

BEREAN

CHRISTADELPHIAN **A**SSISTANCE

FUND

2000 REPORT

Once again time has shown itself to be an unrelenting force in our lives. There always seems to be more to do than what there is time for, with the inevitable result that some things get pushed to the back of the queue. Such are the circumstances of this report. It has indeed been too long since the last full report to the brotherhood regarding the activities of the BCAF.

The lack of reporting does not mean lack of activity. Indeed, the one redeeming factor in the long interval between reports was Bro Sid Jones' written account of the 1998 trip to Kenya. In that very interesting account bro Sid covered much of the subject matter and activity that would have been contained in a report. It also contains much information and comments from a "first time" perspective that those of us who have been there before may simply overlook or take for granted. It was included as an insert in the January or February '99 B.E.N. magazine. We trust that everyone had opportunity to read it. If not, be sure to contact one of the BCAF committee members or bro Freddie Higham for a copy.

The BCAF committee has undertaken a commitment of monthly meetings to attend to a more dedicated and timely decision making process with regard to all fund assistance and projects. This process ensures that at least once a month attention is focused on matters relating to BCAF activities; reviewing the carrying out of commitments from previous meetings, and setting out an action plan for any new issues that require attention.

MISSION STATEMENT

Since its inception, the BCAF has had a very specific purpose and direction. Of late we have received some questions and concerns regarding it's role. This has caused the committee to review original concepts responsible for its existence, as well as the history and performance of the BCAF over the last 17 years. The following mission statement is a result of the review, and we feel it important to publicize it here so that no one is in the

dark as to the place, purpose and application of the BCAF in the brotherhood today.

BCAF MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and purpose of the BCAF is twofold:

- to provide anonymous international emergency financial support to brethren and sisters in crisis situations
- to assist in the development of self-sustaining material and spiritual infrastructure to brethren and sisters in third world countries who have no other apparent source of support.

Please note that the BCAF is not the "Kenya Fund", nor is this report the "Kenya Report". The fund is for all brethren and sisters everywhere. To be sure, Kenya has played a large role in the origin and application of the fund (and continues to be a major focus of activity) because of the dictate of the specific needs that were discovered there from which we could simply not turn our backs. However, at the same time came the increased awareness of needs of brethren and sisters in other parts of the world. We realized very early in the planning stages that whatever was accomplished in the scope of the fund, it must be consistent. It is not right to provide the opportunity for assistance in one area and not in another.

Nor does the fact that these other needs may not be as massive or critical as those in Kenya mean they are not important. Therefore the mission of the BCAF very quickly took on its twofold aspect.

The other feature of the BCAF is that it provides an *anonymous* channel for the giving and receiving of financial support, in harmony with the commands of Christ. The only TRUE gift is the one given anonymously, and the BCAF is the medium by which this can be done effectively and massively as the situation may dictate.

In addition to the ongoing commitment in Kenya, the BCAF committee will receive funds earmarked

for a specific appropriate destination anywhere in the brotherhood. The earmarked funds will be forwarded as instructed with no indication of source.

Similarly, if anyone observes a critical financial need in the brotherhood that appears to have no other avenue of support, please call one of the committee members named at the end of this report and bring it to our attention. We will attempt to analyze the matter and deal with it, to the best of our ability, responsibly and anonymously.

On account of the anonymity factor, any financial statements that are issued for the information of brethren and sisters will not contain specific names or places where funds have been given or received. Maintaining a balance between transparency, accountability and anonymity has always been a challenge, and we hope and trust that brethren and sisters will understand.

We urge brethren and sisters to think of and use the BCAF as an international tool for the benefit of the brotherhood as defined in the Mission Statement.

FAMINE SITUATION

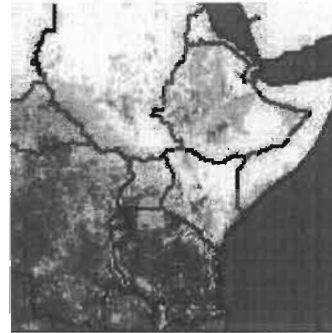
Once again famine is sweeping the area known as the Horn of Africa. Newscasts lately have been making frequent references to extreme circumstances in Ethiopia, Somalia and parts of Kenya.

The current famine is being reported as approaching the magnitude of the 1984-85 famine. We were in Kenya in December 1984, and will never forget what we saw. Many people – particularly in the province of Kitui – had succumbed to starvation, and carcasses of dead animals were everywhere. Food was being rationed separately in each province, which resulted in many inequities and inconsistencies of supply. We had on several occasions loaded our vehicle with supplies in a “have” province and transported them to some of our members living in a “have not” province. We discovered later that such activity was against the law and we could have been arrested. It was a life-changing experience for sister Delma and myself, and we hope and pray that the people there will never have to face a famine of that magnitude again.

We are not certain at the time of writing as to the effect the current situation in the Horn of Africa may be having upon our brethren and sisters in Kenya. The Western area where the majority exist is usually the last to feel the effects due to the proximity to Lake Victoria and its weather influence. We have made inquires but have not as yet

received any response one way or the other. We do, however, continue to use sources at our disposal to monitor the situation.

The following map and report is from the USAID Famine Early Warning System:



NDVI Mar 11-20 2000



“March 11-20 2000 - The rainy season is off to a late start. Rainfall was quite variable with isolated moderate to heavy rains (32-84 mm; 112-268% of normal) over southern Uganda, southern Kenya, and central Tanzania. Light rains to dry conditions, however, prevailed over northern Uganda, northern Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Satellite rainfall estimates also indicated dry conditions over Somalia and light to moderate rains (5-100 mm) over Tanzania. Temperatures were near normal.”

CURRENT FUND BALANCE

The BCAF committee has determined to be as transparent as possible within the restraints of anonymity regarding the fund account balances and cash flow.

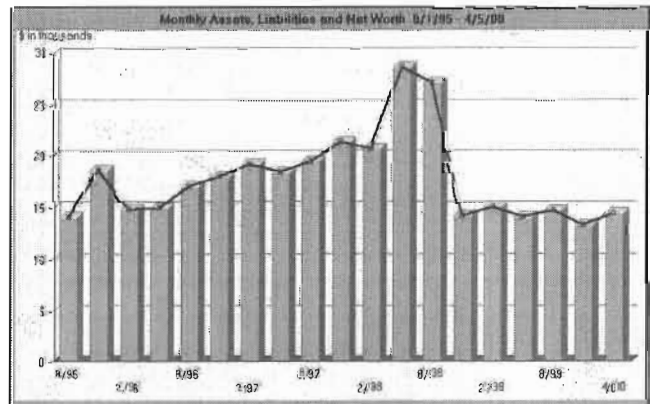


Fig.1 Variation in fund balances (US\$)

Currently, the balance of the fund as of April 5, 2000 is \$14,337 US or \$20,766 Cdn. This is about average for the past 5 years. Fig. 1 illustrates the variation in the fund balances from year to year.

Any stated balance is a total of two accounts – a US\$ account and a Cdn\$ account. One of the reasons we feel it necessary to maintain a respectably high balance in the accounts is because of the wide variation in the timing between the receiving and the distribution of funds. The following graph will help to illustrate this:

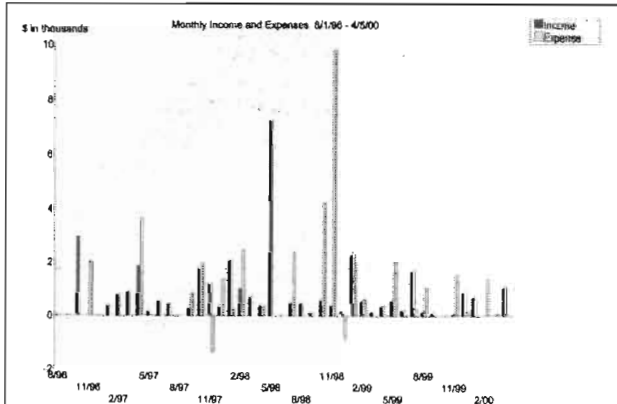


Fig. 2 Variation in receiving & distribution of funds (US\$)

We are also slightly apprehensive that a balance under \$20,000.00 US may compromise the potential effectiveness of the fund in a time of crisis. The demands of a famine crisis in Africa or a situation such as uninsured medical fees in America or elsewhere could easily exceed that amount. However, we are also aware that our numbers are small and there is only so much that can be expected. We are grateful for the generosity of brethren and sisters for their continuing support of the BACF. For the rest, we will do our best with what we have, knowing that it is God's will that will prevail.

Another item of information that may be of interest to some is the annual total of contributions received ("inflow") as well as the annual total of funds disbursed for assistance and sundry expenses ("outflow").

SUMMARY OF INFLOW AND OUTFLOW		
1996 - 2000		
	Inflow (US\$)	Outflow (US\$)
1996	\$10,979.00	\$10,254.00
1997	8,811.00	6,497.00
1998	13,733.00	18,815.00
1999	7,060.00	8,254.00
2000 (April)	1,788.00	1,422.00

VISITS TO KENYA

Historically, we have tried to average a visit to Kenya every 3 years. Therefore, if Christ remains away, the year 2002 will be time for another visit to Kenya. This is another area that has been and continues to be a "balancing" challenge for the BCAF committee. The cost of these visits is ever increasing. The airfares have actually remained very stable and consistent over the years, but travel costs within Kenya have increased more than 500% since 1982.

It has been the policy of the BCAF since its establishment to fund the visits. The reasoning behind this policy is that the brethren and sisters of Kenya have many times expressed that they consider these visits essential to their spiritual well-being and place upon them a priority level in excess of most other forms of assistance. Visits of brethren and sisters from abroad are considered to be one of the most important ongoing projects.

We also consider it very important to provide the opportunity of visiting Kenya to any who desire to do so, regardless of personal finances. We realize that it is not for everybody by reason of physical limitations as the trip can certainly be a physically and mentally challenging experience. But affordability should not be one of the limitations, and it is for that reason that the BCAF has always funded the travel portion of the trip. Those who are able and desire to pay their own way are encouraged to do so by way of an anonymous contribution to the fund. This puts all participants on an equal basis to focus their efforts and attention on the rigorous schedule of work to be accomplished.

We are desirous of maintaining this practice in the future, but realize that we may have to cut some corners in order to make the trip more affordable to the fund. Accordingly, we are making inquiries as to the feasibility of train and/or bus travel from Nairobi to Bungoma rather than the usual Safari van and driver. A van and driver could then be hired in Bungoma for local travel. Costs for such are usually lower in outlying areas like Bungoma than they are in Nairobi.

By "feasibility of train and/or bus", we are referring to issues of safety and relative comfort more than anything else. Train and bus travel between Nairobi and western Kenya has always been inexpensive, but it has also been notorious in the past for overcrowding and criminal activity, as well as for serious safety concerns. A bus accident just west of Nairobi at the end of March this year killed more than 60 people.

However, we have recently received information that the train system has improved considerably, and new modern express busses have been put into service. Seating on the train and express busses is by reservation only and is said to be quite comfortable.

Such are the issues currently being worked out with regard to future visits to Kenya. If we continue to have misgivings about the safety of visitors by making changes to the methods of travel, then no changes will be made and we will continue the way we have done it before, even if it means waiting an additional year or two for adequate funding.

We are inviting any brethren and sisters who desire to visit the Kenyan ecclesias in the future to let us know. We will add your names to the list and let you know when the opportunity is available. While we would like to include more at a time, we have found that a delegation of three per visit is about ideal.

THE KENYA PROJECTS - report by sister Kaye Yuen

The economic, socio-political situation in Kenya has been deteriorating for some years. Services that were once provided by the Government are no longer available without a fee being charged, i.e., primary education is only available if one can pay school fees, for school uniforms and for books.

Likewise, if one goes to the Govt. health clinics you must pay for medicine, bandages etc.

Employment is difficult to obtain, and poorly paid.

This has resulted in hardship and anxiety for our brethren and sisters. They are struggling to provide adequate food, housing, education and healthcare for their families.

The aim of the projects is to enable individuals and Ecclesias to become more self-sufficient in providing for their basic needs. This in turn enables them to continue studying and preaching the Word of God, as they do, with joy and enthusiasm.

Projects Funded By The B.C.A.F.

Agriculture: -- the purchase of land, seed, fertiliser, tools. Crops grown are maize, peanuts, kale, bananas, tomatoes, potatoes and rapeseed.

Dairy cows -- income from milk production.

Shoe Repair -- income from repairing shoes and selling second-hand shoes.

Sewing Machines -- used to make and sell uniforms to local schools.

Wells -- to provide a safe water supply to the Ecclesia and neighbours.

Metal Work Shop -- provides employment and income.

Schools -- two small schools for early grades. These provide the following benefits:

- early education for Ecclesial children in the Bungoma area.
- additional source of funds from the fees charged to non-Ecclesial users
- expose students and parents to the Christadelphian hope.
- the buildings are used in the non-school hours for Ecclesial meetings

Setbacks Encountered

Money sent for one project (a Posho Mill) was embezzled by a Bank employee and the niece of a Sister, who had been entrusted to assist with the banking. This led to a halt in the projects until the visit in '99, when details could be clarified.

The school started in Nairobi was not successful. It was closed, and the schools started in the Bungoma area, closer to most of the Ecclesias.

Outcomes

With the above two exceptions, the funds have been well utilized. Progress has been slow. We start only one project at a time. The brethren and sisters in Kenya are appreciative of the help they receive, recognizing that it is an expression of love and concern from fellow members of the one household.

BIBLE_SCHOOLS IN KENYA - report by brother Sid Jones

"Take note: You will never be the same again!"

This the poster promises you if you will attend the Bible School for "serious truth seekers", this coming April 21-23 in Bungoma. The topics to be considered will be such as "The Second coming of Christ", "Where are our dead friends and relatives?" and "What does the number 666 of Revelation Stand For?".

Over the past number of months there have been a scattering of such Bible schools hosted by our brethren and sisters in Kenya and the efforts of our members there have been intensified and are becoming more organised as time goes on.

I have before me the plans laid out for a 3-day Bible School from October 1999. The following were the titles to be spoken on:

1. Sermon on the mount,
2. Seventy weeks of Daniel and work of Christ,
3. The fourth beast of Daniel and beasts of John,
4. Trinity, a Doctrine of the Devil,
5. What must I do to be saved?,
6. Unless Your Righteousness exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees
7. Jerusalem, a City of the Lord,
8. Thy Kingdom come and Thy will Be done in earth,
9. Daily Readings.

This was followed by a further 3-day School held in late December, 1999

During our last visit to Kenya the Bible School at Siricia was also well organised and ample time was provided for questions and answers on each subject discussed.

Meals and tea breaks were provided, as was accommodation for those who needed it. It was easy to see the work that had been put out by the brethren and sisters to make this a success.

Brother Epa has informed us that they have changed their system recently to help relieve some of the expenses. The poster for April, 2000, advertises that tuition and literature is free but that there will be a charge of 500 ksh per day to cover the cost of food and accommodation for those who need it. This would total about US\$21 per person for the 3-day stay. This seems a small sum but we must bear in mind the level of their incomes there. This was necessary in order to enable them to make the funds they had stretch to cover additional costs such as postage, paper, printing and advertising, welfare for the needy, interecclesial visits for the encouragement of the members and to oversee baptismal interviews.

It should be a great encouragement to us all to see the work and efforts of our brethren and sisters who

make so much out of the limited resources they have to work with.

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ECCLESIAL GROWTH IN KENYA

Over the period of the past 17 years, ecclesial growth in Kenya has been relatively slow. This is not to say that there has been little or no activity. People are still as receptive to the true message of the gospel as ever, and it is always a refreshing and motivating experience to proclaim the Truth in Kenya.

Why, therefore, is the ecclesial membership not at a much larger number?

There are several reasons:

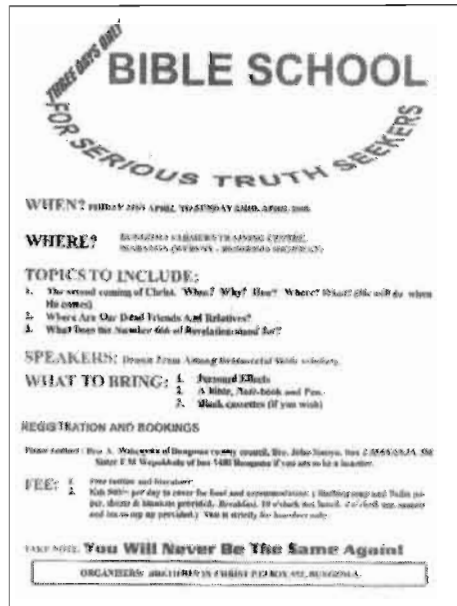
1. **Demographics**; many of the original members (as of the first visit in 1982) have fallen asleep in Christ. This is simply the natural course of life, although differing a little from what we are used to in that life expectancy in Kenya on average is much lower than in developed countries.

2. **Shallow roots**; same problem as anywhere, anytime. Some come to the knowledge of the true gospel, flourish for a little while, then fall away to the world or other religions. Often the lure of financial support is

involved, and this is also more of a temptation in Kenya than America or the U.K. or Australia because of the third world financial dynamics.

3. **Other fellowships**; some have been lost to other fellowships such as the CBM or the Dawn. There is a very competitive attitude among the different fellowships. Bro Epa does his best to encourage brethren and sisters not to get caught up in it, but some fall prey to it. We were saddened to learn that bro Zadok Mabina and bro Joseph Mapesa had left and joined with the CBM. There are several very serious first principle errors associated with the CBM in Kenya.

4. **Focus on quality over quantity**; perhaps more so than for any other reason this is responsible for the rather limited rate of growth in numbers over the years. The senior brethren there are very cautious and diligent that new candidates



Public advertising brochure for Bible School

for immersion have a full working knowledge of all the first principles. This same quest for quality also occasionally results in the loss of members through the process of disfellowship after other alternatives have failed.

BRO BOB PHILIP

It would not be appropriate to close this report without a word about brother Bob Philip who fell asleep in Christ at the end of January this year

Bro Bob gave so much to this work in Kenya and to the development and supervision of the BCAF over the first 12 years from 1982 to 1994. He and bro David Sommerville Sr. provided an invaluable source of wisdom and guidance during the initial defining trip to Kenya in 1982. We set out like a ship into the night with very little idea what we might be getting ourselves into, but the effort was obviously of God's will and when we returned we had approximately 20 new Berean members in Kenya.

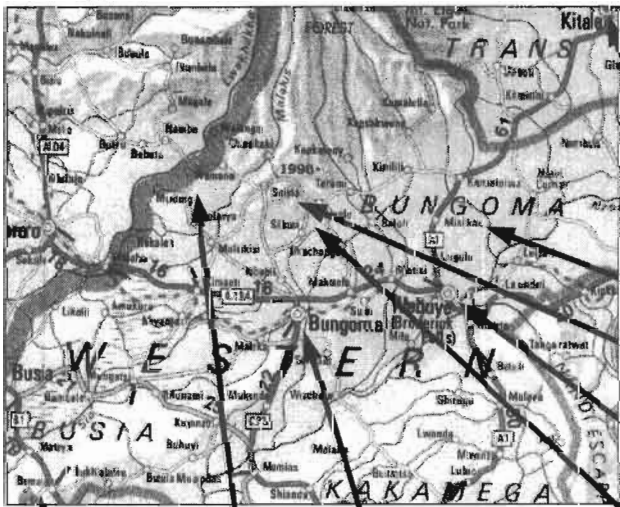
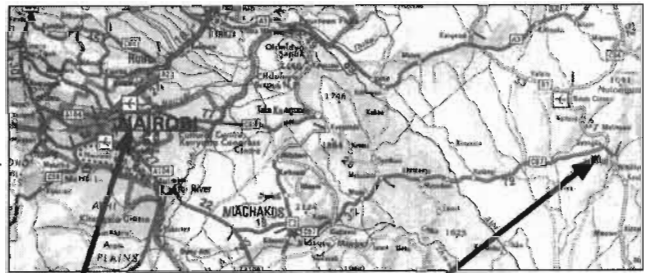
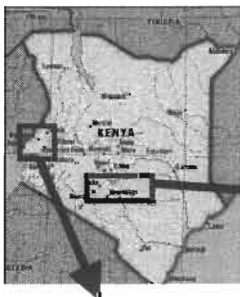
Bro Bob was not only a brother with a great amount of integrity, ability and spiritual knowledge, he was a close friend and companion, a "father in Israel" not only to those of us here, but also to the brethren and sisters in Kenya. He was loved dearly by all those who knew and worked with him, and although we sorrow not as those who have no hope, he will be greatly missed.

MAPS

The final page of this report will feature a map of Kenya with a blowup of two areas;

1. the highly populated Western area where most of the membership exists, and
2. the Nairobi / Kitui area where we have a few members who are also very important to us, and always has a high priority for us on the list of places to visit

Fraternally, your brothers & sister in Christ,
Ed Truelove, Kaye Yuen, Sid Jones, Dan Jackson
BCAF Committee



NAIROBI – capital city of Kenya; pop over 4 million; home of sis Mary Agnes Kariuki and several other Berean members

KITUI – home of bro David Njoka & family (approx 4 hr drive from Nairobi)

KITALE – home of bro Pinon Wekati (employed as a nurse at a local Kitale hospital)

MISIKHU – location of bro Shawn Tyler's group

SIRISIA – (at the base of 14,000' Mt Elgon) - site of Bible School during 1998 visit

WEBUYE – visitor headquarters – Park Villa Motel; home of bro Rogers and sis Caroline Musabe

BUSIA – site of newest & 2nd largest ecclesia; very motivated & ambitious group

BUNGOMA – major supply center for Western Kenya; home for several bre & sis & their families; site of a successful school project.

KIMIKUNGI – site of largest ecclesia; home of several of the Wekati families; site of a successful school project; also nearby bro John Simiyu's agricultural project

UGANDA BORDER