



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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Newsletter

SUMMER 2023

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## Greetings from the BSCFA

In the scriptures two seasons are mentioned – Summer and Winter. Summer is a time of sowing and reaping while winter is a time when the activities of summer have been completed. To the Christian, we are still in the summertime of sowing the Good News of the Kingdom and reaping those who are receiving it into a good and honest heart. As we reflect on our daily walk, are we availing ourselves of the summertime opportunities of witnessing and sharing the Good News with others? The time will come when these summertime opportunities will taper off. (Amos 9:13)

As we see the events in the world degrading and world leaders lacking solutions, we need to be diligent concerning our consecration vows. Over the past three years the brethren that have availed themselves of smartphones and Zoom meetings have gained the blessing of additional meetings and fellowship that have increased their spiritual growth. We phrase this as a cross-pollination; availing oneself the opportunity outside of your comfort zone, to study and fellowship with brethren in distant geographic locations. Our goal is to be in the likeness of our Master. One of the most beneficial ways in which we do this is through ecclesia meetings. This is done by sharing what we have studied, learning from others what they have studied and testifying how the Lord is working in our lives. The school of Christ is multifaceted

and meeting together is a critical aspect of the Christian's life. (Heb. 10:25) By meeting together, we can grow as well as continue to encourage all the brethren to grow; those who have been in the way for years and those new to us. (2 Pet. 1:4-8)

Let us keep in mind the story of the two goats and the solution in how they crossed the narrow bridge as an application of Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor." (NASU) There was a river in a small village. People used a narrow bridge built over the river to cross it. One day a goat was crossing the bridge. He saw another goat crossing the bridge in the opposite direction. The bridge was so narrow that there was no space for both of them to pass. Both of the goats didn't want to go back. One goat said to the other goat, "You should go back since I am younger and stronger than you." The other goat stated, "I am older thus you should yield to me." Both of them started quarrelling that one goat should give way to the other. This time one goat thought for a while and asked the other goat to stop. He said, "If we both fight, we will fall into the river and be drowned. Instead, I have a plan. I will lie down, and you walk over me." Then the wise goat laid down on the bridge, and the other goat walked over him. So, they passed each other, and went about their business.

Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*

# WEST AFRICA

## Nigeria

The Nigeria Bible Students Ecclesias Mission Servants' Seminar was held from Friday, May 19th - Sunday May 21st, 2023. Its theme was, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5) Eighteen ecclesias were represented which featured 30-minute discourses followed by 15-minute question sessions. Testimony meetings were led by Bro. Charles Onwukwe, Linus Enwereuzor and Paul Nwafor. The chairmen were Bros. David Ogbu, Valentine Ebepu, Ikechukwu Ashiegbu, Arthur Ihejirika and Godspower Egbu.

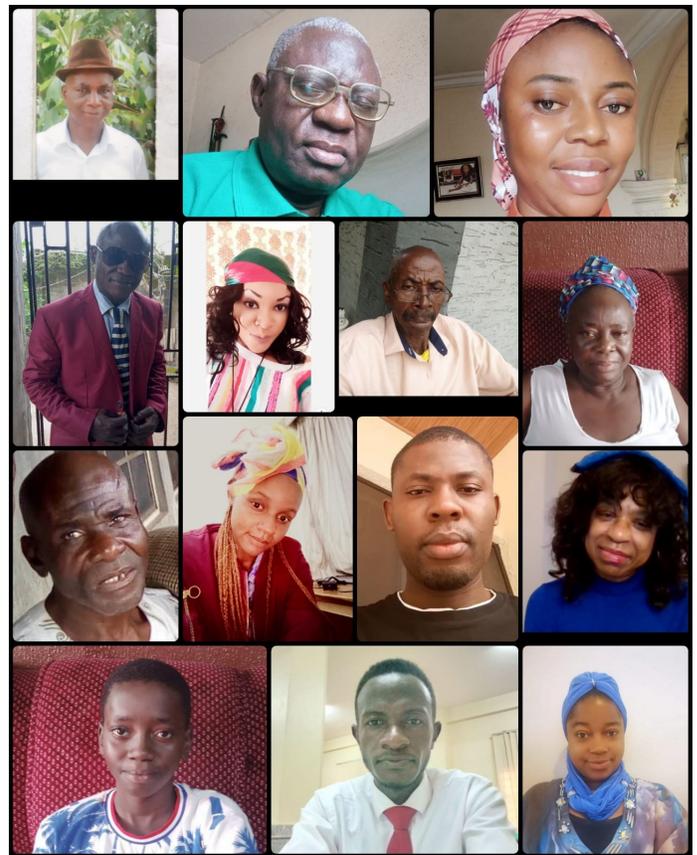
Bro. Cajetan Egbu welcomed brethren and gave a discourse on the theme of the convention, "The Mind of Christ." He also led discussions on "Helpful Rules for Daily Life" and "Bible Students Practices." Other discourses were provided by Bros. John Isife, Ikechukwu Ashiegbu, Moses Shotunde, Japhet Ukaegbu, Bright Utok, Lawton Kalu, Boniface Onyenwe, Maurice Uzor, David Ogbu, Chinyereugo Godwin, Eugene Ogbuji, Anthony Olinya, Godswill Egbu, Charles Onwukwe and Harrison Uzor. Much Christian literature was distributed. Medications provided by Sister Ana Fabian of Canada who attended the Pan African convention were also received with gratitude.



**Attendees at Mission Servants Seminar**

## Agbarho Bible Students

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays studies continue with brethren from other parts of Africa as well as Sister Cathy Sandridge of the USA. Weekday studies are from Volume 6 and on Sundays, "Knowledge" from the Character Development Book. A two-day convention of the "Associated Bible Students of Africa" was held June 30 and July 1, 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The theme was Romans 8 verse 1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Bro. Moses Obire)



**Agbarho Bible Students Meetings Attendees**

## Igbere Ecclesia

We are grateful to learn that the members of the ecclesia along with Bro. Peter Eke, their elder, are able to have in person meetings for regular fellowship.



**Bro. Peter Eke (Second from Left) and Ecclesia Members**

### **Liberia**

Many are hungry for the truth, and mesmerized by the doctrine of one salvation in two parts and the scriptural confirmation that hell is not a place of torment. Our first visit in June was to the east of Montserrado County. Bro. Joshua and I traveled about 43 miles to testify of God’s love and plan for all mankind, utilizing the Chart of the Ages and the Blessings tract. After an hour of sharing, we were asked many questions. When darkness fell, we distributed literature and encouraged them to read. My second visit was at Bro. Joshua’s who organized a witness gathering for several of his neighbors. Bro. Nathaniel also organized a small meeting with those he had been witnessing to. Unfortunately, they refused to be photographed. However, we thanked them for their presence and participation because the truth was testified. (Bro. Nicholas Toe)



**Group Photo of Liberia Ecclesia**

### **Ghana**

#### **Ghana Pan African Convention Diary**

#### **April 5, 2023**

On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, shortly after midnight, Bros. Brendan Getchel, Matt Kerry, Brian Montague and Srs. Karen Earl, Karen Getchel and Cathy Sandridge boarded an airplane from New York’s JFK Airport and jetted to Accra, Ghana.

#### **April 6, 2023**

The travelers arrived to Ghana at 2 PM the following afternoon and upon passing through customs and receiving their luggage their baggage was placed in a comfortably sized van, where the friends rode to the Presbyterian Women’s Centre engaged in intense spiritual conversation and fellowship.

#### **April 7, 2023**

The remaining brethren from North America, India as well as East and West Africa arrived to the Presbyterian Women’s Centre throughout the day. During the afternoon, some of the friends traveled to a Baptist minister’s church, who was interested in having his parishioners hear about the harvest message. Bro. Khurrsino Miranda led a 45 minute study entitled The Truth About Hell, and Bro. Matt Kerry provided a 45 minute question and answer session. The day ended with the friends decorating the meeting hall and continued spiritual fellowship.

#### **April 8, 2023**

The day consisted of a variety of services from the platform which included a welcome address and the theme discourse. Several mini talks and a panel discussion included questions posed by the audience. A sisters’ testimony meeting where some of the sisters expressed their experiences at the various sisters’ meetings as well as a devotional service concluded the day. At the end of the meeting, gift bags were distributed to the brethren.



**North American Convention Attendees**

### **April 9, 2023**

The morning, afternoon and evening sessions included several mini talks, a panel discussion, a brothers' testimony meeting and an evening devotional service. A group photo was taken during the long intermission that afternoon. Bags that included health products and medicines were quietly distributed to the friends during the reading of the Songs in the Night.

### **April 10, 2023**

This day included several mini talks and the final panel discussion where the audience posed questions to the speakers for both sessions. There was a baptismal discourse and a water immersion service for Bro. Oscar Katunga and Sr. Merrylene Zivanomoyo who were welcomed into the body of Christ by the Bible Students. A sisters' testimony meeting where the remaining sisters expressed their joys and challenges as Christians, followed the baptismal service. A devotional service concluded the day.

### **April 11, 2023**

The final day of convention began with a testimony meeting where both brothers and sisters testified and a closing discourse on James 1:22. During the intermission, the

photographers took pictures of the brethren from their various countries. The day ended with closing remarks, a beautiful Vespers service and the emotional singing of God Be With You, where the brethren embraced and said their final farewells to one another by singing the chorus repeatedly. After lunch some of the brethren departed from the convention and the North Americans toured the city of Accra. Bro. Matt Kerry conducted a Bible Study on the Trinity for about 20 brethren during the evening hours.

### **April 12, 2023**

At 9 AM, some of the remaining brethren boarded a van for an afternoon of sightseeing in the capital city of Accra before the North Americans traveled home that night. They visited the Botanical Gardens, a zoo and a street market. The friends then spent some time in a lovely shopping mall before the North Americans were brought to the Kotoka International Airport for their overnight flight to the USA.

### **April 13, 2023**

The airplane landed at approximately 4:30 AM at New York City's JFK Airport and after passing through customs and receiving their luggage, the friends bid one another farewell as they traveled with connecting flights or taxis to their respective homes. So

ended a spiritually edifying and memorable journey to the Pan African Convention.



**Group Photo of Chart Talk Attendees**

**Pilgrim Trips to Accra**

The following are highlights from Bro. Edward Nkansah regarding two pilgrim trips to Accra in June 2023 from his home in Kumasi based primarily upon leads from “How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense” received from Bro. Brian Montague. “During my first visit, Paul in Canada had informed me about his meetings with Kenneth Kwao and a group before introducing them to me. I traveled on June 4th with the Chart of the Ages and conducted a study on the first world. From my perspective, explaining it in the local language helps them to understand. Also, I told them how best we can assist them with any questions that they have and suggested that we add online studies on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additionally, I also told Kenneth to try and join some of our ecclesia’s weekly meetings. My second monthly visit began on June 17th. After joining our monthly joint fellowship meeting with the Cape Coast Ecclesia, I arrived in Madina Adenta, where Kenneth Kwao and I connected. His group is

made of individuals who attend a church and are interested to hear more about the Bible Student doctrine. Kenneth Kwao was called while we were studying and returned in about 2 hours. He reported that my presence was known to the church elders who believe that I am there to take away some of the church members. Please remember these friends in your prayers.”

**Ghana Mid-Year Convention**

The 2023 Ghana Mid-Year Convention, held on June 24th, was well attended by about 55 brethren from Africa and other parts of the world. Its theme text of Titus 2:1 promoted discussions about the relevance and applications of doctrine in our walk along the narrow way. Bro. Nicholas Toe opened with a discourse titled “The Importance of Sound Doctrine.” This was followed by two panel discussions – the first panel addressed questions about Elijah’s ascension, the doctrine of praying for physical health, and the unjust steward of Luke 6. There was enough time for attendee brethren to share their thoughts and



**Servants During Ghana Mid-Year Convention**

questions on this discussion. The second panel discussed Titus 2:1-12. A testimony meeting was moderated by Bro. Brendan Getchel from the USA and a devotional was conducted by Bro. Isaiah Amoo. Bro. Jerome Rogers from Ghana, who gave both the opening and closing remarks, recounted how much of a blessing this fellowship was to all. We were enriched and edified both in love and intellectually through our participation. (Bro. Noah Amoo)

**Cameroon**

Bro. Alex Mokom reports that the division of Truth outreach is now such that Bro. Bruno Nanembele and his wife Sr. Veronique will supervise the classes in the East Region of the country while he and Sr. Paulina will now have time to visit and teach those in other locations.



**Left to Right -  
The Nanembeles and Mokoms**

**Togo**

The Togo Ecclesia spent a recent Saturday witnessing, followed by singing hymns of praise for an hour. During Sunday meetings they study Volume 6 and proofread the French translations of Volume 2. (Bro. Sergino Kpoedzou)



**Group Photo of Togo  
Ecclesia Members**

**EAST AFRICA**

**Rwanda**

Recently we witnessed in a Seventh Day Adventist church and shared such topics as “God’s Kingdom,” and “Why Does God Permit Evil?” Subsequently, about 20 from their fellowship met with us. At this



**Bro. Silver Mugisha at Left with Study Group**

point, pressure has mounted on them from their pastors and fellow members of their church because of this activity. (Bro. Silver Mugisha)

## **Uganda**

### **Wakiso Ecclesia**

The brethren from Wakiso, Namaliri and Jinja have established centers to promote studies as well as witnessing meetings. We also have fellowship with classes in Budaka, Busia, Bakka, Kapieka and Nasluwule. Despite various challenges, we are very grateful for the privileges afforded us in proclaiming the blessings of God's Kingdom. (Bro. Laban Ssewanyanya)

## **Kenya**

By God's grace and the support from the Dawn Bible Students, we were able to hold a two days Bible Seminar in Kehancha, on June 24 and 25, 2023. The adult attendees were 63 including 5 from Tanzania. Some were pastors from the nominal churches who later confessed that they hadn't been teaching the truth. We distributed 40 Swahili "God's Grand Plan of the Ages" booklets and 25 English versions of the same. Also, we gave out 68 different Dawn booklets as well as Dawn Magazines and tracts together with "Unto Us the Scriptures Clearly Teach" leaflets. Some have assured us that they will be a part of us. (Bro. Nimrod Ondigo)



**Fellowship Among Wakiso Brethren**



**Bro. Nimrod Ondigo Conducting a Seminar**

# SOUTHERN AFRICA

## South Africa Ecclesia

Concerning our spiritual activities, everyone is involved and now we also have Bro. Alex from Cameroon who is joining for our programs. Our regular meetings include the 53 Lessons on Tuesdays, the Book of Mark on Thursdays and on Saturdays, several sisters teach the children Bible lessons and songs and we also study Volume 1. Besides individual witnessing activities in our respective locations, we are busy preparing for our annual convention that is scheduled for September 30, 2023. (Bro. Israel Loji)



**Group Photo of South Africa Ecclesia**

## Children's Program

It was a God given and thrilling experience when Sr. Sarah Asare told me about the Children's Program at the Pan African Convention and how Indian children were welcomed to participate. Countries like South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Canada, France, etc. were invited and now India was included. From Bangalore, India about 9 children participated with great



**Gratitude from Sr. Mizpha Hena**

enthusiasm. My prayer is that these efforts of encouraging little minds to be trained and turned in the ways of the Lord may be enhanced in the days to come! My special thanks to all who were actively involved in making this Children's Day such a joyous blessing. Here is the link for viewing this program. (Sr. Mizpha Hena)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TPvJqVzJk3-cwoUJIUPY9sMt8MNOEjWh/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TPvJqVzJk3-cwoUJIUPY9sMt8MNOEjWh/view?usp=share_link)

## International Sisters' Gathering

We are eagerly anticipating the third International Gathering of Sisters on November 4th at 2 PM South African time. It is a special fellowship occasion to glorify our Almighty God and praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, featuring love, the sharing of our testimonies and reflecting upon the blessings bestowed upon us throughout this year. We extend a heartfelt invitation to all the sisters, near and far, to join us. There will be enlightening sessions to uplift our souls and deepen our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Let us come together with open hearts, ready to receive the abundant grace and love that our Lord has in store for us. (Sr. Perciya Anbarasan)



*Good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence.*

*Proverbs 27:9*

## Invitation from Sr. Perciya Anbarasan

*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**