



BIBLE STUDENTS COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Winter 2021

Greetings from the BSCFA

Thoughts draw us to our Lord Jesus during this season of gratitude for being called to become members of God's spiritual family. The Scriptures assure us that "He has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13,14) Though the Pastor thought World War I would bring an end to this great opportunity—the High Calling or Upward Call—we stand "in awe" that we still have the opportunity to Run, not walk for the Prize. Imagine Brethren, "We will see Jehovah!" The Apostle Paul states in Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (NASU)

Reflection brings humility, and we are ever thankful for his mercy toward us by keeping us in the Way. Although this year brought isolation to our front door, Zoom allowed us to see our African, Asian and European Brethren in our Ecclesia meetings. What a joyful turnout! The New Year affords another opportunity to continue in the Way and to emulate our dear Master's character! During the recent holiday, it seemed as if the world paused to reflect on the Joy of the Christmas season and to the degree of their knowledge, appreciated the birth of the world's Redeemer. The disciple Luke records (2:10,11), "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (NASV) That period also afforded us opportunities to witness the reason for the

season. We can reflect, pray and share God's Plan for not only providing his Son as a sacrifice, but also for developing a plan to heal the sinsick world. Brethren, we have been given the opportunity to be co-laborers with Jesus not only at this End of the Age, but to be Kings and Priests during his "Reign of Righteousness." We, if faithful, have an opportunity to assist the world of mankind up the "Highway of Holiness." (Isaiah 35:8)

During the New Year, let us reflect on the past to glean the lessons needed to pattern our character into the likeness of God's dear Son. Let the spirit of brotherhood continue to enlarge our circle of fellowship in 2021. We can be an encouragement to those who are discouraged, a strength to those who express doubts. The Word of God is before us to study and to put into practice that our actions and conduct resemble that of the Master! The Apostle Peter states, "For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-8 NRSV) Brethren, let us go forth as soldiers sharing the message, this beautiful message, of God's Plan for **all** mankind that will be "testified at the proper time!" (1 Timothy 2:6 NASB) —Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*



Bro. Anthony Kapindula

EAST AFRICA

Despite the pandemic in East Africa and throughout the entire continent—there has been so much spiritual activity in various countries. However, only small portions of the most recently received reports will be included in this issue of the Africa Newsletter because of space limitations.

Malawi and Mozambique (See note, p. 8)

Bro. Anthony Kapindula reports that the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic have been favorable since they were allowed to have public gatherings of not more than 100 participants at a time with study meetings conducted in 23 centres in Malawi and 12 centres in Mozambique. Those who are committed to symbolize their consecrations and have made their decision to come out of Babylon through water baptism are 42 in Malawi and 12 in Mozambique. They merely are waiting for an immersion service. Through technology we have an online Malawi Tabernacle Shadows study every Saturday led by Bro.



Bro. Laban and Sr. Sarah Ssewanyana

Matt Kerry of the United States that is also attended by other brethren from the United States and various parts of Africa.

Uganda Wakiso Ecclesia

Bro. Laban Ssewanyana reports there were many blessings received during the annual convention at Wakiso. As a result of this large gathering, seven individuals in attendance decided to leave their former churches and meet with the brethren. Several groups of brethren in this area engage in systematic studies in the Harvest message, and plans have been established for conducting monthly seminars and quarterly conventions. Audio messages of encouragement to brethren globally are part of Bro. Laban’s regular efforts.

Mengo Ecclesia

Bro. Jackson Kyaligamba has expressed gratitude to the Bible Students Committee for Africa as well as Bro. Larry Davis and the friends in Romania for providing smart



In Radio Studio Bros. Jackson, Eliezer & Paul

phones—thus enabling the leaders from several groups of brethren to participate in twice weekly online studies in Volumes 1 and 4. These tools also have enabled them to enjoy fellowship with many brethren worldwide (revealing a very positive result of COVID-19). Finally, Bros. Jackson, Eliezer Jjuuko and Paul Sebwato host a “Back to the Bible Truth” radio broadcast each Sunday using a questions-and-answers format. Listeners are allowed to call in directly once a month to pose questions and literature has been requested.



Bro. Brendan Getchel Giving Discourse at Nairobi Convention

International Africa Convention

In addition to Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko's involvement in the previously mentioned radio broadcast, he has arranged for an International Zoom Convention for January 23-24, 2021. It is anticipated the details of this gathering will be reported in the next issue of this publication.

Kenya

Bro. Brendan and Sr. Karen Getchel of the United States traveled to Kenya for an extended visit in December 2020. Selected highlights during the forepart of this trip are noted as follows:

After a late arrival in Nairobi and obtaining needed rest, we had lunch with two of the brethren and then departed for a portion of the first day of convention. Bro. Brendan gave a discourse that centered on "Spiritual Marriage and the Body of Christ." The next day of the convention Bro. Brendan discoursed on "Scriptural Ordination of Elders" as well as "Foes and Besetments of the New Creation." Following a drive of 12 hours to Kitale on the following day, we met with Bro. David and Sr. Ruth Mutei. During a visit to the home of Sr. Gladys, Bro. Brendan gave a lesson on "The Ransom" while many young people were in attendance. Later in the evening, there were some moving testimonies given by the children. On Christmas afternoon the young people sang some beautiful seasonal hymns. Bro. Brendan gave a talk about God's greatest

gift and the importance of giving ourselves to the Lord in consecration. Fifteen brethren from Turkana also were present and many testimonies were shared. As the Getchels sojourn continues after this brief report, there surely will be additional blessings received.

WEST AFRICA

Cameroon

Bro. Alex Mokom expresses appreciation to brethren in America, France and elsewhere for their encouragement to the saints in Cameroon. Some brethren in Cameroon have read all the Volumes and can communicate present Truth to others. Concerning witnessing, hopefully in January 2021 there will be presentations via power point and intensive distribution of tracts because COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted. Concerning studies, we have regular worship sessions each Sunday and the sisters also have fellowship and prayer on Saturdays. We join the Orlando class



Bro. Alex Mokom and Local Ecclesia

via Zoom and have additional contact with brethren in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The crisis of escalating war in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon is abating, and soon—by God’s grace—we hope to gather with the brethren in those areas for instruction. Please keep all the brethren here in your prayers.



Bro. Moses Obire

Nigeria

Bro. Moses Obire reports on studies through WhatsApp. The Agbarho class meets with brethren in Lagos, Benin City and those in Oyo State on Tuesdays and Thursdays using “Joy Cometh in the Morning.” These are in addition to regular Sunday ecclesia meetings.

Bro. Cajetan Egbu meets with brethren from several ecclesias during monthly fellowship gatherings. Additionally, below is a summary of the Ibadan Ecclesia’s End of Year Thanksgiving Convention held on Saturday, December 5, 2020, hosted by

Bro. Cajetan Egbu who also welcomed the friends. Theme: “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Those who attended this Zoom gathering included representatives from the USA, Canada, Romania, Australia, India, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Turkey, Liberia, Togo, Ghana and various ecclesias in Nigeria. The following brethren served. 1. Bro. Homer Montague spoke on “End of The Year Thanksgiving.” 2. Bro. Ric Cunningham gave a discourse entitled “The Spirit of Thanksgiving During Pandemic.” 3. Bro. Larry Davis from Romania gave a discourse/PD File presentation on “Praising God During Trying Times.” 4. Bro. Chuks Edward’s talk was captioned “The Strength of The Lord God.” 5. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu’s talk was “The Philosophy of Ransom.” 6. Bro. Moses Shotunde entitled his discourse “The Best and Unique Legacy.” 7. Bro. Boniface Onyenwe led the Testimony Meeting.

The Lagos Ikoro class holds Sunday services in the home of Bro. Donatus Magg Onochie. He considers it a privilege to host brethren such as Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu and his family for spiritual fellowship on such occasions.



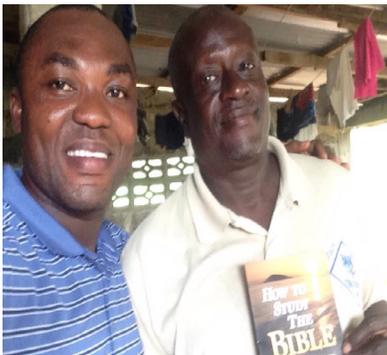
Group Photograph of In-Person Attendees at Ibadan Convention



Bro. Onochie Hosting Ashiegbu Family

Liberia

Bro. Nicholas Toe reported the following in December 2020: By the grace of God, I was able to continue the Harvest work contacting new leads by phone and sharing with them God’s plan as revealed in the Bible. Over the past month, I received from Bro. Brian Montague several names of those who are interested in learning more about the Bible. Four of them—Gabriel



**Gabriel
Receiving
Literature from
Bro. Nicholas**

Zubah, Julius Darlewon and his wife Beatrice (members of Winner’s Chapel Ministries) and Isaac Fayiah of the Bethlehem Pentecostal Ministry—showed deep interest to know the Truth. As such, we organized a phone study hour and I was able to discuss with them the Divine Plan. Also, I continued to meet with others like Morris Dorley who is contemplating telling his Pastor and members of his church what he has been learning so far. The study group from Bomi is doing well. I also met with a youth group in person this past Monday by invitation and talked with them about God’s loving Plan with the aid of the “Blessings Shall Flow to ALL” tract. It

was exciting and wonderful. Many questions were asked with reasonable answers given and at the end, I handed out copies of the tract.

Ghana

Bro. Noah Amoo shared that the Kumasi ecclesia was to add Friday to its weekly studies, bringing them to a total of three different meetings a week. For our Sunday meetings which last for two and a half hours, we study the Book of Matthew and *Studies in the Scriptures*, Volume One. For the Wednesday evening meetings, we study “The People of The Bible” and for the Friday evening meetings, the Book of Revelation is studied. There are discussions still ongoing with regard to a Monday evening study to consider Volume Five. Many joint ecclesia meetings as well as mini-conventions have continued during this period of COVID -19. For example, the theme of our September 2020 mini-convention was taken from Ephesians 5:16, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Discourses were given and discussions centered around matters such as steadfastness in well-doing, maintaining spirituality, not quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit, patience and pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. The joint ecclesia meetings designed to bring all the brethren in Ghana together digitally continued from July 2020 through November 2020. Their overall focus was based upon character development and especially love for the brethren. The End of the Year Convention was blessed with servants from within the African continent and beyond. The convention, held on Zoom, brought together brethren from India, The United Kingdom, South Africa, The United States of America, Kenya, Uganda, Togo, Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria and Ghana. The theme text was Psalm 133:1, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” It was such a beautiful experience to have spiritual fellowship with both

KUMASI ECCLESIA



Kumasi Class

familiar and unfamiliar saints. Lord willing, in 2021, we look forward to more opportunities to witness—especially in different parts of the country where the Truth has not yet reached.

Togo

During the pandemic, the brethren here continue to meet with regular frequency as before on Sundays, as a class, also joining with the Lamorlaye ecclesia in France, then subsequently with Highland Park in North America and finally, for an English

language study utilizing Tabernacle Shadows with Sr. Lisa Dragos of Romania. Once the virus abates, efforts will be made to secure a meeting hall which should facilitate efforts for resumption of public witnessing.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

South Africa

Bros. Dean Oswell and Israel Loji lead studies in the ecclesia of which Sr. Sarah Asare is a member. Sr. Sarah shares the following exciting narrative: In August of this year, the Lord gave me an opportunity to witness to people both in South Africa and in Ghana. It is very interesting to know how people are embracing the Truth. There are about eight active people who are seriously taking lessons including a lady called Rose Jeanette. Because of that, I wanted to meet her in person and by the Lord's grace I got the opportunity on November 14, and traveled where she lives, slightly less than two hours from where I stay. After my visit, a WhatsApp group was formed to assist her and other females who were interested to fellowship with us. This group includes Sr. Jeannie



Brethren in Togo Ecclesia



**Sr. Sarah
(Foreground)
at Home of
Rose Jeanette**

Cohmer, Sr. Cathy Sandridge and Sr. Helen Deepan who are already in the faith and live in the USA and India. We meet every Tuesday to study “Why God Permits Evil” as requested by Rose Jeanette. On December 23rd, the Lord granted me another opportunity to visit Rose Jeanette after work and to my surprise, there were two ladies (Nancy Dudu and Mariam) waiting for my arrival. I only knew about Nancy whom Rose has been inviting to listen to our Tuesday meeting. Rose Jeanette shared the tracts I gave her the last time I visited, and the three of them have been having discussions with me on what they have learned from Rose Jeanette. I can also include additional sisters to our group and Nancy said she will continue to join Rose. Rose Jeanette is currently studying “The People of the Bible” as part of her private meditations. Her husband is studying about our Lord’s return and told me that he is going to try very hard to answer any questions I will ask him during my next visit.

2021 Pan African Convention

Two of the many lessons to be gleaned from the current pandemic which has had a global impact are that the Lord will provide as well as “in patience possess ye your souls.” As has been noted, many of the brethren have become familiar with Zoom which has enabled the friends from seemingly every part of the world and time zone to meet and fellowship with saints in lands that are distant from their own. In a sense this experience seems to be reminiscent of a revolutionary wave in the

late 1980s and early 1990s that resulted in the end of Communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. What is especially poignant is that thereafter international conventions occurred in various European lands. Brethren from both sides of the “Iron Curtain” met for the first time for spiritual fellowship, their having had very limited knowledge that other saints in faraway places were rejoicing in the same Harvest message that so many of us have cherished. Nevertheless, the Lord continued to provide for the brethren’s spiritual needs wherever they lived, even though isolated from a wider circle of brethren until “the walls came tumbling down.” COVID-19 is another sort of curtain that keeps many of the saints apart today but through the wise and appropriate use of technology, the Lord still provides and for those who might otherwise not be able to travel for various reasons. There are myriad opportunities to meet together if we avail ourselves of such privileges. Nevertheless, for those of us who truly wish to physically visit our brethren in Africa for the 2021 Pan African Convention, this is a reminder that it is presently rescheduled in Ghana for the period Monday, November 8 through lunch on Thursday, November 11, 2021. We shall patiently wait for the issuance of the Summer 2021 Newsletter to determine whether that is likely to occur, based upon an ability to ascertain what the Lord’s will might be.



**Ghana - Site of the proposed 2021
Pan African Convention**

Memorial Meditations

When our Lord instituted his Memorial Supper, called the “Last Supper,” it was....a new symbol, built upon and related to the old Passover type, though not a part of it, being a commemoration, or memorial of the antitype. As we read, he “took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you [this represents me, the antitypical Lamb; it represents my flesh]. This do in remembrance of me.” Our Lord’s evident intention was to fix in the minds of his followers the fact that he is the antitypical Lamb to the antitypical first-borns and household of faith. The expression, “**This do** in remembrance of me,” implies that this new institution should take the place with his followers of the former one, which must now become obsolete by reason of fulfilment. “After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament [covenant] in my blood”—the blood of the covenant—the blood which seals the New Covenant. “This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.” We would not understand this to imply the doing of it without respect to time and place, etc., but as signifying that when this cup and unleavened bread thenceforth were used as a celebration of the Passover, it should on every occasion be considered a celebration, not of the type but of the antitype. As it would not have been lawful, proper or typical to celebrate the Passover at any other time than that appointed of the Lord, likewise it is still not appropriate to celebrate the antitype at any other time than its anniversary. 1 Cor. 11:23-25

The Apostle adds, “For as oft as ye eat **this** bread and drink **this** cup ye do show forth the Lord’s death till he come.” (1 Cor. 11:26) This shows us that the disciples clearly understood that thenceforth to all of the Lord’s followers the

annual Passover celebration must have a new meaning: the broken loaf representing the Lord’s flesh, the cup representing his blood. Although this new institution was not laid upon his followers as a law, and although no penalties were attached for failure of its proper observance, nevertheless the Lord knew well that all trusting in him and appreciating him as the antitypical Passover Lamb would be glad to take up the Memorial which he thus suggested to them. And so it is still. Faith in the ransom continues to find its illustration in this simple memorial, “till he come”—not only until our Lord’s **parousia**, or presence, in the harvest or end of this age, but until during his **parousia** one by one his faithful ones have been gathered to him, beyond the “Veil,” there to participate to a still fuller degree, and, as our Lord declared, partake of it “anew in the Kingdom.”

(Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 6, pgs.464-465)

Note: Technically Malawi and Mozambique are located in Southern East Africa.

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

Friday, March 26, 2021 (after 6:00 p.m.)

“He hath poured out His soul unto death; and He was numbered with the transgressors.”

Isaiah 53:12

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 11552-0111**