



BIBLE STUDENTS' COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Newsletter

WINTER 2015

Greetings from the BSCFA

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts...so shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:9-11)

The world’s ways and thoughts are not as God’s ways and thoughts. But it is our privilege as Christians to understand God’s ways, but only if we are meek and fully consecrated children of God. As we come to know God better and come into sympathy and harmony with him we will understand the Psalmist words, “The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way.” (Psalm 25:9)

God’s word shall not return unto him void. It shall accomplish the purpose for which it was sent in this age, and that is the gathering out from among the mass of mankind a peculiar people--the meek of the earth. He calls this group a “little flock” for their numbers are small. They are the sweet “first fruits” of God’s creatures. (James 1:18) By the sending out of his truth during this time of prevailing darkness and opposition, God seeks out, develops, tests and separates the church, which is to be a peculiar treasure unto him. And this purpose shall be fully accomplished for the promises of God are sure and amen in Christ Jesus.

In the Kingdom soon at hand, we are promised that “The knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14) In that day “All the families of the earth shall be blessed” through the promise made to Abraham. (Genesis 12:3) Psalm 96 describes the joy of all the earth using these words “O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.” As the promise of these “Times of Restitution of all things” is fulfilled, mankind shall pass from death to life; they shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace by the great “Prince of Peace.” This will be our Lord Jesus Christ with the assistance of his church.

The glory of God’s Divine Plan of the Ages consists in the vindication of his righteous character, the display to all his creatures of the harmony of his character and of the firmness of those principles of justice, righteousness, love, and power. “And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (Isaiah 25:9) Such will be the joyful assurance in which all his willing creatures may eternally rest. There will be joy and blessing for all creation and they will be established in righteousness for the eternal ages to follow.

In this year of 2015 may our lips praise, honor and glorify our God, knowing that if our words are His words, they shall not return empty.

Bro. Richard Doctor, Chairman BSCFA

Report from Nigeria

The Lagos Ecclesia held its annual convention on Saturday, October 5, 2014. Its theme was *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."* (1 Peter 3:15) Bros. Celestine Oledibe and Edward Ekeh served as chairmen. The following brethren listed also served.

1. Bro. Moses Shotunde gave the welcome discourse entitled "Preach the Word."
2. Bro. David Obayagbona's discourse was on "The Word of God."
3. Bro. Chuks Edward spoke on "Days and Nights of the Lord."
4. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu titled his discourse "The Awesome God."
5. Bro. Cajetan Egbu captioned his discourse "Our Sufficiency Is of God."

6. Bros. Cajetan, David and Chuks were panelists during the question meeting.

7. Bro. Edward Ekeh directed the testimony meeting. Many encouraging testimonies were given by the brethren.

The convention closed joyfully with Hymns of Dawn # 64 - "God Be with You" after an expression of gratitude by the Lagos brethren to all that attended the convention.

Agbarho Class Convention

The Agbarho Class held its third annual convention on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Its theme was *"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."* (1 Thessalonians 5:5, 6)

The following brethren served.

1. Bro. Moses Obire gave a discourse on the theme text.
2. Bro. Godwin Adiele spoke on "What Lack I Yet?"



Lagos Convention Attendees

Consideration of Love.”

6. Bro. Moses Obire also led a study on the subject “Loyalty Proved by Prompt Obedience.”

7. The final services for the day included a general question and answer session followed by a testimony meeting.

Ibadan Ecclesia Convention

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, the Ibadan Ecclesia held its end of the year Thanksgiving convention. Its theme was “*Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*” (2 Corinthians 9:11) The Chairmen were Bros. Edward Ekeh and Boniface Obiukwu. The following other brethren also served on this occasion.

1. Bro. Stephen Obayagbona gave a welcome discourse with the title “The Unchangeable God.”

2. Bro. Celestine Oledibe’s discourse was on “Christ’s Second Coming.”

3. Bro. Ikechukwu Ashiegbu entitled his dis-



Bros. Godwin Adiele, Peter Ibe and Jimmy Amah (left to right)

3. Bro. Jimmy Amah entitled his talk “The Law of the Kingdom.”

4. Bro. Peter Eke's sermon was captioned “Be Careful.”

5. Bro. David Obire titled his remarks “In



Ibadan Convention Attendees

4. Bro. Joseph Ogbunike's topic was "Finding the Truth."

5. Bro. Moses Shotunde spoke on "The Ministry of the Upward Call."

6. Bros. Cajetan Egbu, Celestine Oledibe and Joseph Ogbunike were panelists during the question meeting.

7. Bro. Maurice Uzor led the testimony meeting.

8. A business meeting highlighting important initiatives and other gatherings took place prior to the conclusion of this joyous occasion.

Report from Ghana

During the period July 12 - 26, 2014, Bro. Adam Amoo of Kumasi had the privilege of traveling to India and meeting with several brethren in that country. The following is a brief summary of Bro. Adam's experiences.

Khurssino, I visited Mumbai, Bagalore, Trichy, Dindigal, Karur, Salem 1, Salem 2 Erode, Coimbatore, Palani, Kotagiri and Ooty. Different brethren were met at each point but there was one common thing that could be felt among all these various places I visited; the love of the brethren and their desire to welcome a brother from another part of the world.

The Lord blessed us with various discourses and studies which were more centered on our consecration and how we can encourage the youth to be faithful to the call. The brethren in each ecclesia were very thankful to the Lord for sending a brother from Africa to also give such words to them because it actually served as a reminder of their consecration vows that were taken some time back. Having the opportunity of meeting youth was also a great blessing to me because we had time sharing some experiences and also it was good to know that no matter the distance, the Lord is preparing all



Bro. Adam Amoo in Meeting Hall with Indian Brethren

of us for one task.

It was very comforting how "senior" brethren also demonstrated love to me. I cannot also forget the love and zeal of the sisters in India. The Lord couldn't have blessed my trip to India any better than making me meet Dr. Prasad a day before I left India. That was the last meeting I had with the brethren and after the meeting, he sat me down and advised and encouraged me in the narrow way. That moment, it felt like taking a cold drink on a hot afternoon. From there, I had to travel back to Mumbai for my flight back to Ghana.

I had an opportunity again to observe a public witness in Palani. It is so good to know how the harvest work is doing in India. The Lord has taught me a lot of lessons from India which I will continue to share with my dear brethren here in Ghana and as I get the opportunity, all over Africa.

General Convention

From time to time reports are published regarding regional conventions in various areas in Ghana. The friends also have agreed to meet annually for a general convention, rotating the locations so that local brethren can help to host those who travel to the convention site from afar. The past year's general convention was held in Wassa-Aprong in the Western Region during the period August 15-17, 2014. Some of the highlights for the occasion include the following.

1. The theme was *"Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."* (Nehemiah 2:18)

2. Discourses followed by questions on each of the verses in 1 Corinthians 13 provided

an in-depth consideration regarding the subject "love."

3. Two brethren gave discourses on the six points noted in "To us the Scriptures clearly teach."

4. A panel discussion was conducted on the topic "How Should Brotherly Love Control the Tongue?"

5. A testimony meeting concluded the weekend and the following remarks by Bro. Ben Bright seemed to epitomize the spirit that prevailed on this occasion.

"I have seen that the Bible Students have the real truth and they live by it as well. They take their time to explain Scriptures. In fact, you cannot get this anywhere in the nominal churches. Another thing which touches me most is how they fellowship, sleep together, eat together and treat each one equally. In the nominal churches, when you are in their midst, the pastors, elders and deacons are treated differently from the members, as they have a good place to sleep and their food is made very special. You cannot see them in the midst with the members as Bible Students do, and if you are not part of the Bible Students and fellowship with them it is very hard to know the elders and leaders among them and this tells me how our Lord Jesus lived and stayed with his disciples."

Report from Uganda

Bro. Eliezer Jjuuko has submitted the following report of a mini-convention involving the Congo and West Nile brethren at the Paidha border during the period October 31 - November 3, 2014.

Studies were led by various brethren on the following topics:



Paidha Mini-Convention Attendees

- * "Christian Baptism - Baptism of the New Creation"
- * "The Rest and Sabbath of the New Creation"
- * "The Second Presence of the Lord and Its Implications, and Times of the End"
- * "The Parental Obligations of the New Creation"
- * "The Judgment of the New Creation"
- * "The Three Worlds"
- * "The Spirit of the Babylon"
- * "Trials and Besetments of the New Creation"
- * "The Organization of the New Creation"

- * "The Harvest and Thy God Reigns"
- * "The Law of the New Creation"
- * "The Calling of the Church"

Additionally, a baptismal discourse was conducted and the following brethren symbolized their consecrations: Sr. Lillian of the Paidha class and Srs. Francine and Viki as well as Bros. Alinyai, Upai and Matthew all of a new class in Congo. Testimony meetings as well as an elder and deacons meeting regarding the harvest work in the region brought the proceedings to a close. Approximately 70 brethren were present for the occasion.

Report from Kenya

Bro. David Mutei has provided the following update regarding the harvest work in Kenya and Tanzania during 2014 as well as a few

scheduled activities arranged for 2015, Lord willing.

Mailinane class - 50 attendees - studying "The Prince of Peace"

Nakuru class - 40 attendees - studying "Path of Truth Getting Brighter"

Marura class - 38 participants - studying "Two Ways to Search the Truth"

Dar-Saalam/Arusha, Tanzania - 50 participants - studying "The Importance of Love"

Kose class - 25 participants - studying "Thy Kingdom Come"

Turkana class - 20 participants - studying "Tabernacle Shadows"

Cheparus class- 65 attendees - studying

"The Time Is at Hand"

Four conventions, some with baptismal services already have been planned for 2015 including the Kitale convention, January 1-3; Turkana convention, March 13-15; Tanzania Arusha convention, April 24-25 and Nakura seminar, August 28-30.

The zeal of many brethren in this part of the Lord's vineyard is inspiring. May each of us be encouraged to proclaim God's word to others at every suitable opportunity.

Report from Cameroon

There has been much excitement concerning truth activities in Cameroon. In the previous issue of this newsletter, there was a report concerning an extended visit to Cameroon by Bro. Joe Dolan during the spring of 2014. Additionally, during September 2014, Bro. Bill Dutka also traveled to Cameroon to



Nakuru Class Members



Bro. Forjindam Seated with Class Recipients of Memorial Lesson

meet with the friends there. His written account highlighting his experiences with the brethren has been widely circulated. At this time, we are pleased to share the following update from Bro. Forjindam Alex Mokom who not only attended the Pan African seminar in Ghana during April 2014, but since his return to Cameroon he has been extremely active in coordinating the Harvest work there among the brethren.

We are entering a new phase of the Harvest work. Because of the large quantities of literature flowing to us from the United States, The Divine Plan of the Ages is in the hands of all the brethren in Cameroon and we have printed and distributed this publication in French as needed. In preparation for commemorating our Lord's Memorial, the friends here have received study eleven in Volume 6 concerning the Passover of the New Creation.

Our studies began with portions of the 53 Lessons, and presently Bro. Ngoe Isaiah Itoe is preparing to distribute a questionnaire from Sr. Rosemary Page in England which when distributed and corrected will aid in understanding the material contained in Volume 1. A few of us who have been blessed by studying the Volumes hope to witness to interested individuals throughout the country. The Bible Students here are growing in the knowledge of the truth and there is a hunger and thirst after righteousness. Clas-

ses are increasingly being established in various parts of the country and many religious groups are inviting us to share God's word with them in their homes and churches. We give thanks to God for the love shown to us in Cameroon by our brethren, especially throughout America.

BSCFA Board of Directors

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

Chairman: Bro. Richard Doctor

Secretary: Bro. Austin Williams

Treasurer: Sr. Nannette Nekora

Other Board members include Bros. Joe Dolan, Bill Dutka, Bob Gray, Lee Hicks, Brian Montague, and Homer Montague.

Our Lord's Memorial

**Thursday, April 2, 2015
(after 6:00 P.M.)**

**Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.
Luke 23:4**

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**