored by the Bible Students' Committee for

Africa. During the month of May the theme considered was “Marriage.” Some areas of focus were “How Vital Are Marriage Vows and What About Divorce?” The audience was allowed to call in and ask questions about these topics. Near the end of the month, we conducted a radio listener's seminar at the Namirembe Resource Centre. It included the following elements:

1. Who are we and what we believe by Bro. Eliezer Jjukko.
2. Who is a Christian? by Bro. Paul Sebwato.
3. How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense. (Bros. Jackson Kyaligamba and Eliezer Jjuuko.)



**Attendees at Radio Witness Program**

### **Kampala Ecclesia**

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko reports the Uganda Bible Students International Zoom Convention was held on January 23 and 24. Discourses on thought-provoking subjects were given by several brethren, including those within Africa as well as India, Romania and the United States. An international panel addressed “The Role of Sisters in the Ecclesia.”

### **Kenya**

Bro. Brendan and Sr. Karen Getchel traveled from the United States to Kenya once again in February of this year. They carried with them many Truth resources provided by the Dawn, Chicago Bible Students, Bible Students' Committee for Africa as well as publications supplied through the generosity of individual

brethren in America. During their time abroad, they engaged in many studies, enjoyed sweet fellowship with the friends and participated in a convention. The Getchels have been actively involved with the saints in Kenya and may make an additional trip there this fall. As one of the

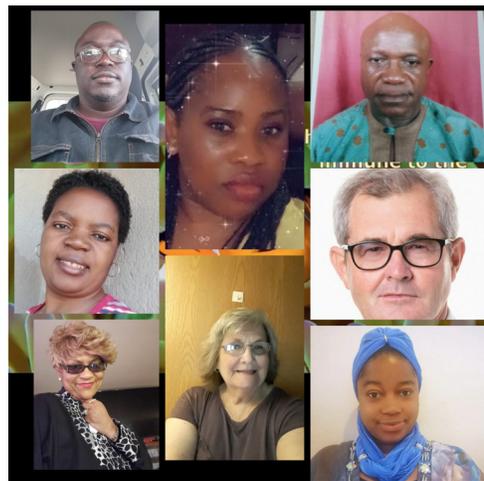


### Joyous Singing Duing Kenya Convention

outgrowths of this “Kenya connection,” each Friday evening the brethren engage in a Zoom Reprint study which different elders from Nairobi conduct that also has participants joining in from the United States. Additionally, on Saturdays at 7 PM Kenya time, there is a Sisters’ Meeting taken from Volume 6, Study VI, “Order and Discipline in the New Creation.” These studies are led by Srs. Karen Getchel and Joani Bruce. They are frequently an hour and a half long. Although there may be a dozen individuals who join the Zoom meetings, Srs. Karen and Joani type the comments and questions raised from the participants into the WhatsApp chat room, so that those sisters who are unable to join can read the comments and respond.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Although geographically separated by a considerable distance, the brethren in the South Africa Ecclesia enjoy regular Sunday and midweek studies by means of Zoom. In addition to class members including Bros. Dean Oswell and Israel Loji as well as Srs. Godlive and Sarah Asare, the photograph depicts others who joined



Attendees at South Africa Memorial Observance

together for our Lord’s Memorial this past March such as Bro. John Isife of Nigeria, Srs. Jeannie Cohmer and Donna Mitchum from the United States plus Rose Jeanette Katunga, also of South Africa who has been greatly appreciating the Harvest message as mentioned in the Winter 2021 issue of this publication.

### Sisters’ Meetings

For the past several years, brethren have been engaged in witnessing throughout the African continent by reaching out to those who have requested the “How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense” booklet through the [biblesources.info](http://biblesources.info) App. As a result, some individuals have made a consecration and remain a part of our regular fellowship through their attendance at meetings and conventions. While this is one outgrowth of these witness efforts, there is another that we wish to provide an update on. As cited in the South Africa update from the 2021 Winter BSCFA Newsletter, Sr. Sarah Asare reported that as a result of her participation in this witness effort, she came in contact with a lady named Rose Jeanette Katunga in August 2020. After some initial studies which they had together on the Plan of God, a WhatsApp study group was formed in November 2020 to assist Rose Jeannette and other women who wanted to learn more about the Truth. In the initial weeks following

the formation of this study group, a number of sisters from other countries, both from within and outside of South Africa, expressed an interest to join this study group. Because the desire to participate proved to be significant, more than one study group was formed. The countries in which the participating sisters hail from include Cameroon, Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, Canada, India and the United States. Meetings are scheduled to last an hour and studies are taken from the “Why God Permits Evil” booklet. A monthly calendar is also sent to the sisters to inform them of the lessons which will be covered every four weeks. Each meeting has a dedicated study leader and in addition to their page-by-page review of the booklet, they also have question meetings on those portions which merit further discussion and periodic testimony meetings. All the meetings are recorded on Zoom and circulated among the sisters for study follow up. Additionally, through their WhatsApp text group communications, the sisters are constantly sending messages of encouragement to one another— further enhancing their relationships as sisters in Christ despite the great distances which

separate them. With several months of meetings having transpired to date, we trust that the Lord will continue to bless these sisters, those of whom reside within different African countries and those outside of this continent who have joined these gatherings as they each seek to strengthen their walk along the narrow way.

## WEST AFRICA

### Nigeria

The 2021 Nigerian Bible Students’ Servants Seminar was conducted the third weekend of February and included representatives from seventeen classes. Its theme was “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 21:4)

The following served as chairmen:

1. Bro. Vitalis Obi
2. Bro. Gabriel Obayagbona
3. Bro. Harrison Uzor Ohoba
4. Bro. Eugene Ogbuji
5. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu
6. Bro. Valentine Ebepu

These servants led the Testimony Meetings:



**Sisters Involved in International Weekly Study Groups**

1. Bro. Boniface Anosike Onyewe
  2. Bro. Lawton Ikechukwu Kalu
- The following brethren gave discourses which were followed by 15 minutes of questions:
1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu's Welcome Address was titled "God's Kingdom is at Hand." Also, he talked on "Why We Organize the Servant Seminar."
  2. Bro. Celestine Oledibe gave a discourse on "The Renewed Mind."
  3. Bro. Chuks Edward's topic was "Qualities of an Elder."
  4. Bro. Peter Ekeh's consideration was "The Man of Sorrow."
  5. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu's subject was "Christ in You the Hope of Glory."
  6. Bro. Moses Shotunde's sermon was "When Shall the End Be."
  7. Bro. Boniface Anosike Onyenwe's theme was "The Mind of Christ."
  8. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike discoursed on "The Approaching End of the Age."
  9. Bro. Maurice Uzor's subject was "Be of Good Courage."
  10. Bro. Anthony Olinya's discourse was "Looking unto Jesus."

11. Bro. Lawson Ikechukwu Kalu titled his talk "Conflict Resolution in the Ecclesia."
  12. Bro. Chinyereugo Godwin gave a sermon on "Pride."
- A considerable amount of Truth literature from Sr. Ruth Cunningham was received and distributed to the servants of the ecclesias.

### **Agwa Bible Students Convention**

The Agwa Convention was held on April 5, 2021. Its theme was "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." The convention was chaired by Bros. Harrison Uzor and Eugene Ogbuji in the morning and afternoon sessions respectively. The following brethren also served as stated below:

1. Bro. Vitalis Ekeh gave the Welcome Address.
2. Bro. Cajetan Egbu gave a discourse with the title "The Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ."
3. Bro. Chuks Edward's talk was "Patient."
4. Bro. Boniface Onyenwe entitled his sermon "Put Off and Put On."



**Attendees at Servants' Seminar**



## Group Picture of Agwa Convention Attendees

5. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike spoke on “Christ, the First Fruit of Resurrection.”
6. Bro. Maurice Uzor titled his discourse “Watch and Pray.”
7. Bro. Valentine Ebepu led the Testimony Meeting.
8. Bros. Cajetan, Chuks and Boniface were the panelists during the Question Meeting.

### Agbarho Class

Bro. Moses Obire reports that the brethren meet on Zoom and sometimes on WhatsApp for weekly studies on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00PM and 10:00AM on Sundays. There is collaboration with the friends in Ota-Ogun (Bro. John Isife), Ikorodu-Lagos (Bro. Donatus Onochie), Benin City, Edo State (Bro. David Obayagbona) and Warri-Delta (Bro. Vincent Aggreh). These studies employ Volume 6 during week days and Volume 2 on Sunday at present.



**Bro. Moses Obire**

### Cameroon

Concerning the Harvest work in Cameroon, Bro. Alex Mokom reports the following. Despite the persisting crisis in the two English regions—northwest and southwest, the LORD’S hand is manifest. The Gospel is slowly but surely circulating, the consecrated few are still standing and growing. The number of those who attend our classes is increasing and we thank God and you for prayers, counseling, financial support, books, booklets, phones and the good thoughts concerning us. Many of the brethren now can attend meetings or conventions via Zoom. Once I met with ten of them on Zoom. In the east,



**Bro. Alex Mokom**

the four classes are functioning well even when I am absent. Bros. Bruno, Pascal and Oscar are very good collaborators in serving the friends. Additionally, they visit other classes and isolated brethren. By God’s grace we are richly blessed.

## Togo

The ecclesia in Togo continues to meet with several brethren outside of Africa as noted in the Winter 2021 issue of this publication. The class now has its own meeting hall and has resumed its witnessing activities which were suspended during the height of the pandemic. Since many people in the area remain at home on Sundays, the brethren have changed the day of their outreach efforts to Saturdays. The zeal of these friends is very inspiring.



**Togo Ecclesia Members**

## Liberia

Bro. Nicholas Toe reports as follows concerning his witness efforts during May 2021. “We have been having some deep and interesting phone conversations with many individuals. Because these are new, we mostly discussed some hot topics surrounding God’s plan, including the two



**Group Meeting with Bro. Nicholas**

salvations, hell, death and the soul. However, there are others who have read extensively from God’s Grand Plan of the Ages, How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense and other tracts. Brother Joshua and I traveled over two days to meet with Pastors Moses, Garway and Mr. Paye who requested hard copies of the HTSB booklets because of poor eyesight. In preparation for our meeting, Pastor Garway invited some members of his church and household to sit with him and study with us. Together with Mr. Paye, we all had a great time studying the Truth in a wonderful environment.”

## Ghana

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, the brethren in Kumasi hosted the Ghana Mid-Year Convention conducted via Zoom. The theme text selected was from Hebrews 3:13, which the NIV renders “Encourage one another daily while it is called ‘today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitful-



**Brethren Who Served at Ghana Mid-Year Convention**

ness.” The convention lasted for about ten hours and was well attended by brethren from Africa during the early hours and brethren from overseas in the latter hours, perhaps due to the time differences. On average, there were about 70 connections of brethren in attendance worldwide.

As an aside, this gathering was the logical outgrowth of our December 2020 Year-End Convention which was held for two days. In that instance, those friends who spoke only English were able to join via Zoom on a Saturday at which time non-Ghanaian brethren were invited to give discourses—whereas, the next day, Sunday was devoted specifically to brethren in Ghana who were familiar with the local language.

About three months before this June’s convention, brethren worldwide were asked to submit questions that they wished to have answered. The questions asked allowed for two panel discussion categorizations. The first panel discussion and study on character development was moderated by Bro. Brian Montague. Brethren who served on this panel were Bros. Alex Mokom, Austin Williams, Bill Dutka, James Owuor, Homer Montague and Moses Obire. The session also allowed for participation from brethren who were not part of the panel. The Lord blessed us with soothing comments of encouragement and admonitions from both the panelists and others who expressed their thoughts. In addition to the panel on character development, a second panel discussed doctrinal and chronological issues. And, like the first panel, we were blessed to have Bros. Richard Doctor, Eliezer Jjuuko, David Rice, and Ric Cunningham serve as the panelists while Bro. Homer moderated.

Other brethren served us by presenting discourses: Bro. Matt Kerry gave a talk on “Entering God’s Rest”; Bro. Cajetan Egbu on “Exhortations to Obedience”; Bro. Lee

Hicks on “A True Christian,” and Bro. Noah Amoo on “A Reconsideration to the Curse of Ham.” The testimonies and reports that followed after the convention officially ended indicated that it was indeed “a feast of fat things” (Isaiah 25:6) and “good for us to be here.” (Matthew 17:4) Br. Isaiah Amoo served as Chairman while Bros. Edward Nkansah and Samuel Amoo, all from Kumasi, gave respectively the Welcoming Address and Closing Remarks. It was a great blessing to see the faces of all the beloved brethren near and far and to fellowship and commune with them.

## **2021 Pan African Convention**

Effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic necessitated rescheduling the Pan African Convention from the spring of 2020 to Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> through lunch on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> of this year. As with all human plans, we look to the Lord for guidance from above to help us determine whether this endeavor will come to fruition as hoped. One positive sign that this spiritual undertaking may hold firm is that the hosting facility is presently accommodating conference groups in numbers of approximately 100 attendees utilizing governmentally established protocols. Many of the friends who had committed themselves to participate in this convention previously are looking forward with anticipation towards enjoying close in-person fellowship once again. For those of our readership who live in North America and/or Europe who may desire to attend this convention in Ghana, West Africa, we request that upon receipt of this email copy of the newsletter, kindly “hit reply” to receive an update concerning this trip around mid-August so that you can plan accordingly.

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