



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA



Newsletter

Summer 2010

Greetings from the BSCFA

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7). This letter was written to Timothy shortly before Paul died. It was his last opportunity to encourage the Brother in Christ he loved as a son. All of us are given ‘gifts,’ opportunities especially suited to our temperament and ability, to impact others for good. The muscle that is well exercised becomes stronger. Opportunities and gifts that are well responded to will result in more opportunities and greater ability to use them.

In harmony with this text, the Lord richly blessed the combined Ghanaian/Nigerian and now Ugandan seminar held at the Presbyterian Women’s Center near the outskirts of Accra, the capital city of Ghana, the third week of January 2010. Ultimately, the growth and development of Christ in each of us is the object of what we seek most earnestly. This growth was indeed evident in the brethren and this gives us the encouragement to keep up the efforts. Since then the blessings have continued.

At the seminar there was a meeting to discuss expanding the witness work in the Cape Coast area of Ghana and now this expanded ministry has begun.

A meeting with the interested brethren from Nigeria to discuss the Bible Students’ Committee for Africa sponsorship of a convention in Nigeria has yielded fruitage. The “ad hoc”

committee of Nigerian brethren is investigating convention sites in the Ibo State. The convention may be as soon as late August of this year.

At times, we may fear failure or rejection, but God has not given us the spirit of timidity. He has given us a disposition of power because we realize that outcomes and results are in God’s hands, under his control. This gives us the motivation and ability to do what is in our power in every situation. He has given us a disposition of love that sees beyond our own narrow world to the excitement of being fully alive to impact and bless others. He has given us a disposition of a sound mind, a balanced mind that weighs choices in view of eternity. A disciplined mind enables us to take the risks that the Lord has led us to take. It empowers us to stay spiritually and emotionally ‘in shape’ so that our talents and abilities will be ready for use.

We have the unseen assistance of the heavenly Father himself. “I, the Lord, am with thee, be thou not afraid; I will help and strengthen, be thou not dismayed. Yes, I will uphold thee with my own right hand.”

May the Lord richly bless you in all spiritual things through Christ Jesus.

*Bro. Richard Doctor
Chairman, BSCFA*



January 2010 Ghanaian/Nigerian Seminar Attendees

Report from Nigeria

Visit by Bro. Khurrsino Miranda

The following report summarizes Bro. Khurrsino Miranda's experiences after he departed from the Ghanaian/Nigerian leaders' seminar in January 2010 and traveled to Nigeria.

"My three days in Lagos from January 29–31 were spent with Bro. John Isife accompanying me to various locations.

Bro. John took me to Ketu where we visited the home of Bro. Donatus Ariwodor and had a small meeting of about 45 minutes where I introduced the use of the "53 Lessons" and promised I would send a parcel of lessons from India when I return. We also had a short question session. This family showed great love and zeal for the Lord and the truth.



Bros. Khurrsino Miranda and John Isife

On the following day Bro. John and I traveled to Ibadan. We were welcomed and asked to spend the night at the home Bro. and Sr. Joseph Ajise. I was to learn that Bro. Ajise was one of the earliest members of the truth in Nigeria. We shared wonderful fellowship of various scriptural matters.

My last appointment in Lagos was a visit to a group called "Scripture Union" in an Anglican church where Bro. John has been initiating Bible studies. I was able to introduce the "53 Lessons" there and share a part of Lesson #4 "The Divine Plan of the Ages" with the group of 8 to 10.

On February 1st Bro. John and I left Lagos at 10:00 a.m. to travel to Kwale via van. Kwale is a small town and we had Bro. Godwin Edoja welcome us. He immediately took us to his home and we addressed a group of 20 to

25 who had been expecting us for more than an hour. I introduced the "53 Lessons" to them while promising that I would send those lessons to Bro. Edoja by March for them to start their study.

The next day, I awoke to a grand plan by Bro. Edoja to visit 6 classes through the day. He had hired a car and a camera man. The classes were all in little villages. It was very fascinating, but I was very impressed at their "hunger" to learn the truth of God's word.

Bro. Moses Obire joined us for the meeting at the "Obodogwa Class" where we took Lesson #1 –"The Keys to Unlock the Bible." Bro. Edoja gave me his plans to start the follow up classes at all six locations on a weekly basis beginning in April, Lord willing.

On February 3rd, Bro. Godwin and I left for Abak to Onitsha via car and van to meet Bro. Okugod Udom. The interesting feature of our travel was that at one security check point a policeman who inquired of my passport, on finding out that I teach the Bible requested the "53 Lessons."

On February 4th and 5th, the visits were to Ntak Obio Akpa, the location where there is a small Bible Student ecclesia whose elder is Bro. Sunday Enang. I also met Bro. Monday and Bro. Owoh and their families over two days where we covered subjects such as "The Last Moments of our Lord on the Cross," "What We All Must Seek" (Hebrews 12:14) and "The Mystery About Enoch Revealed" (Hebrews 11:5). We also answered questions on the first resurrection and the four living creatures of Revelation the 4th chapter. It was wonderful and blessed fellowship for me.

The 6th of February had a cancellation of plans and thus I sat and wrote this report. The 7th of February, being a Sunday began at approximately 8:00 a.m. with Bro. Okugod picking me up to take me to his congregation.



Group Standing Outside of Meeting Hall with Bro. Okugod

There I addressed a group of some 25 to 30 members of the "53 Lessons" study course and told them I would spend the whole of the next day with them. At 10:00 a.m. we left for Uyo and the congregation of Bro. Michael Akpan. We joined their Sunday morning service where I spoke on "The Mark Upon Cain" to a group of about 70. After the service there was a meeting of the elders and Bro. Akpan. I was introduced to them. The five elders all said they were consecrated. One of the elders was surprised when I told him that the "Little Flock" was not yet complete and the "door" was still open. I brought up the need for deeper study and the use of the "53 Lessons."

On February 8th, I met the congregation of Bro. Okugod. Bro. Donatus Ariwodor and Bro. Sunday Enang also were present. We had the opportunity to present to a group of about 20 to 25 new-comers the first 2 lessons of the "53 Lessons." We had some questions on "the soul" and "the two salvations." Whenever I had a question that was out of the context of the lesson I would point them to the number of that subject in the list of the "53 Lessons."

There is a great potential here to develop a follow up study class for about 15-20. Bro. Okugod who is 30 years old has that responsibility. He is very enthusiastic, zealous and honest young brother and had been of great assistance to me in Abak. Our program for the day concluded when we had a group photo and then I left to return to the hotel room.

The following day, February 9th, I traveled to visit Bro. Nathaniel Umoh's congregation at Itok Ekpene. Bro. Akpan was kind enough to bring a car from one of his congregations for us to travel. There was a group of more than 70 members waiting for us. I gave

the discourse – "Hold That Which Thou Hast" (Revelation 3:11) which speaks of "the crown." There were many consecrated brethren in this ecclesia that was established by Bro. Nathaniel Umoh.

After this meeting we traveled to the next location at a place called Idoro in Uyo to meet a group of some 20 members. Here I introduced the "53 Lessons" and gave a short presentation of all the subjects on the list.

I spent the next day, February 11th preparing for my return home. It was a day of rest too as I penned the final part of the report for this trip, the thoughts concerning each location, the brethren there and the need for a deeper and clearer study of the truth."

Agwa Bible Students Convention

The Agwa Convention was held on April 3, 2010. Its theme was "For we being many are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). The convention was co-chaired by Bros. Vitalis Ekeh and Godwin Adiele. Representatives of twelve ecclesias were in attendance.

The following brethren also served: Bro. Boniface Obiukwu gave a welcome discourse entitled "Fight the Good Fight of Faith," Bro. Celestine Oledibe spoke on "Lessons from the Life of Moses," Bro. Lazarus Ukpai's sermon was on "How to Overcome Depression," Bro. Chuks Edward's topic was "Preaching to the Spirits in Prison." Bro. Maurice Uzor talked on "Watch and Pray" and Bro. Cajetan Egbu's lesson was on "The Memorial Supper." Bro. Hen Basseyy conducted the testimony meeting. There was a question meeting with Bros. Cajetan Egbu, Celestine Oledibe and Maurice Uzor as panelists.



Agwa Convention Attendees

Report from Bro. Moses Obire

The theme of the fifth Nigerian elders' seminar was 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." The dates were April 2 to April 4, 2010 inclusive.

Most of the attendees arrived at the venue of the seminar which was Ntak Obio Akpa in Akwa Ibom State, South-South Nigeria on the eve of the opening day while the rest came on the opening day. The daily programs were strictly executed, beginning each day at 9:00 a.m. with the morning devotions and ending at 7:00 p.m. with the *Songs in the Night*.

Discourses were based on selected studies from the *Divine Plan of the Ages* (volume one of *Studies in The Scriptures*). Such discourses included Study 1 by Bro. Godwin Edoja, Study 6 by Bro. Monday Okoekoh, Study 11 by Bro. Peter Ekeh, and Study 14 by Bro. Monday Ntukidem. Each of these brethren actually condensed the studies into a 30-minute discourse followed by a brief question session.

Another feature of the seminar was the condensation of Studies 6 and 7 of Volume Six (*The New Creation*) into a one-hour study by Bro. Sunday Enang and Bro. Donatus Ariwodor respectively. Their presentations were followed by a question session. This particular aspect of the seminar proved to be very rewarding as the two topics – "Ordaining Elders in Every Ecclesia" and "The Law of the New Creation" – gave important instructions for the ecclesias. The main feature of the seminar was the in-depth study of a selected topic from the Reprints each day. These were: "Admonitions

for the Consecrated" (Reprint 4008), "Sowing and Reaping" (Reprint 4028) and "Right Habits of Thought" (Reprint 4026). These in-depth studies were very enlightening for the brethren.

There were testimony meetings held on days one and three in the evening. The seminar was a huge blessing to all attendees as shown by testimonies of the brethren. Also held was a business meeting on day two to evaluate the seminar and provide suggestions for improvement. Plans for a future seminar were also discussed. In all, 27 brethren from 12 classes attended from four states of the country. The seminar was very successful and rewarding.

Report from Uganda

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko has labored extensively in Uganda with regard to the truth and as a result was invited to participate in the January 2010 Ghanaian/Nigerian seminar held in Accra, Ghana. During his time with the brethren, he shared the many facets of his witnessing and related activities in his home country. Additionally, he distributed a truth newsletter to all the members of another Christian group present in the cafeteria where the Bible Students had gathered for one of their meals. When Bro. Eliezer departed from Ghana, he took some tracts from the seminar and distributed all of them to interested individuals on his homeward bound flight and upon his arrival at the airport in Uganda.

The following is an abbreviated report from Bro. Eliezer concerning some of his activities in Uganda from February-June 2010.



5th Nigerian Elders' Seminar Attendees

“By the mercies of God, we had an immersion of Bro. Ouma Geoffrey at Kampala. He has been with us since October 2008 when he came to attend a public seminar with Bro. Silver Mugisha at the same time. He quickly made a decision to leave Babylon in three months and later Bro. Silver also made a similar decision. In that effort they were the only ones who embraced the truth out of those who attended. We rejoice in thanking the heavenly Father for his gift towards them as well as blessing our labors. Bro. Ouma has a family of five living in Eastern Uganda and the whole family has joined him in the truth.



Bro. Jackson Immersing Bro. Ouma

At the Uganda/Congo border we served together with Bro. Larry and Sr. Marianna Davis on March 9 and 10. Topics covered included “Passover and Memorial” teachings, “Seven Elements of Consecrated Living” and “Women’s Responsibilities and Duty.” We rejoice with joy unspeakable for the second class of consecrated brethren from Uganda and D. R. Congo, immersed on March 10. These include Sr. Thorach Gladies, Sr. Sarlodha Okeca and Bro. Angeno-Rwoth Yesu Kende. Bro. Larry Davis gave the baptismal discourse and I immersed the brethren.



Seminar Attendees at Paidha/Congo Border

On Sunday, April 11th we witnessed to a Pentecostal congregation located 16 kilometers from Jinja in a village. One of their members, Andrew Kisakye had made several calls for our Bible study course. I arranged and went with Bro. Samuel Mawanda to introduce the truth there. We were welcomed and after their service, about 20 adults in attendance filled our form to start the Bible correspondence course.

On June 11, Bro. Samuel Mawanda and I traveled to the Paidha/Congo border, for a seminar of two days followed by another one-day meeting of the Goli class. On June 12 we had fellowship followed by a discourse and the election of elders and deacons. They agreed to meet on Sundays and Saturdays. Elected elders are: Bro. Uucha G (of Congo) and Bro. James Onegue (Paidha) with different responsibilities.

The Goli class will meet on Thursdays and Sundays for their fellowship at Bro. Thofua’s home. They are still on “53 Lessons” and have covered up to 38 lessons. God willing they will form an ecclesia and elect elders in the future when they have studies in Volume six.

We also had 7 immersions of newly consecrated brethren at the Nyibola River separating D. R. Congo and Uganda on June 13. They are: Bro. Thofua Juadi, Bro. Urwya Albert, Sr. Janet Piwanga, (a widow who has withstood bitter words, enmity and beatings), Sr. Manuela Mandhawn, Sr. Adegirach Kayeny Pa Rwoth, (who receives persecution from her own husband and former church believers), Sr. Atimargo Brenda, and Sr. Anirwoth Madalina.

We had a meeting concerning some truth activities planned in Congo and West Nile. Paidhak-Mahagi Bible Students will be highly involved in witnessing work in D.R. Congo, as will Bro. Kennedy and Goli believers

in West Nile, Uganda, God willing. The Lord has marked a way for our Congo-French/Lingala newsletter and we shall have a Lingala translator. We thank our God that the friends are progressing with one mind. Love and greeting from these brethren and sisters.”

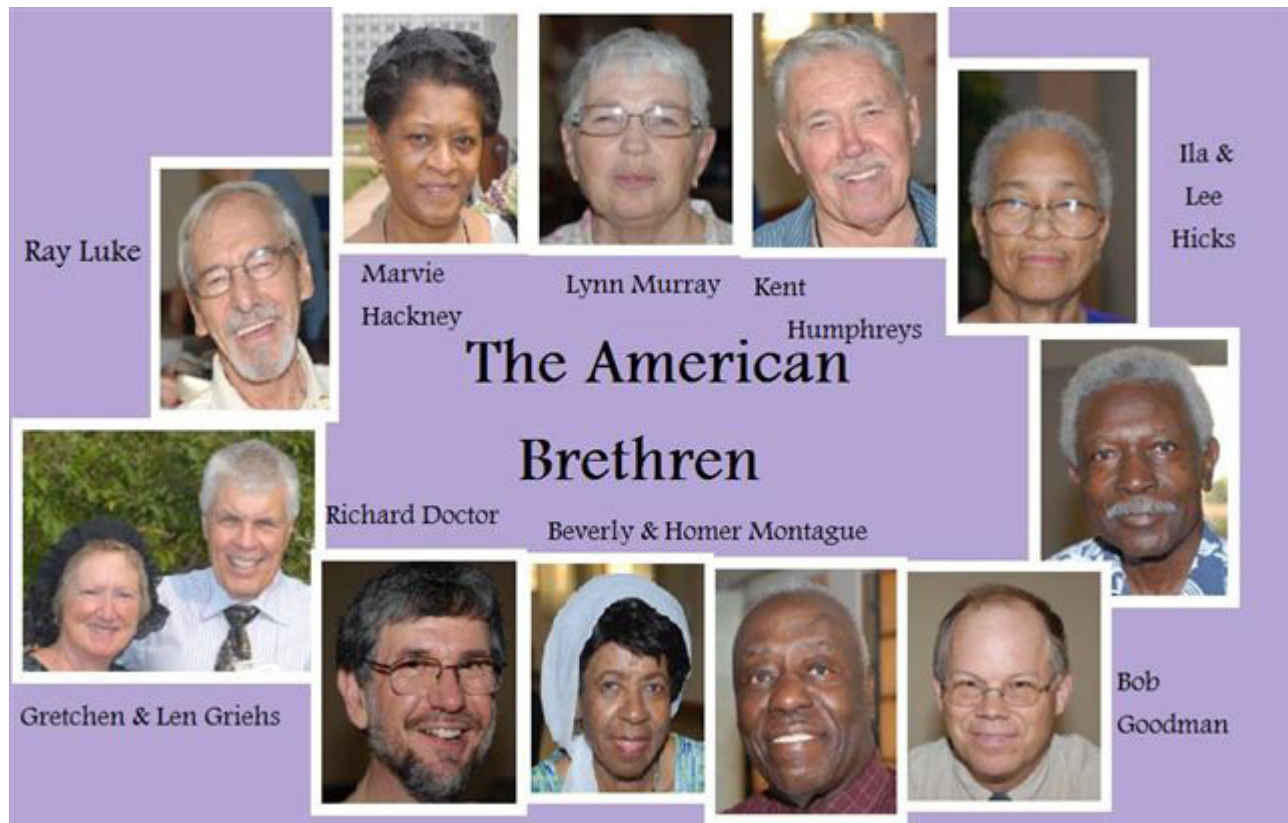
Report from Ghana

January 15 – February 5, 2010

During portions of the above interval there was a sustained presence of brethren from the United States, Nigeria, India and Uganda enjoying fellowship with some of the local friends in Ghana. Bros. Ray Luke, Lee Hicks and Homer Montague as well as Srs. Lynn Murray, Ila Hicks and Beverly Montague were the earliest visitors from America and participated in a seminar in Dunkwa-on-Offin for three days. This gathering featured discourses by Ghanaian leaders followed by questions relative to Israel based upon material found in the *Overland Monthly*. Bros. Ray Luke and Lee Hicks also led studies based upon Reprint articles each day. Another aspect of this visit by the American brethren was to observe the BSCFA-sponsored pilgrim efforts in the Central and Western Regions as well as the progress in Kumasi and the greater Accra area. Following

these visits, final preparations were made for the conduct of the fourth Ghanaian/Nigerian leaders’ seminar and six additional brethren arrived in Ghana from the United States including Bros. Len Griehs, Kent Humphreys, Bob Goodman, Richard Doctor as well as Srs. Gretchen Griehs and Marvie Hackney. Bros. Khurrsino Miranda of India and Eliezer Jjuuko of Uganda also came for the seminar. Since time permitted, a group of visiting brethren as well as some of the Ghanaians traveled to Cape Coast Castle, a British slave fort. The following quote from a fact sheet distributed at the castle may be of special interest to Bible Students: “When slave trade was abolished in Britain in 1807, the trade couldn’t stop instantly due to the demand in some British territories until 1874 when there was no more demand.”

The Ghanaian/Nigerian leaders’ seminar was held from Sunday, January 24 through Thursday, January 28 with an overall attendance of 51. In addition to the friends from America, Uganda, and India mentioned previously, the brethren from Ghana who took part in the program included Bros. Emmanuel Menu, Jerome Rogers, Samuel Amoo, Adam Amoo, Noah Amoo, Edward Nkansah, Enock Aman, Samuel Ainooson, Moses Baah, Tho-



American Brethren at Ghana/Nigerian Seminar

mas Nti, John Quaidoo, Leonard Plange, Nana Adu, Enoch Amoah, Thomas Duah, Kyei Berko and Ampofo Ofori as well as Srs. Comfort Nyieku, Salome Hicks, Rebecca Asare, Sarah Asare, Emelia Boahema, Eva Nkansah, Florence Sika, Grace Boatema and Paulina Afryie.

From Nigeria the participants included Bro. Moses Obire, Donatus Ariwodor, Peter Eke, John Isife, Godwin Edoja, Nathaniel Umo, Hagensick Umo, Oscar Akpan as well as Srs. Helen Edoja, Roseline Obire and Silver Egodo.

The seminar was an occasion of great joy and rich fellowship and included fourteen discourses, four panel discussions, one prophetic study, one testimony meeting, a two-part study for sisters on "Lessons from Women in the Bible," one witnessing report and a beautiful vespers service featuring the melodious voices of the sisters on the final evening of this spiritual feast.

After the seminar was over, Bro. Lee and Sr. Ila Hicks as well as Sr. Lynn Murray spent an additional week in Ghana, accompanied by Bro. Edward Nkansah to observe classes, have discourses and encourage the brethren in various regions of the country through February 4th. This extended effort to serve the friends, most of whom were not present for the blessings of the Ghanaian/Nigerian leaders' seminar, was greatly appreciated.

Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Report

Bro. Moses Obire visited Ghana from his home in Nigeria during the period April 16 – 21, 2010 to conduct his eleventh leaders' seminar at the Amoo residence in Kumasi. One of the brethren who attended submitted the following account regarding his observations.

April 16

After morning devotions which began each of our daily sessions, Bro. Edward Nkansah led a study on the Tabernacle found in the "53 Lessons." Each of the five pilgrim brethren was given an assignment on this topic to help the friends get a better understanding of this overall subject. This was followed by questions and discussions. Bro. Moses Baah gave a discourse on "Kingdoms of This World Supervised" which like all discourses was followed by questions from the assembled brethren. Bro. Moses Obire led a study on "Our Responsibility to One Another" which continued through intermissions and questions. The day ended with a testimony meeting and the use of "Songs in the Night" which was used to close each meeting for the following five days.

April 17

Bro. Samuel Amoo led a study on the portion of the Tabernacle which was assigned to him



Recipients of DVD Players at Ghanaian/Nigerian Seminar



Kumasi Leaders' Seminar Attendees

as one of the pilgrim brethren. After an intermission, Bro. Kyei Berko spoke on the topic "Redemption from the Curse." Bro. Moses Obire led a study titled "Our Responsibility Concerning Present Truth." In addition to having questions and discussion on this subject, there was a review of summary points that were covered during the day. There also were two meetings held during the day – one concerned the pilgrim arrangements and the other one concerned preparations for the first Ghana convention scheduled for June.

April 18

The regular Kumasi ecclesia Sunday meeting was held during the morning. Following lunch, Bro. Adam Amoo spoke on the subject "The Bible in the Light of Reason." This was followed by a talk by Bro. Noah Amoo, "Redemption from the Curse." Next, Bro. Obire led a study on "Patience as an Element of Character." This took us through the end of the day.

April 19

Bro. Thomas Nti led the third in a series of studies on the Tabernacle. On this day, we had an intensive examination of this topic because Bro. Jerome Rogers also followed with another lesson on this theme. This was followed by a special meeting of all the leaders with Bro. Obire to help clarify some misunderstandings. We

We were pleased by the manner in which these issues were resolved. Bro. Obire then led a study entitled "Be Perfect As Your Father Is Perfect" that proved to be especially beneficial.

April 20

Bro. Plange conducted the final Tabernacle study of the seminar. Bro. John Quaidoo then provided a discourse on "Messiah's Second Coming." A business meeting was held to discuss follow-up on brethren who once met with the Bible Students and another topic related to further details concerning the June convention.

April 21

Bro. Emmanuel Menu gave the last discourse on "Great Day of His Wrath." The remainder of the day was devoted to a study on "The Tongue a Power for Evil or Good." Bro. John Quaidoo led the final testimony of the seminar and the brethren sang "God Be With You."

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