

Working with others behind the scenes

It's a scriptural principle that we should work together in the truth. John says in his third epistle 'that we may be fellow workers for the truth'. This is true both in ecclesial life and across Christadelphian organisations. The CBM has always had a good and effective working relationship with the Christadelphian Isolation League (CIL) in supporting our isolated brothers and sisters and young people abroad.

This help and support has been seen in a number of ways. Many of our brothers and sisters in isolation, especially in Eastern Europe, have benefited from CIL exhortations, many of which are translated from English into their own language.

Sis Pam Adams organises the translation of CIL exhortations into French by a committed team of French speakers. The team is big enough to enable weekly exhortations to be sent to some parts of the French speaking world.



Brothers and sisters in Prague receive a monthly CIL exhortation translated from English to Czech

Sis Pam said "Although this is organised by the CIL, it is also of benefit to CBM work. It supports the visits and contacts organised by them and is a weekly encouragement to those in far-flung parts. Letters of appreciation are received occasionally from recipients, and this makes us feel privileged to be a small part of mission work!"

The CIL exhortations are sent to brothers and sisters and ecclesias across five different predominantly French speaking countries in Africa as well as Haiti and France.

Funding for Youth Gatherings

We would like to correct any false impression that may have been caused by the report under Tanzania in the October Christadelphian. We recognise the vital importance of Bible Schools, Youth Camps, Sister's Gatherings, Bible Weekends and similar activities to the work of CBM. For those in isolation they create important opportunities for fellowship and scriptural input that are a lifeline in their walk of faith. For others in territories where the truth is developing, they create opportunities for working together, sharing wider fellowship and tackling issues and challenges collectively that provide a valuable addition to regular ecclesial life. Should the ord remain away, for 2018, CBM Council has committed a minimum of £113,000 to support these type of gatherings and no territory that requested funding for such gatherings has been refused a budget. We are very grateful for the support of Brethren and Sisters and Ecclesias who, through Project Aid, assist with the costs for some of these gatherings, including the sometimes significant travel costs and we trust that this will continue. But it is incorrect to suggest that funding Youth Camps will not be supported by CBM General Fund.

News from the Democratic Republic of Congo

In the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo over the last few weeks, the towns of Fizi, Kazimia, Kalundja have been under threat from Militia Mai Mai rebels. The authorities have closed the Burundian border and all movement is restricted.



Late last week, Bro Benoit Mukendi (linkman for DRC) spoke to Bro Wilondja, who told him that the situation is devastating for them. We have an ecclesia in the area and so we pray for our brothers and sisters in the area for God's hand to be upon them during this time of turmoil.

Future events

4 November 2017 - Europe Day
(Coventry)

17 March 2018 - CBM New Generation Day (Solihull)

23 June 2018 - Annual meeting and information day (Henley-in-Arden School) - **NOTE: this is a week earlier than previously advertised**

CBM Europe Day 4 November

God willing, our next Europe Open Day is on 4 November, at 1.30 pm, at Coventry (Grosvenor Road). The day will highlight the work of the CBM in East and West Europe.

The theme for the day is: "Understanding and meeting the challenges in the mission field", comprising of six short presentations from brethren with personal experience of the work of the CBM in Europe. This includes a talk from our Brother Jacek Szczecinski (pictured) from Poland, who will be joining us for the day. He will be giving an insight into living the truth in isolation in Eastern Europe.



Bro Vahid Aberi will also be giving a talk on how he found the truth and the challenges of being a refugee.

The day will conclude by 5.30 pm and is intended for both CBM workers, and any interested in the work of the CBM. Please bring your own lunch; drinks are provided.

Hurricane update

Hurricane Irma, which struck in early September, was the second-strongest Atlantic hurricane on record. Irma caused great devastation and loss of life on a number of Islands in the Caribbean. Thankfully, Brother Miguel and Sister Aida Robles who live in the city of Ponce on the south coast of the Island were kept safe under the hand of God, and power and services were quickly restored.

Unfortunately, we are unable to contact Brother Edgardo who lives in Carolina, just east of San Juan, near the north coast. He has a two-story, concrete home on a rocky knoll in-land.



Hurricane Maria followed on shortly after Irma. We are happy to report that we believe no brethren or sisters in the Caribbean area suffered damage. Contact was quickly made with a brother in Puerto Rico who suffered only a power outage from the winds.

CBM linkman vacancies

The CBM is currently looking for linkmen in the following countries: Sweden, Turkey and Madagascar.

Several other vacancies are also likely to materialise over the next 12 to 18 months across Europe and Africa. If you are interested in becoming a CBM linkman, please contact Bro Stephen Sykes (CBM Secretary - secretary@cbm.org.uk)

Upcoming CBM visits

Oct 2-6 - Hungary and Siberia

Oct 5-9 - Russia

Oct 9-16 - Malta

Oct 12-16 - Israel

Oct 13-15 - Kenya

Oct 14-23 - Mozambique

Oct 16-20 - Portugal

Oct 20 - Nov 5 - Kenya

Oct 20 - Nov 5 - Uganda

Nov 1-14 - Liberia

Nov 7-21 - Gambia

Nov 9-12 - Czech Republic

Nov 10-13 - Poland

Nov 15-22 - Romania

Nov 16-21 - Egypt

Nov 30 - Dec 12 - Seychelles

Sierra Leone update

Three Christadelphian families were affected by August's mudslide and flood in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone. CBM sent emergency funding to two families who lost their homes due to flooding and they were initially housed in the ecclesial compound. They were then provided with more substantial funding to allow them to relocate. The other family suffered substantial damage to their home due to flooding, but was able to clean up and carry on living there, although some loss was incurred to items such as bedding and what little furniture they had.

THE BIBLE MISSIONARY

No. 28

October 1967

50 years ago...

Report from Bro Stanley Owen on a trip to Nigeria

When we arrived at Enugu, armed soldiers lined the steps from the plane. Roadblocks were everywhere, and every few miles we suffered the indignities of being searched and having every item of luggage and correspondence examined. It is not particularly pleasant to be marched at bayonet-point to a guard room to explain why you cannot develop colour films on the spot or what are the secret contents of a toilet roll!

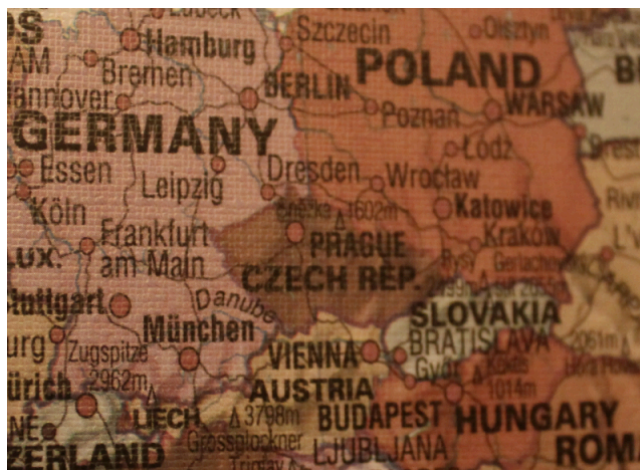
In Benin some film was confiscated and at an important road junction (since bombed by the rival forces) we were accused of being spies for the other region. We did not know at the time that the plane which took us out of Biafra was the last before the border was closed. It was hi-jacked by revolutionaries some days later, and we learnt that travellers trekked 500 miles through the jungle to get out through the Cameroons.

Now there is civil war. Biafra has broken away; and the mid-west region has joined the eastern region, and called itself the State of Benin. No contact is possible with the country and all diplomatic relations with the eastern sections have been broken off; but the Truth goes on. Behind this curtain of silence live 24 brethren and sisters, and we seek the prayers of the brotherhood for their safety and their guidance. In Lagos Brother Alan and myself found four young brethren who, through one Elijah Eze [who fell asleep last year], had learnt the Gospel from 1964 onwards. When the riots started in 1966, they became afraid for the future, and after postal interview, and on advice from brethren and sisters in California who had been in contact with them, they baptized each other in October 1966. Great was our surprise when we found that they had acquired a Christadelphian Hall, and a well-organized ecclesial life. We sang hymns from the Christadelphian hymn book, exhorted each other, and spent many hours examining the basis of their faith. We found them to be expert in preaching the Truth to others, and able to use their Bibles in a workman-like manner.

Facts about the Truth in the Czech Republic

There is only one brother and seven sisters in the country; with four of the members in the capital city of Prague and the rest in isolation

Most interest is generated from our website and Facebook page, and a few visitors to public talks from newspaper adverts.



Three long-weekend visits are made each year, which are mainly pastoral, and a Bible weekend in June

Preaching in the Czech Republic was only possible following the collapse of communism in 1989