



A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34

Sis. Gladys, Agnetta, Bro. Stephen David @ Kitui



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B_{erean} C_{hristadelphian} A_{ssistance} F_{und} Newsletter

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April 2012

BCAF Mission Statement:

The mission and purpose of the BCAF is two fold:

- 1) To assist in the development of self-sustaining material and spiritual infrastructure for those who have no other apparent source of such support
- 2) to provide international emergency financial support to brethren and sisters in crisis situations

2011 Kenya Trip Report



In January-February 2011 three brethren and two sisters made a journey to visit the household in Kenya. Bro Bob Bent was travelling from Texas, Bro Sid Jones and Bro David and Sister Dawn Humphreys from Saskatchewan and Sister Kaye Yuen from British Columbia. We all met up in Nairobi, the capitol of Kenya.

Bob, Sid and Kaye had had previous visits, but it was the first time for Dawn and David.

There had been many emails in the previous weeks, discussing clothes to wear, immunizations and medications, travel documents, spiritual study material that could be carried with us, and most importantly, the subjects the brethren wished to cover in their discussions with each ecclesia. We also had an agenda of work that needed to be done, i.e. update the data files with the names and information of all the members, update the information on what format each ecclesia had available for study material, and to generally find out the health status and living conditions of the members.

We spent Friday, **January 21, 2011** in Nairobi, going to the bank, buying Bibles, travel supplies and co-ordinating with our driver David Gatua. The team that left Nairobi on the morning of Saturday January 22 included the overseas visitors plus brother Epaphras Wekati, sister Mary Agnes Kariuki and Agnes, the wife of David Gatua. David, our driver, had been an active participant in scriptural discussions on all past trips. He was contemplating baptism, but wanted Agnes his wife to have a better understanding of our beliefs. We felt that the best way to accomplish this would be to have her travel with us.

We left Nairobi on a cool morning. With 9 of us plus the luggage we had a full van. On our earlier visits there had not been any limit on the number of passengers, and you would see incredible numbers in each matatu, but now the government has limited the number of passengers to the seats available. David is a professional guide and obeys this rule but in the rural areas we could still see amazing numbers being crowded into each van.

Kaye experienced this in the Kimilili area when we had too many for our van and she rode in a local matatu with Brother Rodgers Musebe. An interesting experience, but not one you would want to repeat on a daily basis.

As we progressed further out into the countryside we saw what was to become a recurrent scene, --- people collecting water. Transporting jerry cans of water by hand, on donkeys, on bicycles, from muddy water holes, rivers or communal taps.

When we visited the ecclesias that have water tanks that were funded by the BCAF we could see the great difference this has made in their lives. They expressed fervent thanks to all who had shown their love in this care for them.

KITUI January 22 and 23

Kitui is the ecclesia of the Njoka family, about 165 Kilometers (about 100 miles) east of Nairobi. David Njoka is a long-standing brother in the Berean fellowship, but as he gets older his son Stephen David has taken on many of the responsibilities of the family and the ecclesia. (Continued on Page 3)

2012 Kenya Fraternal Gathering

"Worship the Lord in the Beauty of His Holiness"

A number of ecclesias located in the Western province of Kenya had worked together to organize the **1st Kenyan Fraternal Gathering**. The gathering site selected was the Mabanga Agricultural Training College between the cities of Bungoma and Weybuye which is 400 km (250 miles) west of Nairobi.

Selected dates were February 16-19, 2012. The gathering held bible studies, exhortations and lectures and also hold first principle classes for those learning the Truth. The facility was quite comparable to the Hye Grounds in Texas, USA. The theme was, **"Worship the Lord in the Beauty of His**



2012 First Quarter Financial Overview



The first quarter of 2012 has come and gone and we are yet waiting for our Lord's return. While we wait we have been commanded to spread the gospel, visit the widows and the fatherless, and to care as we are able to those in need—especially to those of the household of faith. One avenue to assist those of the household is through the BCAF. Currently, as you can see below, the BCAF accounts are below the red line. The red line is an account threshold that is set aside for emergency relief for some type of natural disaster that could affect our brothers and sisters and their dependants. The ecclesias are growing and spreading in Africa. The volunteers of the household working with these funds are having to make difficult budgeting decisions: **how do we supply emergency requests for aid and yet stick to long term relief goals like funding wells and agricultural projects while trying to find money for the very important spiritual supplies that are also desperately needed for growing and new ecclesias?**

So much has been done over the past couple of years with the generous donations received by the BCAF. There is a long list (literally) of individuals or ecclesias that have been helped during times of need and also projects implemented to reduce future reliance on the fund.

Do you want to help but you don't have much in the budget? Get involved. Donate your time along with the other volunteers. There is a desperate need for volunteers—hence a very long overdue newsletter!

Do you want to help but want to know what your money is going to exactly? Great! You can sponsor part or all of a project or item—you decide how the funds get spent!

Go to:

thebcacf.com

Look for the PayPal button or send it to:

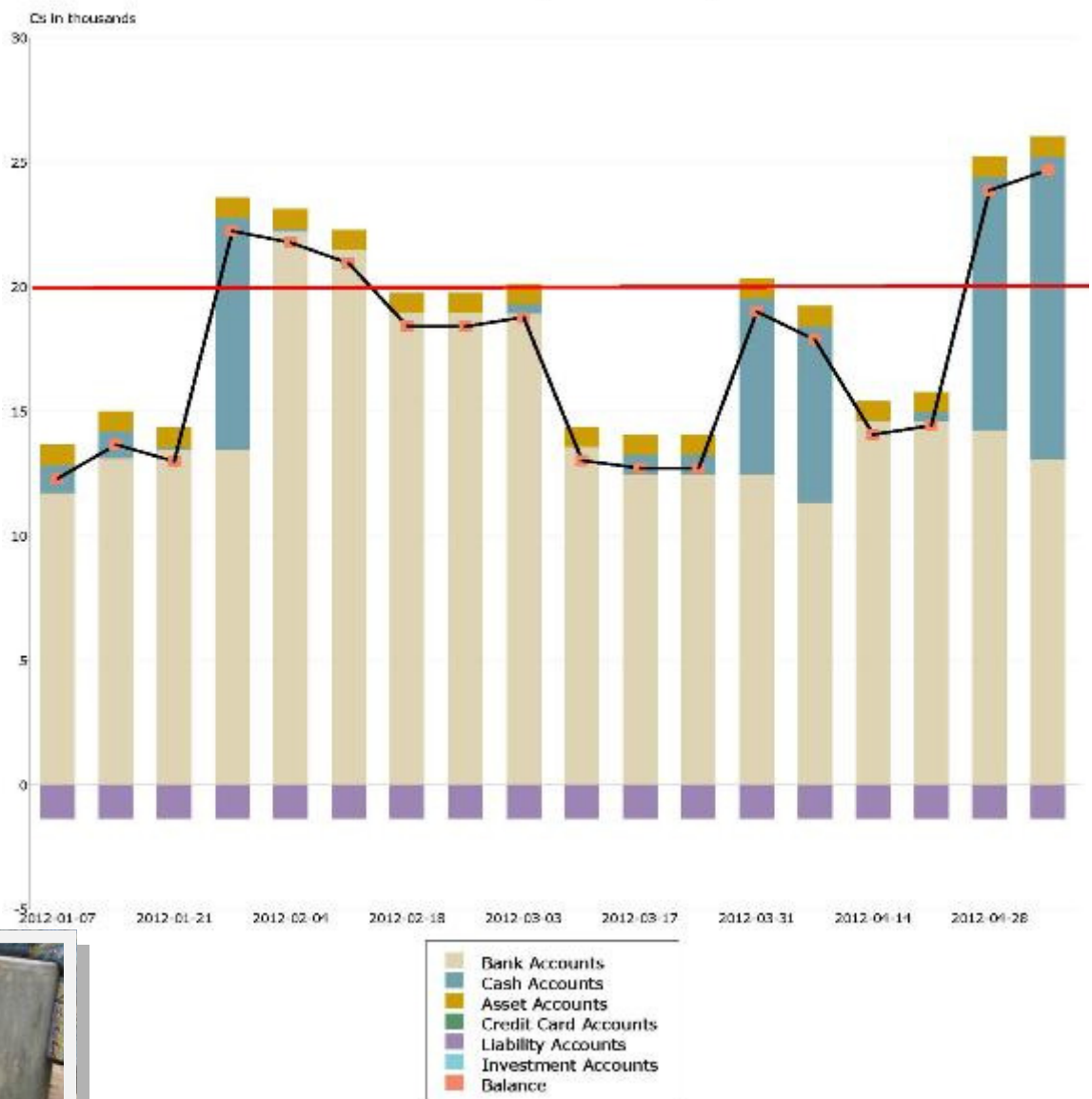
Box 1381
Battleford, SK S0M 0E0
Canada

If you have questions or want to speak to the volunteers regarding the financials of the BCAF contact us at:

thebcacf@gmail.com

2012 Weekly BCAF Account Balances - YTD

As of 2012-04-30 (in Canadian Dollars)



2011 Kenya Trip (continued)

It has been a joy to see Stephen progress from a young lad to an immersed brother, a husband and a father. Stephen's wife, sister Gladys has given birth to their second child since our visit.

A delightful young sister, Anna David was distressed because she had to drop out of High School due to lack of funds for school fees. Since our return a sponsor has been found and Anna will complete her school year. This is a common situation in every ecclesia. Some students have to leave part way through the school year if they cannot find the funds for school fees. Education is not a luxury in Africa, it is essential if one is to have any hope of earning a living. Without at least a High School diploma one is condemned to eating only what one can grow, or buying what can be earned with the few shillings paid for manual labor.

The traveling team arrived at Kitui in the later afternoon and was greeted by Bro. Stephen on his boda-boda (a small motor-bike used as a taxi service). After checking into the hotel and a bite to eat Bro. Stephen led us to his home where we meet the remainder of the ecclesia to do the daily bible readings.

Our hotel was next door to an evangelical church which had a loud sound system, so morning came very early, with rousing hymn singing around 5:30 AM.

We had Memorial Meeting with Bro Stephen presiding and Bro. Sid exhorting, then enjoyed time talking with the brethren and



Children at Bro. Moses' place

sisters while we walked around the yard and enjoyed mango fruit fresh from the tree.

Stephen has a small roadside store, but he has been robbed twice. He would like to get a shipping container that he can lock, to prevent loss. *(This has since been funded.)*

Bro David and his son Samuel have some ongoing health problems.

We departed Kitui around 2:00 PM to make our way towards Ikutha and Kibwezi. The road south to Ikutha and Kibwezi was very rough. A gravel road, often with less potholes on the shoulder than on the road. You feel you have covered three times the distance just weaving from side to side. We teased David that if people asked us what

Kibwezi/Ikutha Update:

A portion of the irrigated farming project here must find a new home as the lease has ended. A parcel of land can be purchased by the Athi River but the members don't quite have enough to buy it.

Our sister in Christ, Jennifer Kassim, wife of bro. Moses Kassim, fell asleep in Christ end of April 2012 leaving 4 of her own children and many orphans they cared for to our brother Moses.



Bro. Moses Kassim (center) with wife (Sis. Jennifer) & son (Bro. Ali Joseph)

side of the road they drive on in Kenya we would not know how to answer.

On our drive we witnessed dry country, some rocky outcrops, Baobab trees, thorny thickets and large cacti. Even though this drive is through some "remote" territory the roads remain busy with people walking, tending to goats and cattle, leading donkeys with water barrels and women carrying firewood. When we would pass a motorbike you nearly always saw three riders as a standard. As we drove through small communities people would be along the roadside selling pails of charcoal, pails of vegetables, clothing, household goods and the incongruous signs for ATM machines.

KIBWEZI / IKUTHA January 23 24 & 25

After a 2.5 hour drive we were met at the Athi market by Bro. Moses Kassim and Bro. Leonard Makiti. After being welcomed very warmly and enthusiastically we all then squashed back into the van so the local brethren could direct us to their homes. Shortly after our arrival to the residence of Bro. Moses Kassim's we were given a meal of rice, potato and chicken. Bro. Moses' home is on a hillside near the Athi River. Bro. Moses showed us a piece of land adjacent to his house that he hopes to irrigate. This is a very dry area and he has not been able to grow crops successfully by relying on rainfall.

The river runs year round, so irrigation is allowed.

Bro. Leonard Makiti showing his maize crop

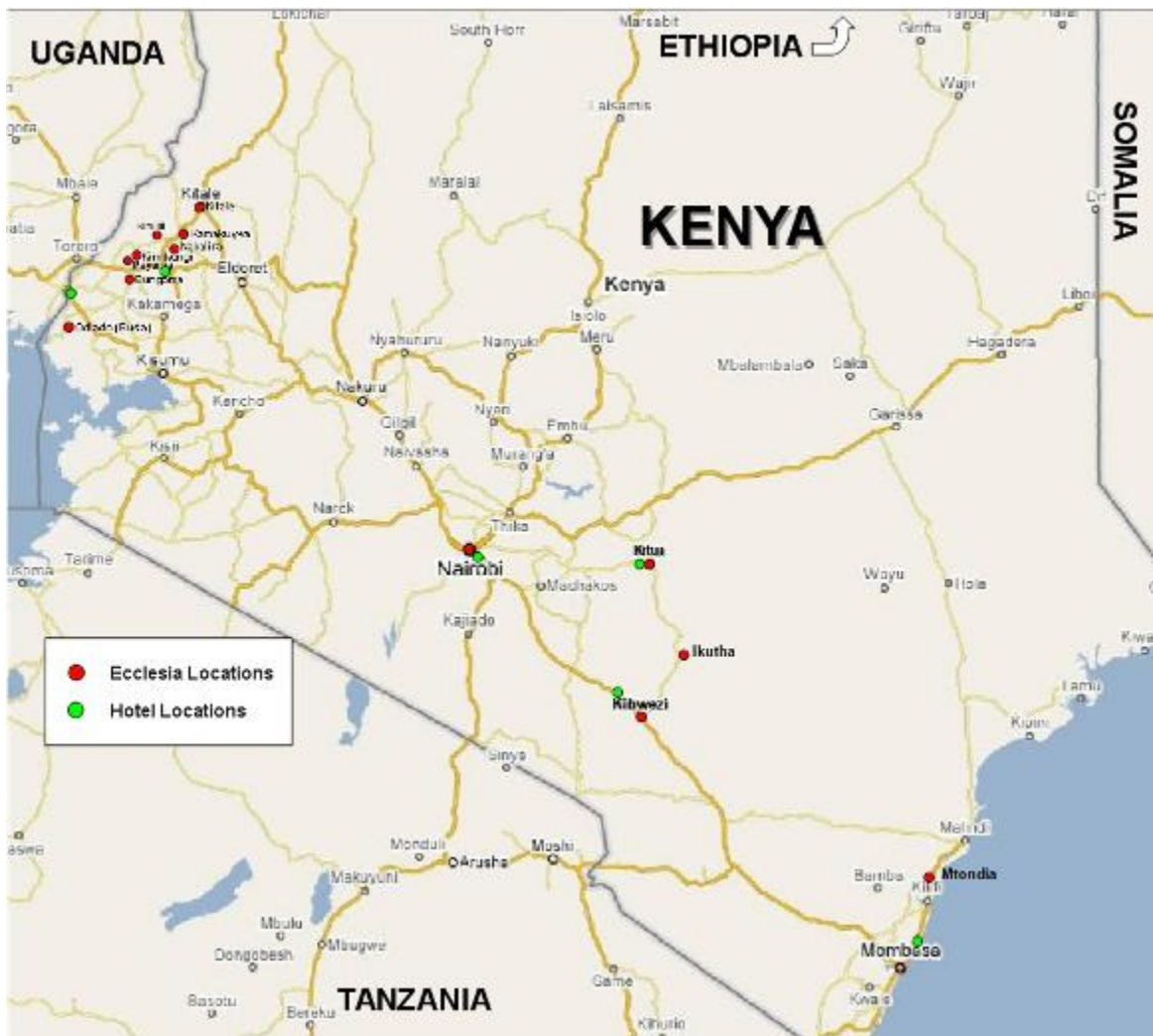


BCAF Not an Entity to Itself

In recent times, those who volunteer in the work of the BCAF have discussed and acted on measures to help assure the fellowship that the BCAF is not a separate entity attached to the Berean fellowship, but rather a collection of volunteers who are dedicated to the service of the Berean membership. At the same time we have been questioned about our responsibility as a group, if or when one of the volunteers is found to have broken the commandments of Christ. The volunteers believe the answer to that question must be consistent with the fact that we are not our own entity.

The volunteers of the BCAF are members of various ecclesias throughout the fellowship who live in various locations in different countries. We respect judgments and decisions of the volunteers' respective local ecclesias. The home ecclesia will most often know the details situation that fellow BCAF volunteers often do not have access to. We respect and implement the decisions of the home ecclesia regarding the conduct and doctrines of any volunteer of the BCAF.

2011 Kenya Trip: Map of Ecclesial Locations



2011 Kenya Trip (cont.)

Moses and his wife sister Jennifer have four children, and they have also accepted the care of 16 orphans. Sister Jennifer has had a stroke, even though she is a very young woman, and as a result of the stroke she has ongoing health problems. Some single mothers in the neighborhood help take care of the orphans, and with these addition 5 children the number of dependents is 25.

Bro. Moses' home has three rooms for the children where you will find wall to wall three-tier bunk beds. There is a room they hope to convert to a kitchen, but at the moment they cook over a wood fire in an outside hut. The home also has a BCAF funded rainwater tank that is set up to collect rain water from the roof.

After a visit we travelled one hour to our overnight accommodation at Hunter's Lodge. The following morning we met heavy rain as we drove back to Kibwezi.

The road looked like a river at times.

Bro. Moses arranged for his furniture outside under a tree in the yard so the group could assemble together for spiritual discussion and exhortation. Bro. Epaphras spoke on how Christ's sacrifice declared God's righteousness. Bro. David Humphreys spoke on the history of the Christadelphians highlighting the reasons behind some of the early struggles and divisions. This was of interest to our members, but it was felt that those who were still studying would benefit more from a teaching session with brother Epaphras. This became the normal routine as studies were held with each ecclesia in future sessions. In the afternoon we also gathered where Bro. Bob overviewed the scriptural basis of the doctrine of fellowship and enjoyed discussion on the daily readings. The day was a very pleasant day centered on the scriptures.

On day three of our visit we drove to Bro. Leonard Makiti and Sister Lydia's home, about 40 minutes from Moses' place. They have about 6 acres of ancestral land that had previously only been used for grazing

stock. Leonard has started growing crops and is doing very well. His soil retains moisture better than that at Kibwezi and he has not needed irrigation. He is growing a wide assortment of crops including maize, beans, peas, greengram, millet and sorgham. Bro. Stephen Kithome is also farming on a nearby section of land. We were not able to meet up with Bro. Joshua who was a member of the Ikutha ecclesia as he had moved to Nairobi in search of work. Bro. Joshua used to earn a living cutting firewood but his power saw was damaged and he could not replace it. Leonard and Lydia are building an adobe brick house and storage sheds with natural local building materials. They are doing all the farming manually. All the brethren would benefit from a shared power plough or oxen and a pull-plough to help with soil preparation.

Bro John Simiyu is giving farming seminars to each group in Western province on soil management and water conservation and will, when able, extend his work to this area.

Youth Core—Youth Letter Writing Program



The Youth Letter Writing Program is in the process of being refreshed so that children who were too young during the last intake, youth who now wish to participate and new Sunday School members now may have an opportunity to participate.

It is a program for ecclesial youths between the ages of 7 to 20 inclusively. The youths are given a peer match in a different ecclesia to pen pal with and hopefully develop a life long friendship that is mutually beneficial and based on their love for the Lord our God.

All ecclesias with youth have been contacted and asked for feedback from their youth. We ask if you are a Recording brother or Sunday School superintendent to please check your email and respond if you haven't already done so. Many eager youths are waiting for all participating ecclesias to reply so that the second round may continue.

Questions/Concerns go to: Sis. Jeanne Fuhr: jeannefuhr@msn.com

Brethren
Stephen &
Leonard



In the Ikutha-Kibwezi ecclesia there are three High School students in need of school fees for the rest of the year.

The brethren at Kibwezi and Ikutha co-operate very well together and are very supportive of each other. Bro. Moses is an experienced recording brother and submits excellent financial reports to the BCAF. In light of the cooperative nature of the Ikutha-Kibwezi ecclesia there is much benefit in aiding the ecclesia to become more self-supporting by growing their own food. A sponsor has provided funds for a preliminary irrigation scheme for Bro. Moses' land. If this venture is successful, he hopes to be able to extend the amount of irrigated land next season.

M'TONDIA January 27, 28 and 30

On Wednesday January 26 the travelling team drove 5.5 hours to Mombasa, where we would stay while we visited the M'tondia ecclesia and also meet up with others that had contacted the Christadelphians for more information about the scriptures. We stayed at a hotel near Mombasa and drove each day to visit the M'tondia ecclesia at Kilifi, about 58 Kilometers (36 miles). M'tondia and Mombasa are on the east coast of Kenya. The mid-days were quite hot with very high humidity. The cooler evenings were quite welcomed.

The M'tondia ecclesia had experienced some 'growing pains' in earlier years. It is an ecclesia of new converts and is quite isolated from the other ecclesias in Kenya. We were impressed and very happy to find that the brethren had applied good spiritual values to solve their problems and are now working harmoniously. Their example

was an exhortation to us through many lessons of applying patience, love and forgiveness in dealing with fellow members of the One Body.

While in M'tondia we enjoyed three days of mutually beneficial discussions and an uplifting memorial meeting on Sunday. The sisters provided us with a very substantial cooked lunch each day. We were also able to see the progress on the well that was being dug, thanks to the BCAF funds. Though close to the ocean, this is a dry area, and they often run short of water. The communal tap in the compound sometimes runs dry due to high water demands. Once the M'tondia ecclesia are able to secure a reliable water supply they would like to get a dairy cow and some poultry.

We were very touched at how welcome we were made to feel, even by the sisters who do not speak English.

On Saturday January 29 we travelled with brother Epaphras as he followed up on some contacts south of Mombasa who wanted to learn more about our beliefs and discuss the spreading of the gospel message. Bro. Epa did much listening to these contacts as he gained an appreciation for who they are and their paradigm before guiding the discussion on the scriptures to first principle teachings. Bro. Epa is an excellent example of preaching the gospel to new contacts. Now that Bro. Epa is retired from his job he focuses his efforts on preaching to interested contacts, and also visiting and encouraging the existing ecclesias. As inquiries come from more countries the need for more

New well at Mtondia near Bro. Fred
Omoto's place



workers, like Bro. Epa, is obviously evident.

This trip was sister Mary Agnes' first visit to the coast. She was able to make contact with her step-mother and a cousin while in Mombasa. We are always happy when Mary Agnes can travel with us, as we really enjoy her company and she gives us some insight into local customs. Sis Mary Agnes has been in isolation in Nairobi and welcomed the opportunity to travel and meet with her Kenyan brothers and sisters.

Monday January 31 consisted of the drive back to Nairobi of 485 kilometers (300 miles). In North America this is an easy day's travel, but with speed bumps every few kilometers and a stop for fuel the trip took 8 hours. On the trip to Nairobi we were fortunate to come across several groups of zebras and gazelles and also an amazing sighting of a group of about 20 elephants. The elephant, though naturally grey, were rusty red in colour. This is due to the fact that elephants roll in the wet soil to cool themselves.

Tuesday February 1 was even a longer day of travelling where we saw some amazing scenery as we ventured from Nairobi westward through the Rift Valley, into the mountains filled with acacia, eucalyptus and pine trees, across the equator and through the agricultural-based Western Province ending in the City of Busia which

Sis. Kaye
& Sis.
Ziporah
Charo



Sid Jones, Bob Bent, Humphreys Odaba,
Francis Muchwanju, Francis Juma, Dave H.



borders Uganda. Busia is north of Lake Victoria and is near the Odiado ecclesia. This was approximately 11.5 hours of travelling which included a short visit to Sis. Beatrice and a short stop to collect Sis. Mary Agnes. While at Sis. Mary's home we were able to view a nice greenhouse which her son uses to grow tomatoes as a cash crop to improve the family income. Sis. Mary also has a rainwater tank but would like a larger tank to store water for the plants. The roads were much cleaner than in those in the eastern part of the country. Our travel also included a brief stop at Eldoret to meet sister Dalvine. The Western province has many sugar cane plantations. We also had a brief stop to say hello to brother John Simiyu at Mumais as we neared the end of our travels for the day. We arrived at the Busia hotel prior to 8:30 PM.

ODIADO—February 2 - 6

In the morning we travel 30 minutes south of Busia to arrive at Odiado Ecclesial hall and the home of Bro. Humphreys Odaba where we receive another warm welcome. We enjoy being in the lovely meeting hall that the ecclesia has built. No matter what their situation they take care of their Hall. This time there were new chairs and a lectern.

With many learning the truth, Bro. Epaphras continued his classes. Among the group is Agnes who is the wife of our driver David Gatua.

Bro. Humphreys Odaba gave a talk on the history of the ecclesia, and this led to a discussion of present needs and hopes for the future. The brethren and sisters sit on separate sides of the hall, but all are involved in discussions and decisions.

Apart from the focus on spiritual growth through study classes and Bible Schools the needs were listed as water and then electricity, and repairing the house of one of the widowed sisters. They have a well but it does run dry after a prolonged period without rain. Most of the members have access to the well, but some houses are too far away. The ecclesia would like to have

rainwater tanks, starting with those who cannot access the well. If they could be connected to the electric power line they could have access to more study material on the internet.

Two groups from Uganda came to Odiado to meet us: one group of brethren from just over the border in Busia, Uganda and another group of brethren, sisters and students from the Dokolo area who came from the northern part of Uganda. Some of those from Dokolo had been in CBM, but had spent many years isolated in refugee camps before returning to their own homes. Brother Epaphras has been very involved in improving their knowledge and their understanding of fellowship. He continues to visit, instruct and examine candidates before immersion. Both groups are very eager to share the great news that they have received through God's grace, and will need assistance to help them in their work.

Brother Francis Juma of the Busia ecclesia would like to translate some of the materials into the Luganda, the local language of Uganda. If he could get a computer it would help tremendously. *(This has since been funded.)*

Each day was packed full of talks, sharing the daily readings and discussions, sharing the wonderful meals provided by the sisters, talking and getting to know each other better. Sister Dawn was very busy at each ecclesia updating the information database about all the members.

One of the highlights of a visit to Odiado is the wonderful singing by the members and the Sunday school scholars. The Odiado ecclesia sings with heartfelt connection which includes clapping and the use of complementing instruments.

At the memorial meeting three of the Ugandan brethren, Dennis Okabo, Alfred Omara and Geoffrey Ogweng were given the right hand of fellowship. They had previously been examined and immersed by Brother Epaphras, but hadn't yet received the right hand of fellowship. Following the memorial meeting we sadly departed and drove to our hotel at Webuye.



BUNGOMA AREA ECCLESIAS—February 7

At breakfast next morning it became apparent that David and Agnes had not slept very well and after some inquiry Agnes informed us that she was very troubled. Agnes identified that all of us are clothed and that she and David were naked. She of course was referring to being covered through baptism into Jesus Christ. Agnes expressing her concern in this way showed us that she understood the command for baptism once an understanding of the first principles was achieved. David also echoed these thoughts and they identified that they had been up until 4:00 in the morning studying and reading scripture. This news was received with great joy and thanksgiving among all the team. David had shown much interest in further understanding the Bible since he first became our driver. Agnes had surprised us with the speed and joy with which she learned the full gospel message. She explained that she had many unanswered questions about scripture for many years and now she understands the truth of the matter. Please keep reading to see how this expression develops in the days that followed.

After breakfast we travelled to Sabata which was about a 50 minute drive. On the way we picked up Bro. Rodgers Musebe where we were greeted by Brother Moses and Sister Mary Juma and their daughter Sister Bridget. We had a brief visit over soda and cookies. They have a small neat compound where they are working on extending the adobe brick walls of the house, but do not have funds for the iron roof yet. This area has suitable soil for making mud bricks, and Bro. Moses and Bro. William work at this as well as growing crops for their families. Bro. Moses and Sister Mary have a large family, six surviving children. Sister Bridget had been forced to leave school half way through her final year because of lack of funds. She is a very bright and motivated student and we were happy to be able to sponsor her to finish the year.

We then travelled on to Kitale where we met up with Bro. Fredrick Wepukhulu and to see Zipporah (Zippy) the widow of our late brother Pinon Wekati. After a brief visit we then got back into the van where Bro. Rodgers directed our travels to the farmland that he and his wife, Sister Carolyn Peywa, are renting for their market garden project. It was obvious that a lot of hard work and planning had gone into the project, and the crops were doing quite well. The land is irrigated from a nearby river. The aim of the project is to be able to provide food or funds from the proceeds to the more impoverished ecclesias. After Sis. Carolyn showing us the status of the project we retired out of the sun in the farm shanti house. We then headed to Brother Rodgers and Sister Carolyn's home for supper. Since we had more travelers than what the van was permitted for, Sis. Kaye volunteered to take a mutatu. Bro. Rodgers escorted Sis. Kaye during her adventure in the mutatu. In the evening we returned back to the hotel which was a 2 hour and 20 minute drive at night

Odiado
Ecclesia
(with Bro.
Humphreys
Odaba on left
with a cane)

Ecclesia	Spiritual Materials Requested					Usable Media Types				Additional Information	
	Exhortations	Sunday School	Bible Companions	Bibles	Study Materials / Books	CDs	Cassette Tapes	MP3s	Written	Notes	Email Address*
Kenya Ecclesias											
Mtondia @ Kilifi		X	X	X	X	X			X	send small email files to brethren	Fred Omoto: wanjalaomoto@yahoo.com Julius Mwaziro: juliasgarama@yahoo.com
Mombasa										New sister in isolation	Felistus Wandati: felistuswandati@yahoo.com Moses Kassim: moseskassim@yahoo.com
Ikutha / Kibwezi	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		Leonard Makitti: leonardmakitti@yahoo.com
Kitui	X				X	X			X		Stephen David: david.stephen73@gmail.com
Nairobi					X	X			X	Sis. Beatrice Belengu requests written material	David Gatua: dnyamu2061@yahoo.com Mary Agnes Kikuyu: agneskariuki08@yahoo.com
Mayanja						X		X	X		John Simiyu: simiyujohn@yahoo.com
Sabata	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	Requests laptop & swahili bibles	William Kilui: williamkilui@yahoo.com
Kimilili											Moses Juma: mosesjuma24@yahoo.com
Kitale		X							X		Rodgers Musebe: carolynpaywa@yahoo.com
Kimikung'i	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Fredrick Wepukhulu: fwepukhulu@yahoo.com
Nakalira	X	X			X		X	X	X	Do not have AC power. Much need for Sunday School materials.	David Muchuma: davidmuchuma@yahoo.com
Odiado	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Arphaxad Wekati: awalunywa@yahoo.com
Nigeria Ecclesia											
Owerri	X					X	X	X	X	Identified request for laptops, CD/DVD audio & video recorder	Stephen Juma: stevenjuma@opera.com
Tanzania Ecclesia											
Arusha										New sister in isolation	Paul Walukana: paulwalukana@yahoo.com
Uganda Ecclesias											
Dokolo	X	X	X						X		Dennis Okoko: brodennis34@yahoo.com
Awiri	X	X	X						X	Alfred Omara, Geoffrey Ogweng	No known email addresses
Lira Town	X	X	X						X	Moses Ocen, Sam Oling	No known email addresses
Nambeleco										John Omara, David Pule, Adoko Makonic, Elut Benson	No known email addresses
Busia											Wilberforce Wandera: wilber.wandera@yahoo.co.uk
Madowa	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		No known email addresses
Bugiri										Ephraim Maaka	No known email addresses
Busolwe										Jude Kasiwo	No known email addresses

Note: * please limit size of email files as data usage fees can be expensive - request clarification prior to sending large files by email.

The table above is the most up to date information regarding spiritual materials requested by the ecclesias in Africa. If you or your ecclesia is interested in sending any of the requested materials please either contact the member listed for the particular ecclesia and also please let the BCAF know what you have sent so that necessary updates can be made.

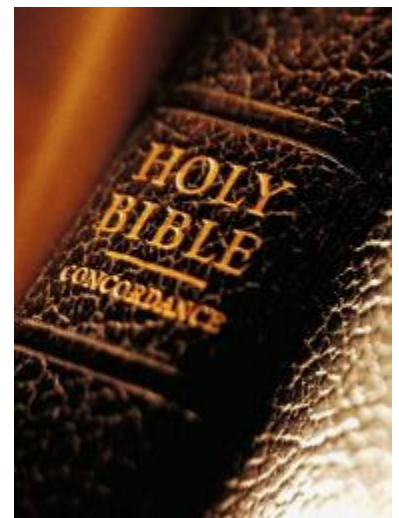
If you notice any errors, additions or updates that need to be made regarding your ecclesia please contact: thebcf@gmail.com.

For any ecclesia needing Bible Companions please look in the upcoming Berean Ecclesial News magazine, as, Lord willing, there will be one inserted with it that you can use to photocopy and make more as needed.

There is a special need for Sunday School Materials for all ecclesias. There is significant need in the Nakalira and Ikutha/Kibwesi ecclesias for any Sunday School Materials.



Visiting Kimikung'i Ecclesia



2011
Kenyan
Trip
Report
(continued)

Tuesday, February 8th

In the morning we travelled to Bungoma where we briefly met Bro. Arphaxad Wekati prior to proceeding to Mayanja. In Mayanja we visited the home of Bro John Simiyu and his wife Sister Caroline. At their home Bro. Enock Simiyu, John's brother, was also in attendance. Bro. John and Bro. Enock's father and mother who are Bro. Zadok and Sis. Mary Simiyu. Bro. Zadok and Sis. Mary are with another Christadelphian fellowship. We did the daily readings then had discussions with interested friends who were also at their home. Some of these contacts had read Bible Basics and wanted more information. We were expected at Kimikung'i so had to depart after a quick lunch.

So it was off Kimikung'i to renew old friendships and to meet some new members. Talks were given on Strengthening (on oneself, on one's brother and for the ecclesia) and on the Doctrine of Fellowship. Bro. Bob provided the arranging brethren some advice on some administration problems they were having. After some one on one visiting we then collected the travelers to return back to the hotel where we discussed the many proposed projects we had heard about over the past few weeks and discuss ideas on how we could help.

March 31st, 2012 Weather Update for the area of Kenya

Dear brothers and sisters,

The following is a bit of a snapshot of growing conditions and the forecast for Kenya which are so important to the folks there, because they feel the effects of the weather so directly. If we are having a drought, we can still go to the store and purchase what we need to carry on. In countries like Kenya, that is not so easily done, since money is scarce, and the cost of food responds to drought immediately by shooting upwards sharply.

And so we make an effort to look at conditions in Kenya on a regular basis, so that we can know what has been happening, and what to expect to happen in the near future, as far as cropping, and food production are concerned.

Western areas of Kenya appear to have had a smaller harvest of their crops from the season that has just ended. This was apparently due to rainfalls that were not too reliable. They are now looking for the rains to come so that they can plant their next season's seeds into moist soil.

The Eastern areas have had continued drought conditions, and it looks like they can expect to continue to have drought stress in their cropping efforts for this season as well. Fortunately, our members in the Kibwezi and Ikutha area have been undertaking irrigated cropping, which appears to be going quite well at the present time. The water source is a spring sourced river which allows them use of the water for irrigation even in dry seasons. Our members at Kitui do not have access to such a source of water, and so irrigation is not an option there.

The following forecast from the Kenya Meteorological Department appears a little confusing, however it seems to suggest that in Western areas, they can expect good rains, but that they may show up in heavy showers that may not be distributed very well, and so could mean lower rain volumes in some areas, while causing flooding and soil erosion in others. This continues to underscore the need for farmers to employ methods of farming that conserve soil and soil moisture. The Western province is a small area of Kenya compared to Eastern and Northern areas where the rainfall seems likely to be more limited, and we need to keep that in mind as we read the following report.

"Meteorological Department (KMD) has predicted depressed and poorly distributed rainfall over most parts of the country during the March - May long rain season.

The department has advised the farming communities of Western, Nyanza and Rift Valley where rainfall is expected to be near-normal with a tendency towards above-normal to take advantage of the rains and maximize crop yield through appropriate land use management.

While releasing the outlook for the March - May 2012 long-rains season during a press conference in Nairobi, Kenya, KMD director Dr. Joseph Mukabana said only western counties and the northern coastal strip are likely to experience slightly enhanced rainfall while several places in northeastern are likely to experience slightly depressed rainfall.

"March to May constitute an important rainfall season over Kenya and much of East Africa in general. Farmers are advised to work closely with the ministry of Agriculture on ways of taking advantage of the expected good rainfall," said Dr. Mukabana, adding that most of the rainfall in various parts of the country is expected during the month of April.

Dr. Mukabana observed that other agriculture counties within the central, southeastern and coastal regions where the rainfall is expected to be near-normal with a tendency towards below-normal, farmers are also advised to liaise with the ministry of Agriculture to get advice for the best use of the rains by planting appropriate crops.

The forecast for March - May 2012 is based on the prevailing and expected sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) over the Pacific, Indian Atlantic Oceans as well as other large scale (Synoptic), small scale (Mesoscale) and local factors that affect the climate over Kenya.

He explained that the poor rainfall in most parts of the country is due to the prevailing weak La Niña conditions over eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean and the cool sea surface temperatures in the western Equatorial Indian Ocean.

The department also warned of disasters including lightning strikes and isolated cases of landslides/mudslides which may occur in some parts of western and Rift Valley.

"The national disaster operations center is advised to take the necessary measures that would ensure mitigation of any negative impacts resulting from the forecast conditions," said Dr. Mukabana.

He also warned of water borne diseases associated with poor sanitation like cholera and typhoid in areas expected to receive enhanced rainfall.

Dr. Mukabana called on health authorities to be on the lookout and equip hospitals with necessary drugs to be able to deal with such situations as they arise

The rains are expected to begin in the second and third week of March and end in May while in some areas extending to June."

In addition, the choice of crops to be grown is having an impact on the availability and price of food. Maize is the traditional food crop grown in most areas of Africa, however, increased demand for energy and sugar are having their effects on land use there. Sugar companies are expanding the area they lease for production of sugar cane, and it appears there is increasing acceptance of growing crops for bio-fuel. More acres for growing these crops mean fewer acres for growing the food that sustains life.

More recent reports than the one quoted above, indicate that heavy monsoon rains in other countries may have robbed the weather systems that were expected to have brought rains to Kenya in the latter half of March, and that they are currently not receiving those rains. Let us pray that the rains begin soon, so that our members there will be able to grow their food for the months ahead. An email from bro John Simiyu expresses that they are still expecting to receive rains, and accordingly, are preparing for planting. However, we must bear in mind that the rains seem to be subject to a rainy season, and therefore when that season is delayed, it may also mean less rainfall within the time remaining to the season. We pray that the rains will be plentiful when they do show up

We also now have quite a few members in Uganda, and the weather is expected to be more friendly to crop and garden production there compared to Kenya.

Let us continually pray to Yahweh that our brothers and sisters will be provided for, and be ready to be the means of that provision if called on to do so.

Bro Sid Jones



2011 Kenya Trip Report (continued)

Wednesday February 9th

After travelling many miles the van was due for some servicing. David Gatua headed off to give the van an oil change and general servicing. Bro. Epa picked up Bro. Bob B., Bro. David H. to meet up with Kimikung'i finance committee to follow up on the discussion from the previous day as to administrative process. After this we returned to the hotel for some much needed rest while Bro. Epa reviewed the written baptismal examination of David and Agnes. This is the day that Bro. Sid needs to travel to Eldoret to catch a plane to Nairobi where he commences his flights back to Canada. Bro. Epa Wekati, Bro. John Simiyu traveled with David Gatua and Bro. Sid to see Bro. Sid off in Eldoret.

While the group took Bro. Sid to Eldoret the remainder (Sis. Kaye, Bro. Bob, Sis. Dawn and Bro. David) met with Carolyn to arrange to purchase replacement pump for broken irrigation pump on her market garden project. Sis. Carolyn had done the research and found a used replacement engine.

Thursday February 10th

During the morning of February 10th Bro. Epa conducted verbal interviews with David and Agnes separately. Both candidates passed the interview showing an excellent knowledge of the things concern the Name of Jesus Christ and the things concerning the Kingdom of God. What a positive way to start the day! After having some sandwiches for lunch we were off to Sabata to visit bro William Kilui and his family. William has a bore-hole on the property but it is not lined or covered. Using the water for his brick making trade, but would prefer a tank for household water. This

ecclesia was next on the list for water tanks and have received the funds since our visit, thanks to a generous sponsor who contributed toward the projects. We gathered in the home of Bro.

William and Sis. Florence to hold discussions on the first portion daily bible readings. Following this we made the trip to Kitale to once again visit Bro. Fredrick.

In Kitale, we met Bro. Fredrick at the local school with Bro. David Simiyu, Zipporah and a friend Stephen where we held discussion over the second and third portion daily bible readings. Following this it was quite dark and time to make the 90 minute drive back to the hotel.

Friday February 11th

All beginning to feel very tired as it has been non-stop busy days. Today was the day for the baptisms of David and Agnes. Bro. Epa arrived at the hotel and a brief talk was given prior to the immersions of Bro. David and Sis. Agnes. As Bro. Epa and David entered the hotel pool a class of approximately 30 children prepared for swimming lessons were pulled aside by their teacher to watch the process of baptism. The teacher said, "Children, who has heard of John the Baptist?" Many of the children raised their hand in excitement and once called upon gave an explanation of who John the Baptist was. The

teacher then went on to explain that they were going to witness a baptism. Bro. Epa then proceeded to baptize first Bro. David Gatua and followed by Sis. Agnes Macharia. It truly was an excellent start to the day. Following the baptisms we had a quick lunch and then made our voyage to Chenjeni. Brother Abraham and his mother Sis. Jerita had been out of fellowship, but had applied to be readmitted.

Sister Kaye was delighted to see Jerita again after many years absence and received a very warm welcome from her. It is amazing how much communication can happen without a common language. When someone offered to translate Sister Jerita replied "there is no need. I know that this sister loves me and she knows I love her." That seemed to sum up our whole experience in Kenya. We are not strangers but be-

loved family members. Another teaching session to young family members and interested neighbors, led by Epa with many comments from our newly baptized and euphoric sister Agnes.

On the return home the van made a stop at a facility just off the main highway between Bumgoma and Weybuye. This facility was under consideration by the local ecclesias as a facility to conduct a bible study or gathering. Some information about the facility and its rental fees was collected along with a site inspection

of the facilities.

Saturday February 12th

After the nights' rest and breakfast we returned to Kimikung'i ecclesia for a second day of bible discussion and fellowship. Talks were given on "Why Israel?" and "The History of the Christadelphians". Later in the afternoon an ecclesial business meeting was held and Bro. Bob and Bro. David were

Agnes Macharia (David Gatua's wife):
Now our sister in Christ!

invited to attend. In this meeting Kimikung'i made ecclesial decisions on the expenditure of the formula funds recently received from BCAF. A plan was proposed and approved by the ecclesia. Dis-

cussions were held about the need to conduct this business in a formal and orderly manner as it would greatly help reduce potential strife within the ecclesia. After many goodbyes we departed Kimikung'i at 6:30 to return to the hotel for supper, readings and a night's rest.

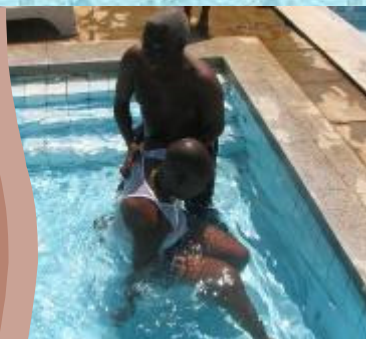
Sunday February 13th

During the early part of the morning Bro. Epa and Bro. John Simiyu stayed behind at the hotel to conduct do an oral baptismal interview of Helen (who was Sis. Edda's daughter) while the rest of us travelled to Nakilira for Sunday school and for memorial meeting. We were greeted by a lovely group of brethren and sisters. We commenced the first class at 10:20 AM which an instruction to the children on Timothy. This class of 51 students was aided by the translating work of Bro. David Gatua. Following that, at 11:15, a discussion was held on the Holy Spirit. During the break between the morning classes and memorial service visiting occurred and the arrival of Bro. Epa, Bro. John and our newest sister who was Sis. Helen. Memorial service was held at 12:25 and was attended by some members of neighbouring ecclesias such as Bro. Stephen and Sis. Evelyn Juma of Kimikung'i. Sis. Delvine who was home for the weekend from Eldoret where she attends school.

Bro. Bob gave a Sunday School lesson, with our brother David Gatua performing his first work as a brother, translating for the students. Following memorial meeting we were all invited to lunch at the home of Bro. Paul Walukana which was adjacent to the ecclesial meeting hall. The remainder of the day was spent in discussion and hymn singing. We departed Nakilira at 5:00 to return to Weybuye to the hotel.



David Gatua:
now our brother in Christ!



2011 Kenya Trip Report (continued)

Monday February 14th

We departed Weybuye in the morning and arrived at Nakalira by 10:40 AM. Shortly after our arrival we were invited for a walking tour of the area to see the homes of the brethren and sisters of the ecclesia. On this tour the members of Nakalira were happy to show us the rainwater tanks next to each house, and show us where they previously had to go to get water at a developed natural spring.

During February 13 and 14 we were blessed



Visiting the Nakalira Ecclesia

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also have the presence of Bro. Shawn Tyler. Bro. Shawn is not in fellowship at present. Bro. Shawn is familiar to any who previously travelled to Kenya and was very heavily involved in the preaching of the gospel in the area. After the tour we con-

ducted the daily bible readings in the home of Bro. Paul Walukana. Lunch was provided at 3:00 followed by a talk on the doctrine of fellowship. Formal greetings and statements were made by each individual visitor and by each individual Nakalira member. It was good to have a relaxed day, getting to know each family and appreciating the reality of their daily lives. The ecclesia noted their desire to rent more land for a communal farming project. At 5:00 the time for goodbyes had come which involved many combinations of pictures to document this memorable day.

Tuesday February 15th

Today was the day to make our way back to Nairobi. Bro. Bob had a departing flight from Nairobi that evening. After a goodbye to Epa, we departed Weybuye at 9:45 AM. On our travel back to Nairobi we stopped at the equator crossing to witness a demonstration of the Coriolis Effect where water vortices rotate counterclockwise on the northern side of the equator and clockwise on the southern side of the equator. A local resident performed the demonstration by taking a plastic container of water which had a small hole in it to allow the vortex to develop. The demonstration started at the equator where no vortex developed. We then moved 7 paces to the north where a counterclockwise vortex developed followed by moving 7 paces south of the equator where a clockwise vortex developed. In continuing our travels we safely arrived at the home of Sis. Mary Agnes to drop her off and said our goodbyes at 4:45 PM and then continued onwards to the Panafric Hotel by 5:30. Bro. David and Sis. Agnes then continued home after having a light supper and saying our goodbyes to our new brother and sister. We are so pleased that Sis. Mary Agnes would have Bro. David and Sis. Agnes in the Nairobi ecclesia. Following this Bro. Bob made his way to the airport

Bro. Shawn Tyler & water tank



for his evening flight. Sis. Kaye, Sis. Dawn and Bro. David were able to conduct daily bible readings with a bible student that Bro. Epa had introduced to us previously in Nairobi. Following this we headed to bed after a long day of travelling.

Wednesday February 16th

Since David, Dawn and Kaye were booked for an evening departure flight, David Gattua had kindly offered to show us some of the sights around Nairobi. We enjoyed a day being tourists, as we usually do not spend much time in Nairobi.

We each departed for our respective homes feeling thankful for the experience of having 4 weeks of harmonious travel, of companionship around the Word, of truly becoming brethren and sisters in more than name, and for the joy of being part of the extended household of Christ.

The time spent with our brethren and sisters in Kenya was spiritually uplifting. They demonstrated that no matter what the circumstances are in one's life, if you are aware of Christ's presence then your life will be joyful.

All the brethren and sisters expressed gratitude and love toward those who have contributed to their welfare through the BCAF.

There are many on-going needs; for health-care, housing, farming, and education, but mainly for contact and communication on spiritual matters. Please send Sunday School material, exhortations and articles as frequently as possible. It does not have to be a large shipment, just an article you have enjoyed, the exhortation you gave, the Sunday School lesson your child used.

The Communication Committee, c/o Bro. David Humphreys, has a Study Material

***This trip report was written in 2011.
Some information is now out of date.***

As a matter of policy, the BCAF Steering Board and all associated Committees are sensitive to the dangers of "the power of representation" as expressed in the Berean Basis of Fellowship under the heading of "Conferences", i.e.:

"We have a great fear of the consequences of any delegation of authority or power of 'representation' especially when such 'representation' is exercised at a distant place."

"The principle at issue is GIVING AUTHORITY TO REPRESENTATIVES to assemble at a distance and make decisions, with the subsequent inevitable losing touch and control by the membership."

The purpose and objectives of the BCAF are clearly outlined in the Mission Statement on page one. The BCAF may offer advice and recommendations to developing ecclesias, but will never legislate or enforce.

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