



Apostle & Bishops

CANADA

Evangelist Edwin advises he is hopeful that the community in Bampton will be able to rent a church building for Sunday afternoon to enable them to transfer from Home Services. Also an independent group in New York, U.S.A., is in contact with him to learn more of the Apostolic faith and he plans to visit them in the near future to consolidate the work in that area.

INDIA

All communities report spiritual growth as they wait for the transfer of all church matters from Europe. Some new contacts have been established and will have to be followed up when a visit can be arranged.

KENYA

All in Kenya are so thankful that the Lord has answered so many prayers and allowed rain to fall to allow for crops to be planted to help alleviate the feeding of the people. The street children that have made their way to the churches at Nairobi have been transported to the Ogembo area where they can be better cared for. This has put further pressure on the feeding and education of the Orphans Programme. The communities there together with other church organisations have set up hunger response teams to gather what they can to deliver to those areas where starvation is at its worst. To help with the feeding programme it has been decided to expand the current dairy project to purchase initially an extra four cows, expand the shed

and feed facilities and then follow up with the purchase of an extra six cows. This will provide work for the children, provide milk products and allow the excess to be sold to go to the education costs.

All communities reported blessed Thanksgiving and Mission festivals with funds offered going towards the purchase of church needs where it is most needed. Two extra deacons have been ordained; one for Montonto and one for Omosaria.

A combined officers meeting was held during August to discuss and highlight 'Family' and 'Evangelist Work'. The following messages were read and discussed by all present with much enlightenment being received.

Dear Bro. Daniel,

I do pray that your combined Officer's Meeting on 19th and 20th at Ogembo, will be blessed by the Lord and all will be able to come in the unity of spirit to obtain a better understanding of God's dealings and plans for us. Your topics chosen are very important for the Church.

Family

The family relation is the institution of God lying at the foundation of all human society. It is His creation and He expects us to value it highly. Christ confirmed this for the Christian Church – Mark 10:6-9.

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

This does not mean we abandon our parents when we start a new family, as we must at all times obey God's commandments "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." This is the first of the ten commandments that gives a promise.

Family life takes a prominent place throughout the whole Bible and many references can be found to cover all aspects of life. As God is love, so love must be a foundation and example of family life.

A caring attitude must exist – Esther 2:11 – "And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the woman's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her."

A family should pray together daily and make the family home the first place of worship – Joshua 24:15 – "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

The family is a place of learning for life – Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The family is a place of many joys – Psalm 16:11 – "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence of fullness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

The family must be a place of love – Song of Solomon 8:7 – "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. If a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be condemned."

It is where we can learn to overcome the strife of life – Galatians 6:1 – "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness: considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

It is where we can learn of experience, faith and trust – 2 Timothy 1:5 – "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice: and I am persuaded that in thee also."

Of course if all these virtues are not encouraged in family life then what is seen

and witnessed, will be passed on to the next generation – Jeremiah 4:3 – "For thus saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns."

There is an effort in the world today, to break down family life, as a means of dominating the minds of people, as foretold in the scriptures. DIVIDE AND CONQUER but we must do all we can to promote and hold fast to the values of family life, because it is God's plan that we will become His one large family on earth in spirit and then to be His family in the coming Kingdom of God – John 1:12 – "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

This great promise was lost after Adam lost the right for future generations to be the Son of God – Luke 3:38 – but was restored again when Jesus came out of the River Jordan, after being anointed – Matthew 3:17 – and so we can now also receive the promise.

We have a small book as a guide to Apostolic Community Life for families, youth and children. I am not sure if you received one over there for translation. If not, I attach one with this email. You may like to modify it to suit your customs and if you think it may help families, translate it and we can have some printed for use there.

Your other topic of evangelist outreach. Recently the Pakistan Officers asked the same question and I wrote a report which I now attach for your use and hope it will be a guide for this topic.

Closing in love and greetings to all there.

Your brother and Apostle for Christ,
Apostle Cliff Flor.

Attachment–

Regarding advice on inviting new members, there is no magic answer as every case is different. We must always remember it is the work of the Holy Spirit, but we must provide the way. 2 Timothy 1:8-10. The first requirement is prayer that God will move the heart to want to hear. In the Philippines they use the catechism, particularly the religious teachings as the first step to allow the person to get a big picture of God's plan for mankind. Bible texts are provided to support each answer. Of course the primary purpose of wanting to come to the Church is to be prepared for the Lords return, to be His bride, to be converted to be as Him, Spirit first, and Body second, to inherit firstly the Kingdom of God (1,000 years of peace) on the cleansed earth and then Eternal life in the highest of heavens with God. Even if we pass from this life, we remain part of the Church and it's promises.

These days, with the happenings we see in the world, most people express concern and when that happens it opens the door to say, although it is a worry we know that it was all foretold in the Bible – Daniel 12:1; Joel 3:9-14; Zechariah 14:12-13; Matthew 24:1-35; Revelation 8 & 9.

During these times there is an escape – John 16:33; Isaiah 4 (wherever Zion is mentioned it refers to the church); Revelation 3:20-21; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:5-9.

We must always give the message "The Church needs You!" not "You need the Church". That understanding will grow with faith. Never use fear. God is love.

Then often comes the question. Why the United Apostolic Church?

We believe that the Church has Christ as the Head of the Church at the right hand of God, sent the Holy Spirit to labour in His stead, to build a Spiritual temple on earth of living souls. Ephesians 2:17-22. We live in the latter day rain of the spirit – Joel 2:23-27; James 5:7.