



# BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR



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## Newsletter

## Winter 2008

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### Greetings from the BSCFA

While the massive continental area of Africa covers every climate zone, most of the brethren find themselves in the equatorial zones that experience uninterrupted warm days through the year with a seasonal variation between dry and wet. Further from the equator in Israel, Europe and North America the passing of the year is marked more clearly by seasons and sufficient cold so that rainfall comes down in the delicate beauty of snow.

It was in this snow that David found a picture of God's grace and covering of sin through Christ Jesus providing a justification before an awesome God who cannot look upon sin. In Psalm 51:9-13 David sings, "Your desire is for what is true in the inner parts; in the secrets of my soul you will give me knowledge of wisdom. Make me free from sin with hyssop; let me be washed whiter than snow."

We find that hyssop was first used in painting the doorposts during the Passover of Israel that prefigured Christ's sacrifice (Exodus 12:22). Hyssop is an undistinguished and common weed in Israel that served as a convenient brush for sprinkling. Notice how the Heavenly Father constantly brings the lesson to us that simplicity and using what is at hand is pleasing to him. A common weed is to be used as a brush for dispensing his blessings to "make me free from sins." He did not ask for a fancy ceremonial brush. Let us seek the simplicity of hyssop in our worship of God.

But as this message of love and greeting comes to you, let me describe the experience of being "whiter than snow." Two days ago, the view here near Milwaukee saw nearly all the trees asleep for the winter without their leaves. Each branch stood out starkly against the sky. The ground in the forest was brown with the decaying leaves and mud from the cold rains of the last few days. Then a shift of winds that

brought in air from the cold north dropped the temperature to -5 degrees C and a most remarkable transformation took place – instead of rain, a white blanket, and the mud and decay of the ground has been transformed by a cover of 8 cm. of white snow hiding all ugliness under a brilliance that your eyes need protection from when the sun shines upon it.

Laughing children and dogs are having great fun playing in fresh snow. A dismal scene has been transformed to one of beauty. This was the type of transformation that David sought so that the renewal would, "make me full of joy and rapture; so that the bones which have been broken may be glad. Let your face be turned from my wrongdoing, and take away all my sins. Make a clean heart in me, O God; give me a right spirit again. Do not put me away from before you, or take your holy spirit from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation; let a free spirit be my support. Then will I make your ways clear to wrongdoers; and sinners will be turned to you." Even though many of us may never see snow, this beautiful picture is one that we can hold in our hearts as we pray for grace and guidance that we might be acceptable in His sight.

The beginning of a New Year is a time for reflection and resolve to make the coming year the one with the greatest efforts in service to the Lord. It is the time to pray that the coming year may be a time of the greatest opportunities to serve the Lord, the Truth and the brethren. May 2008 be a year of blessing and growth for each of us dear brethren.

Bro. Richard Doctor, Chairman BSCFA

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning  
and the end, the first and the last.*

*Revelation 22:13*



Group photograph taken during Ibadan Convention December 2007

## Report from Nigeria

### Ibadan Bible Students Convention

A thanksgiving convention held in Ibadan on December 1, 2007 had as its theme "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" Psalm 100:4. Most of the attendees were from the Lagos and Ibadan classes.

The following brethren served:

1. Bro. Cajetan Egbu gave the welcome discourse entitled "How Am I to Bless My God?"
2. Bro. Celestine Oledibe spoke on "Think on These Things."
3. Bro. Joseph Ajina's message was "Development of Christlikeness."
4. Bro. David Obayagbona's sermon was titled "The Truth."
5. Bros. Joseph Ajina, Celestine Oledibe and Cajetan Egbu participated in a question meeting in which Bro. Ibechukwu Ashiegbu was the moderator.

6. Bro. Stephen Obayagbona conducted a meeting in which many heart-warming testimonies were given.

7. Bros. Edward Ekeh and Ibechukwu Ashiegbu chaired the morning and afternoon sessions respectively.

Although many brethren notified the sponsoring ecclesia of their inability to attend because of the cost of transportation, those who were present expressed much joy for the privilege of assembling with the friends once again.

### Reports from Bro. Moses Obire

The following is a summary of Bro. Moses Obire's experiences in traveling to Ghana:

I left Warri on Saturday, October 13, 2007 en route to Ghana and spent the night at the International Airport in Lagos. The next day, accompanied by Bro. John Isife, I visited a nearby church to conduct a study on The Chart of the Ages.

We were received warmly by a woman named Reverend Okorie who founded the church and served as its general overseer. She had been

expecting us and had returned from a visit to England a few days earlier. She had enjoyed Bible Student contact from America which she indicated was the main support for her ministry.

After two and one half hours of discussion regarding God's divine plan, she requested further opportunities for similar studies and additional materials for herself as well as the pastors of that congregation. Perhaps contact with this group may result in finding one or more of his jewels."

In another report, Bro. Obire shared details of Bible Student activities in Uganda. Bro. Eliczer Jjuuko has been in contact with a new Truth interest in Uganda named Sr. Achan Kevin. Since she has studies with about four other individuals, Bro. Obire has requested that the Bible Students Committee for Africa supply her with a sufficient quantity of the Volumes and other appropriate Truth literature.

Bro. Jjuuko advised Sr. Achan that he sometimes visits her village of Gulu where he has a small office. A Bro. Opiio Martin of Kampala studies with Bro. Jjuuko and an invitation was extended to Sr. Achan to travel to Kampala for a weekend of study with the brethren there.

Although Sr. Achan has some Truth literature already, it was recommended that she frequent one of the Bible Student web sites for additional information. It is very gratifying to learn of the brethren's activities in this country. If any of our readers desire to send a message of encouragement to this new sister, below is her contact information:

Sr. Achan Kevin, P.O. Box 468, Gulu, Uganda  
(E-Mail: [achankevin@yahoo.com](mailto:achankevin@yahoo.com))

**Recent travels by Bro. Cajetan Egbu:**  
During the period December 5-12, 2007, Bro. Cajetan Egbu visited brethren in various classes. One of the highlights of this journey was the fact that Bros. Anthony Onaumere and Nkem Ukah symbolized their consecrations at Aba 2 Ecclesia.

At each of the classes, the friends enjoyed viewing "For This Cause" as well as pictures taken during previous visits. At some locations there were studies on "The Chart of the Ages," as well as "Consecration." A program entitled "53 Lessons on The Divine Plan of the Ages" developed by brethren in India was introduced to brethren at two ecclesias. Discussions on



Bro. Cajetan Egbu standing between brethren who symbolized their consecrations



Burial service for Bro. Cornelius Cosmos Eweruji

the theme of "Character Development" and general fellowship as well as being a source of comfort to brethren in special need, all combined to make this sojourn extremely gratifying. God willing, additional classes will be visited during January 2008 as part of a continuing effort to provide support to those classes that have embraced the Truth in recent years.

### Obituary

Bro. Cornelius Cosmos Eweruji, age 43. He was the husband of Sr. Lucky Onome Eweruji of the Itadan Ecclesia. His parents, Mr. Cosmos Eweruji and Mrs. Precilla Eweruji, six children, as well as seven brothers and sisters survive him. Bro. Cajetan Egbu conducted the funeral witness on November 6, 2007, using the topic "Where Are the Dead?" Many brethren, relatives, friends and neighbors attended this service.

### Report from Ghana

During the period October 16-20, 2007, Bro. Moses Obare made his sixth biannual pilgrim visit to Ghana for the purpose of conducting leadership seminars. The heightened spiritual development of the friends there is increasingly evident considering the more challenging nature of studies prepared for their consideration. These topics included: Berean Study on Bible Chronology, What It Costs to Be a Christian of the Genuine Sort, Volume 6 Lesson on Assembling Ourselves Together, The Anatomy of Conceit, By Thy Words Acquitted—By Thy Words Condemned, Decorum in the House of God, The New Heart and On Trial for Life.

Selected questions answered by Bro. Russell were based upon articles found in the Reprints and proved to be thought provoking with respect to the type of character God requires faithful Christians to develop.

The devotional meetings, testimonies, as well as question-and-answer sessions supplemented discourses prepared by ten of the brethren on various doctrinal themes. In their

enthusiasm, two of the friends even volunteered to speak again on a second topic.

In addition to applauding Sr. Elizabeth and the other sisters who provided temporal fare, Bro. Obire made the following remarks: "The seminar was very successful. All the brethren participated actively. Question-and-answer sessions were very adequate and topical. Bro. Edward Nkansah did a very good job of translation. There was general evidence of growth among the brethren. I have received a measure of growth spiritually myself. Discourses were better prepared and presented than the previous seminars and presenters were able to answer questions accurately. The issue of witnessing was again discussed with the brethren. Initially, they appeared to be thinking about infrastructure such as places of meeting and seats as necessities before witnessing should be done, but after the discussions they had a greater appreciation as to the need for witnessing."

The Committee as well as the Ghanaian brethren receiving tutelage from Bro. Obire's faithful labors are most appreciative of his service.

#### Report from Cape Coast

In an earlier issue of this publication there was a lengthy description of some of the experiences of Bro. Edward Nkansah's labors in this region of Ghana. The following more current update reflects increased growth toward understanding the Truth in this locale.

"Shalom and peace! As I always do, I traveled to Cape Coast again in an effort to strengthen the brethren. This time my intent was to visit Bro. Anthony first and then travel to the class led by Bro. Paul. Unfortunately, that very morning Bro. Anthony's wife sent me a message that the planned meeting could not occur because of a family emergency. I then traveled to Yamoransa to obtain a taxi that would transport me to Eggyefra to visit with Bro. Paul and the rest of the classes. We met from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with studies on the Permission of Evil and Not Forsaking the Assembly of Counselors, including time for questions and a brief intermission. Our day proved to be a wonderful blessing for all and I learned a great deal myself. Plans were then made to have joint fellowship the following day at Ekurufu with another class where Bro. Rogers is the leader.



Brethren in Cape Coast during visit by Bro. Edward Nkansah



**Brethren who sponsored the Kumasi Convention**

Our meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. In addition to myself, also present were Bros. Rogers, Emmanuel Kojo Mensu, Paul Arthur, Joseph Bentil, James Nkrumah and Mr. Debnah. Additionally, Mrs. Combot, and Mary Arthur participated. Thus brethren were in attendance from three classes including Abura—Dunima, Eggineta and Ekuroful. This day of fellowship lasted until 8:00 p.m. and included studies on Three Ways, Ransom and Assemble Ourselves Together. Since all of the friends did not have equal ability with regard to English, portions of Volume II were read aloud so that everyone could follow what was being covered. I was greatly blessed by the brethren's participation and hearing them express their views and comments upon the topics of our studies.

The next morning I traveled to Winneba for studies on The Kingdom of God and Not Forsaking the Assembly of Ourselves Together. Including myself, also present were Bro. Enoch Annan, Fred Assah and his wife. The period of five hours was well spent among the four of us and proved be a great blessing to all."

#### **Kumasi Convention**

On December 30, 2007 a one-day convention was held in Kumasi. The previous evening a welcome address was given by Bro. Samuel Amoo, thanking God first and all the brethren who were coming to the services. The following day, the largest portion of attendees arrived and the number present included 45 adults and 25 children.

The theme for this gathering was "Behold, how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1) It was co-chaired by Bros. Daniel Amoo and George Arning. The following brethren served.

1. Bro. Edward Nkareash spoke on "The Kingdoms of This World."
2. Bro. Thomas Nii discoursed on "Sin's Penalty - Death."
3. Bro. Adam Amoo's subject was "The Christian Walk."
4. Bro. Plango gave a talk on "The Permission of Evil."
5. Bro. Enoch Annan's address was "The New Covenant."

8. Bro. Thompson Tuffor's sermon was "The Judgment Day."

At the close of the program, the Kumasi Ecclesia conducted its annual election and after dinner, most of the brethren departed for their homes.

It was especially gratifying to note the broad level of participation by the brethren as attendees were present from Kumasi, Dunkwa, Cape Coast and the Western Region. Even the children provided a delightful interlude with scriptural recitations. The topic of unity was well chosen as a theme text. Many of the friends in attendance voiced an interest in having other similar gatherings.

## Report from South Africa

Bro. Dean Oswell reports: "Bro. Israel Loji is working at the moment for a security firm and is mostly outdoors. It was my privilege to take him a packet of clothing to help him keep warm.

There have been several meetings started through the efforts of Bro. Khumiso Miranda who is from India.

We now have a small class that actually started larger than it presently is with Bro. Khumiso taking the class during his extended visit to South Africa in August 2007. Membership is mostly among some of the local "South African-Indian" population. Our class is composed of Central Africans who are Congolese refugees, fleeing ethnic violence. Their zeal is most evident since they desire to share what they are learning with others!

As these all proceed with the "53 Bible Lessons" there has been a hiatus on the topic of the soul. Since Bro. Israel Loji is now employed, I conduct most of the meetings with those who display real interest.

We do meet with one another (Hebrews 10:24, 25) and not merely hand out booklets, allowing the written word to do all the work, but indeed the actual meeting is important. When weather or circumstances hinder such meetings, we try using the mobile phone.

Another interesting experience occurred when Bro. Israel and I attended a local church by invitation of my father. I was reluctant to attend, but God overruled, and they asked questions

for discussion. What an opportunity! This led to thoughts on what it means to be begotten of the Spirit, not "born again," as well as other basic doctrines. These were received well. Bro. Israel was not well on this occasion and his wife, Innocentia, had been so if he had to take her on a bus to Johannesburg for treatment. She has been there for nearly two months. Please keep them in prayer.

Our Indian friend, Jay, had his home attacked by neighboring "land-invaders," and his cousin was stabbed in the back and neck. Also Aaron, who was really progressing well in his study of present Truth had to go to Johannesburg. Others such as Alexis, have had to move further a-field after many months of study with us and went to Cape Town where he has managed to get work. We keep contact by way of text messages and cell phone calls.

Still, most important is that these interested ones retain what they have learned and progress to the best of their respective abilities by reading the Volumes. Most are French, but we have no French Volumes - all are in English. It would be helpful if we could get the Volumes in the French language. Most Africans have French as their common medium of communication.

One last development is the possibility of ethnic-cleansing in Kenya where 250,000 have been displaced. Brethren there are being adversely affected. We in Africa in neighboring countries may need to see where and how we might assist our brethren as many have fled. May we remain watchful, prayerful, and helpful (see *Manna* of March 23.)

## Report from Pakistan

In the last issue of this newsletter a report concerning conditions for Christians living in Pakistan was included. Since that time, the political turmoil there has increased as a result of the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Below is a letter from Bro. Nadir on behalf of the Bible Students in Pakistan that may be of particular interest to our readers.

"Dear Brother. Peace in Christ. Thank you very much for your love and efforts to introduce us. Through this email I want to let you know about the spiritual growth and strong testimony of the local brethren.



Group photograph of Nigerian brethren who symbolized their consecrations in August 2007

I am happy that so much growth is being shown. Though I cannot reach them frequently, the brethren are very regular and strong in their Bible study. Even a 9-year-old girl (Sana Sadiq) has learned by heart Psalms 23 and 121. It is really a wonderful thing for me as I asked her to learn them in my last visit, when I gave an Urdu Bible to this family. I am also busy with flood afflicted people as we have distributed some warm clothes to some families. A few older brethren have been transferred to other places for their protection.

Regarding one family, I want to share this strong testimony of their true faith. Bro. Khalid Mash is about 50 years old and has 6 children. The eldest daughter is about 22 and the youngest son is about 5 years old. When I told them no help was expected from any of the brethren, they were greatly disappointed. Bro. Khalid then went to a Muslim landlord for help, but he said there was no way to help them unless he and his family embraced Islam.

Bro. Khalid boldly stated he and his family would die, but never embrace Islam. He also told him that Jesus is the true Saviour and is able to protect him. The Muslim landlord became angry and beat Bro. Khalid severely and handed him over to the local police for blaspheming Islam. When I learned about this I went to the family and told them that God would protect him in prison. We prayed fre-

quently and ultimately the police released him. When he returned, his whole body was injured badly. For a few days, we shifted that family to another place and have helped Bro. Khalid as much as we could.

We have also supplied necessary medicine for the family. We hope the brethren will, if possible, please proclaim our conditions to others in your ecclesias.

If you desire to give a message of encouragement, you may contact this courageous and compassionate brother as follows:

Bro. Nadir (E-mail: [Face\\_peace@hotmail.com](mailto:Face_peace@hotmail.com))

## *Our Lord's Memorial*

*Friday, April 18, 2008  
(After 6:00 P.M.)*

*Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

*Matthew 26:41*

*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*