

799 Cranston St.,
Burlington, Ont. L7T 2Y6
December 5, 1984.

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

Loving Greetings in the One Hope of Eternal Life:

Much has transpired since our last report concerning our brethren and sisters in Kenya. This has been a very difficult year for them as the drought has affected them, but perhaps not as seriously as other peoples in Africa. Nevertheless it has been a trying time for them as it is impossible to escape the effects of drought when it spreads over the whole continent. Bro. Philip Wekati writes that there is still a great need for funds to assist them as even though the rains have started it will be some time yet before harvest as the crops have to be planted and harvested. Most of the brethren and sisters are sustained by the fruits of the field and the monies that we have been able to send have been used to purchase food from the depots.

We have a letter at hand from Sister Agnes Kariuki who is experiencing some problems but to quote an excerpt from her letter:

"Right now there is a national wide famine and getting even the most essential food, you have to pay twice the normal price. If one cannot afford that double or thrice prices from unreliable sources, you end up buying the yellow maize meal which was imported from America and risk very serious stomachache for children. Even the yellow maize meal smells when it is still in the shops. So life here has become very expensive and uncertain, especially we town people as when you are working in the office you don't know where the next meal will come from unless you have more than the normal price of even very small items like bread."

This is only a part of a very pathetic letter but indicates that there is serious need for help both with the farm brethren and sisters but also those who are employed in the towns.

There has been widespread hunger in Africa for centuries and the situation in Ethiopia has come to the attention of the world due to the increase in communication. Fortunately the conditions in Kenya are not as serious as the land is cultivated compared to the arid landscape of Ethiopia. But it is serious enough and this is one of those years that bring extreme hardship to all who live in Africa and we who live in the breadbasket of the world cannot really identify with what the people in Africa are experiencing.

Conditions will not really change much until the Sun of Righteousness comes with healing in His wings when he will wipe away all tears from all faces.

Until He appears our admonition is to do good unto all men, especially unto those of like precious faith.

We are grateful of the support we have received from the brethren and sisters and from Ecclesial donations for the purpose of alleviating the trying conditions that some of our brethren and sisters are experiencing.

There have been some sad events that have happened among our Kenya brethren and sisters this year. On June 29 Sister Tunai Wanjala died, having previously lost her husband and left 7 children. She was 40 years old and was in hospital a month before she died. We paid the hospital expenses, and for the burial which in all amounted to \$1000. The family took the older children but the three orphan children will have to be looked after through the fund.

Bro. John Onani lost a child and Bro. and Sis. Herman Kongani lost two children through sickness. News concerning the circumstances surrounding these deaths is sparse but we do know that with medical care being expensive that getting children to the hospital is often delayed and so often, too late.

This summer Bro. Epaphras Wekati visited America and I am sure his presence was an inspiration to all who talked with him. He talked about conditions in Kenya while at the Hye gathering and was able to answer many questions by the brethren and sisters.

Kenya has brought to our fellowship the awareness that there are many brethren and sisters who are much less fortunate than we are. The majority of us live comfortably and have no want and thank our Lord for the blessings we receive day by day.

In talking with many brethren it appears that a change is in order as to the use of the Kenya fund, as we know it. It is unanimous that the fund should be used for the relief and assistance of all the brethren and sisters in need, worldwide, and not only for those in Kenya. Some brethren and sisters do live in difficult circumstances and their assistance should not come from one or two ecclesias and such help many are unaware of.

We have a situation in Chile, where Bro. and Sis. Martinez are undergoing a severe trial. The brethren in Texas are endeavouring to get them into the United States but this is not an easy task. Bro. Don Newcomer spoke about this at Hye and a copy of his remarks are on tape if you will write me or bro. Fred Higham Jr. for a copy.

At present help is needed and the Houston Ecclesia along with private donations are helping the family to stay alive as it is impossible for Bro. Martinez to obtain employment.

With all this considered the brethren with whom I have had discussions on the subject and written agree that we should name the fund "The Berean Christadelphian Assistance Fund" and it should be used to assist those in need, wherever they may be.

Assisting brethren who can be contacted for information, assistance or advice and consultation, I suggest as follows:

New Zealand..Bro. Ron Crocker
 Great Britain..Bro.David Male
 Australia. Bro. Ray Hodges and Bro. Ivan Jackson.
 U.S.A. Bro. Don Newcomer
 Bro.David Sommerville
 Canada...Bro.Ed Truelove, Bro
 David Gwalchmai.
 Secretary Treasurer..Bro.Bob Philip

The above brethren would act as advisors as to how the fund should be administered. They will be informed as to the status of the fund and may be contacted for current information.

Donations may be sent directly to the treasurer so that all donations are anonymous. Only the expenditures need to be known.

This arrangement cannot be looked at as the ultimate but for the present it is a start and we welcome your suggestions for it's improvement. We all are aware of the objective, that is the welfare of our brethren and sisters.

Bro. Ed Truelove and Sis. Delma are presently in Kenya to assist our brethren and sisters there. Assistance with the travel expenses for Bro. Epaphras who will be their guide and interpreter has been taken care of through private donations directed to this purpose.

Bro. Ed will be giving a report on his findings regarding the effects of the drought and bring us up to date on conditions there. We had a brief visit at the airport in Toronto on his way through and discussed the information he should be acquiring so that we can be better informed to answer inquiries from the brotherhood and which can be passed on to the fund administrators.

This year we have sent to Kenya \$9700. Canadian dollars compared to 1983 remittances totalling \$6500.

In sharing the burden of the Houston Ecclesia in regard to relief in Chile, and helping others who may require assistance, regular donations from the brotherhood, however small, will help a great deal to keep enough money in the fund without having to make special appeals to look after the needs of Kenya, Chile and elsewhere.

We encourage you to write the brethren and sisters in Kenya and Chile and their addresses are listed in the directory. Words of encouragement and comfort are important to those who are in isolation and distress. We all need each other and effort to express this is pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

With love in the Truth, your brother in the One Hope:

Leb. Philip