



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

Summer 2024

Greetings from the BSCFA

We see no end to momentous events that are exploding around the world. Beginning from May 2020 through 2022 countries experienced governmental travel lockdowns especially on international borders over the concerns of the spread of COVID. Life was starting to return to normal, then Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. What we have seen is a rise in antisemitism worldwide. The far left has aligned themselves with the terrorist group Hamas. A possible explanation of this union is deeply rooted in a historical misapprehension on who owns the land in Israel and Satan's continued ploy to exterminate the Jewish people.

What we want to focus on is Cause and Effect concerning world events. The cause of the COVID lockdowns and not being able to meet together in person, precipitated brethren figuring out an alternative way to meet together. This was accomplished by Zoom and additional electronic means of communication. This has opened up doors that previously were not available. Brethren now have the opportunity to communicate with brethren from around the world.

What might be the Cause and Effect of the current situation of increased antisemitism? People are becoming more polarized in their opinions toward one another. This polarization is leading to increased strife and discontent among people. An additional

Cause and Effect of Antisemitism is making Jews uncomfortable in countries which they live and the consequences of this might be that many Jews will make Aliyah to Israel. This is supported by Old Testament scriptures.

What should our demeanor be while we see all this trouble in the world? When possible, help clarify the historical misapprehension regarding Israel and the land. It's God's land and God's people. We as brethren need to strengthen one another in the most holy faith. How is this done? This is done by continuing to meet and encourage one another. Stay focused on building and strengthening the body of Christ, Hebrews 10:25: "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." NRSV

Bro. Bill Dutka, *Chairman BSCFA*



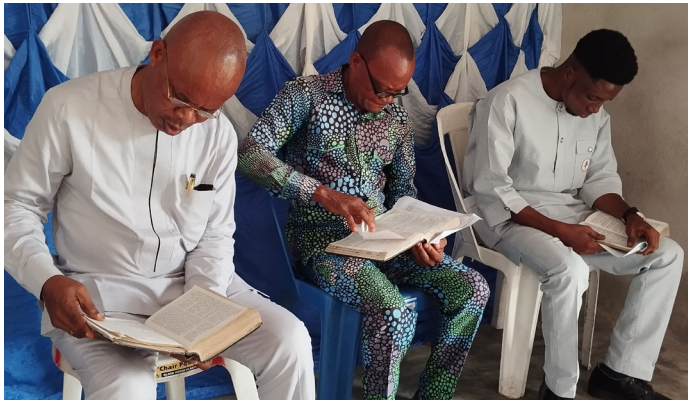
WEST AFRICA

Nigeria

Ntak Obio Akpa Ecclesia

Bro. Sunday Enang reports the ecclesia sponsored a convention between April 26-28, 2024 featuring discourses, question meetings, panel discussions and devotional

services. It was a blessing for both the in-person attendees as well as for those who enjoyed viewing the services via Zoom.



Attendees Searching the Scriptures

Ibadan Ecclesia

Bro. Cajetan Egbu continues to host international monthly Zoom fellowship sessions. Additionally, during May 2024, he embarked upon a pilgrim trip to encourage various ecclesias in Nigeria including Agwa, Ohoba, Obile, Umuahia and Okpuala Ngwa. Kindly note the group photograph of those in attendance during his visit to Agwa.



**Bro. Nicholas Follows Up
by Visiting Bro. Emmanuel**



Agwa Ecclesia Attendees During Bro. Cajetan's Visit



Group Photo of Attendees from the U.S.

Ghana

Pan African Convention Diary

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, after greeting one another with hugs and warm fellowship, Bros. Richard Doctor, Brendan Getchel, Stanley Hart, Matt Kerry, Brian Montague, Homer Montague and Richard Warner as well as Srs. Rene Blanks, Joanna Blecharz, Carina Butler, Karen Earl, Karen Getchel, Sonya Hart, Cathy Sandridge and Marva Warner boarded a flight from JFK Airport to Accra, Ghana and safely arrived to the Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Ghana the following early afternoon.

Thursday, March 28, 2024

The friends were met by Bros. Edward Nkansah, Sergino Kpoedzou, Felix Afantchawo, Samuel Lepkor as well as the convention photographers. Shortly thereafter Bro. Israel Loji, Srs. Rose Jeanet Katunga and Merrylyne Zivanomoyo's flight arrived and they joined the group in a waiting bus. After a long ride to the Presbyterian Women's Centre, the travelers had dinner and extended fellowship before having a night's rest.

Friday, March 29, 2024

After breakfast, some of the brethren remained at the PWC to decorate the meeting hall, while others attended a public witness effort conducted by Bro.

Matt Kerry. Those who remained at the PWC welcomed brethren who arrived throughout the day for the convention. At supper, Bro. Homer was surprised when the friends celebrated his 90th birthday.

Saturday, March 30, 2024

The brethren gathered into the meeting hall and received an envelope with the program, the names of all the attendees, a pen and pad, name tags and tracts. The services included a welcome address, theme discourse, mini talks on Daniel 7 and the Ancient Worthies. Questions also were posed. Additionally, a panel with a question/answer session and a Sisters' testimony meeting were featured. The evening ended with the distribution of snacks and other useful items for all of the African and Indian brethren.

Sunday, March 31, 2024

After breakfast, the brethren heard additional mini talks on Daniel and the Ancient Worthies plus a panel with questions from the audience. The remainder of the day consisted of a group photograph, a Brothers' testimony meeting and a devotional on Christ's Resurrection. Battery packs and water purifiers were distributed as well as eyeglasses.

Monday, April 1, 2024

The day continued with a panel discussion and mini talks on Daniel 7 and the Ancient Worthies with follow up questions from the

audience. There was also a second Sisters' testimony meeting. Following Songs in the Night, some of the left-over items previously distributed as well as clothing were placed on a back table for the brethren to take.

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

The final half day included the closing discourse, group photos, concluding remarks and a beautiful vespers service. The brethren ended the convention with the emotional singing and farewell hugs of God Be With You.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Many of the brethren departed on this day. The afternoon featured touring for those who remained, visiting an outdoor market and a shopping mall. Eventually those who were traveling home, were taken to the airport. By 7 PM, the Americans returned to the PWC for an early night's rest before their trip to the airport early the following morning.

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Bros. Stanley Hart, Homer Montague and Richard Warner as well as Srs. Rene Blanks, Joanna Blecharz, Karen Earl, Sonya Hart, Cathy Sandridge and Marva Warner left the PWC at 4:30 AM for the airport with Bro. Edward Nkansah. After checking luggage and proceeding through customs, they eventually boarded a 9 AM flight to JFK Airport arriving at 4 PM. Those who had connecting flights arrived safely to their homes. So ended our very blessed trip to the 2024 Pan African Convention in Ghana, West Africa!

Expressions from Brethren

Sr. Rene Blanks interviewed some first-time attendees at the Pan African convention and here are their comments. Sr. Sharon Aloysius found the convention very enlightening, engaging and loving. She was

raised in the truth. She and her family are close as well as other brethren from India. She is learning how to play the keyboard and



Sr. Sharon Aloysius loves singing hymns and witnessing to people, one of whom is a Muslim. She believes her work now will provide benefits in the Kingdom. Her home ecclesias are studying different topics than what were being discussed here but she is thankful to get more knowledge and interpretation on the subjects. She felt blessed that the Lord chose her, and desires to be a warrior for him on this side of the veil. With her beautiful smile she expressed the hope to return next year with even more of her brethren.

Bro. Emanuel Jackson from Nigeria expressed his thoughts in the word "Joyful!!" He is first in his family to attend and address an out of country convention! He gives Jehovah all the praise and glory. Additionally, he credits others that have given him inspiration like the Amoo brothers and dear Bro. Edward. I was impressed by his spirit and energy which were luminous and radiant. He couldn't stop giving scriptures on wisdom and hope!! He was very focused on what **Bro. Emmanuel Jackson**



the LORD has in store for him, speaking the good news!! I believe there is great potential in his journey with the Lord and the brethren. He is hoping to come back as he has said he has gotten a lot of spiritual

guidance for more studies in the scriptures to explore and expand on for self-growth and heart maintenance. He ended our interview with 1 Corinthians 2:9 and with much love to the brethren!!!

This was Sr Joanna Blecharz' first time at the Pan African convention and like my first time, she found it "amazing." It started in late March and ended in early April. Her words were "it's wonderful to visit Ghana and be at the convention." She considered it a great blessing and privilege. She has had conversations with brethren from all over Africa, India,

North America and Great Britain, many with whom it was a first-time encounter! She was very thankful and praised Jehovah for such a special affair. Sr. Joanna believes our LORD



Sr. Joanna Blecharz

has really favored her by allowing her to take this trip because it was filled such rich blessings and spiritual teachings that she will remember for a long time. She felt a profound love from everyone that will be with her always.

Pilgrim Trips Throughout Ghana

"Since we intend having a convention in Dunkwa during July, Sr. Sarah Asare and I

traveled to Dunkwa and the Western Region on May 17 and 18, 2024 and greeted the Duahs. We also met Mr. Godfred who is a contact from the HTSB leads we have been receiving from Bro. Brian Montague. It is not our intention to convert but to seek potential members of the Little Flock, plus to encourage all to assemble together and study regularly for mutual edification." (Bro. Edward Nkansah)



Bro. Edward and Sr. Sarah Fellowship with the Duah Family

West Africa Convention

Immediately prior to the PAC, the Kumasi Ecclesia hosted a West African in- person convention from March 25-28, 2024. It featured devotional services, discourses, panels, studies and question meetings. This provided an opportunity for the saints in this area of Africa to enjoy nearly an entire week of spiritual fellowship. What a blessing!



Attendees at West Africa Convention



Servants at Ghana Mid-Year Convention

Ghana Mid-Year Convention

Thankfully, the Lord blessed the brethren in Ghana with another Zoom convention on 29th June 2024, which lasted about seven hours. The convention was served by brethren from eight countries including Ghana, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda, Togo and the USA based on the theme “So, we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” (Romans 12:5) The first of the three panel discussions was based on Romans 12:11 and was moderated by Bro. Nicholas Charcharos from the United Kingdom with the following brethren serving on the panel: Bros. Cajetan Egbu from Nigeria, Brendan Getchel from the USA, John Isife from Nigeria and Moses Shotunde from Nigeria. The second discussion which had an extended brethren’s participation session, was moderated by Bro. Matthew Kerry from the USA, and participated in by Bros. Austin Williams from the USA, Moses Obire from Nigeria, Silver Mugisha from Rwanda and Bernard Hicks from the USA. The final panel discussed Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 and was moderated by Bro. Joe Dolan from the USA with Bros. Laban Ssewanya from Uganda, Felix Daddah from Ghana, Lee Hicks from the USA and Jackson Kyaligamba from Uganda serving as the panel members. The testimony meeting session was moderated by Bro. Boniface Onyenwe from Nigeria while Bro. Isaiah Amoo served us with the opening and closing remarks. Bro. Edward

Nkansah chaired the convention for the whole day. (Bro. Noah Amoo)

Cameroon

Concerning our witness activities, we agreed to witness systematically in nearby villages. We found that people are interested, calm and attracted when you tell them your own testimony as to how the Gospel has saved our lives and brought us into a new and happy relationship with God. (Bro. Alex Mokom)



**Bro. Alex and Team
Preparing to Witness**

Togo

Regarding the Lomé Ecclesia, due to the sale of my previous house, we have secured a new location and have successfully transitioned our gatherings there. Following the PAC, we were deeply inspired by the emphasis placed on moving beyond individual advancement and striving for collective progress. In this spirit, after completing our study of Volume

6, we made a unanimous decision to return to the foundational principles outlined in “How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense.” We believe it will equip us with a good foundation for our individual study. Due to a temporary shortage of available brethren, we have adjusted our witnessing frequency to once a month. We appreciate your continued prayers and support. (Bro. Sergino Kpoedzou)

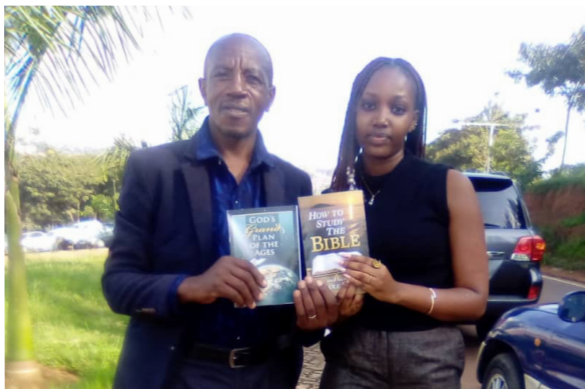


**Group Photograph of
Lome' Ecclesia**

EAST AFRICA

Rwanda

Bro. Silver Mugisha appreciates receiving leads regarding How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense. Follow up is always important and recently he met Hadassa Mugisha in Kigali and also gave her a copy of God's Grand Plan of the Ages which she enjoys reading.



**Bro. Silver Mugisha
Witnessing**

Uganda

Wakiso Ecclesia

Bro. Laban Ssewanyanya reports the ecclesia is actively engaged in supporting twelve groups each week via Zoom as well as through supplementary gatherings, both in-person and of a remote nature. At the latest count, more than 745 individuals participate in such activities including Christians and followers of Islam.



Wakiso Ecclesia Meeting

Mengo Ecclesia -- June 14 - 15, 2024

Bro. Jackson Kyaligamba reports the following class activities during June 14-15, 2024. Sunday; 1st Service: Book of 1 Corinthians 11:00 am to 1 :00 pm. Sunday; 2nd Service 4pm-6pm 1st volume. Saturday zoom meeting: 2nd Volume, 2 pm to 4 pm. Friday 3 pm to 5 pm zoom follow up meeting for the new interests: studying Life Beyond the Grave booklet. We have a radio witnessing program every Sunday from 8am to 9 am on Radio Star FM where we witness to over a million people. We also formed a WhatsApp group where listeners ask questions at their convenience. These over 150 members were invited for a two days seminar on June 14,15, 2024. Each first Saturday of the month, we have a zoom testimony meeting using Thursday's manna text of that week.

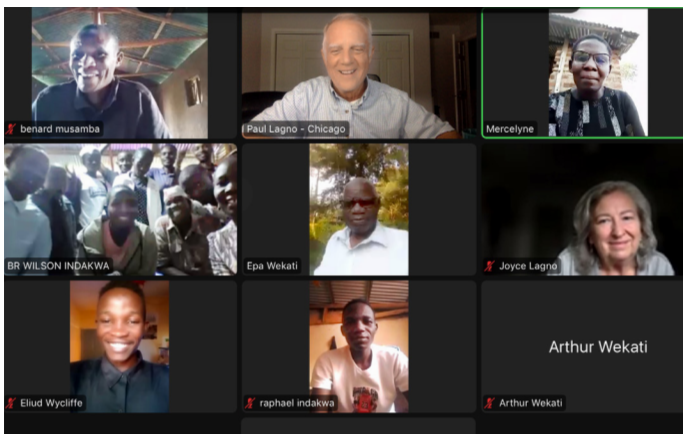


Members of Mengo Ecclesia

Kenya

Bungoma and West Kenya Ecclesias

There are multiple ecclesias in the greater Bungoma area. They are active in their learning and love for the Truth. Bros. Epa Wetaki and Wilson Indakwa were privileged to attend the Pan African Convention this year. They both serve several ecclesia groups in Kenya assisting brethren to come to a fuller understanding of the Truth. Bro. Epa has been involved in a Thursday zoom study starting with God's Grand Plan some years back and now they are on the last pages of Volume 2. The Indakwas support a regular Wednesday evening study which includes brethren from Bungoma, Eshitari, Kisii and Mumias, as well as brethren from Burundi who are living as refugees in Bungoma. The western Kenya brethren express their gratitude to all who offer prayers, send articles of encouragement, conduct zoom meetings and ask how they are faring. May God richly bless you all. They also appeal to brethren in the West to "send saints to come help us. We do this in the spirit of the Macedonians: Come over to Kenya and East Africa and help us." - Acts 16:9



West Kenya Zoom Meeting

SOUTHERN AFRICA

South Africa Ecclesia

We meet 3 times a week as well as having a children's gathering on Saturday. On Monday, we are studying the 53 Lessons, Thursday, the Book of Mark and Sunday,

we are doing Volume 1. The number of participants is about 16 regulars in all meetings.

We are preparing for our General Convention very soon. On Friday, May 31, 2024, we went to Nelspruit for the baptism/immersion service of Bros. Sabelo Shaun and Phiwokuhle Gwebu as well as Sr. Jenifer Mbali Lukhele. We also had time to study and fellowship together before I returned to Durban. On my way back home, the bus that I took to the airport, had a collision with a car that overturned 2 times in the air but nobody died. We thank God for his mercy. (Bro. Israel Loji)



Group Photo After Immersion Service

Future Projected Event

Lord willing, the next Pan African Convention in Ghana is tentatively set for Saturday, April 19 - Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

BSCFA Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors for the Bible Students' Committee for Africa is as follows:

Chairman: Bro. Bill Dutka

Secretary: Sr. Sandy Koterba

Treasurer: Bro. Austin Williams

Other Board members include Bros. Richard Doctor, Joe Dolan, Lee Hicks, Brian Montague, Homer Montague and Sr. Leah (Ruggirello) Einhorn

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

Bible Students Committee for Africa
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