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## Good Words - September 1983, no. 132

Brethren in Christ Church in Africa

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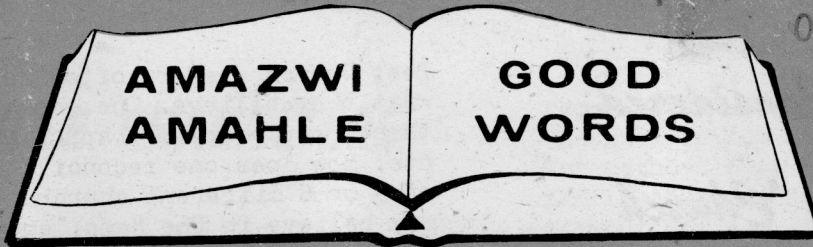
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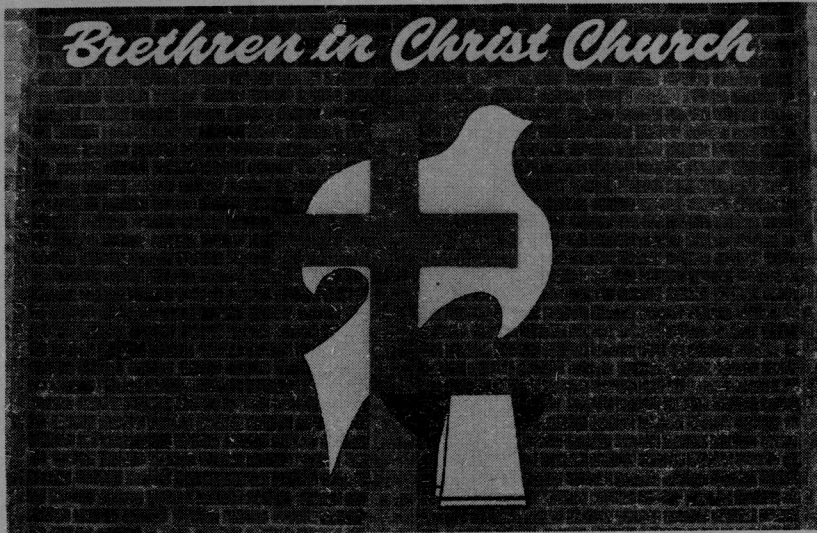
SEPTEMBER

1983

Number 132

"UJehova wayesephendula ngAMAZWI AMAHLE" Zak. 13

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*File*

BURO

# What Is Considered The true Church

Up and down she goes. Here and there she worships. What is she looking for? Is she looking for a youngman to marry, or is she looking for entertainment? What does she say? "The Brethren In Christ Church does not have the Holy Spirit" she alleges. But she has been going to the Nazarene for a few months and now she has left. What is wrong with that church? "Oh that pastor is a problem.

He does not preach eloquently," she accuses. Does this happen? Yes.

Many people have been members of evangelical churches, they have been members of Pentecostal churches, they actively led Cults and they have sometimes spread ideas of quasi-religious movements. They always claim that their present is the only true Church. They denounce their past churches.

Such people have either divorced their marriage partners or caused problems with their local and original churches. Some get disenchanted because they don't get positions - I mean high positions. One such a man stole while working for another church. When he was being disciplined he joined another cult. In his new cult he denounced his previous church and attacked its leadership.

Another common habit is the importation of beliefs of other churches into the original church. "People should now be allowed to drink beer," argued Alfred one day. He had been to a church called God's Only Church. In this church the preacher drinks and smokes like a common drunkard in the street!

Seekers for the best church are found mostly among young people. Emotionalism attracts them in thousands. When they get to a church that dances, a church that shouts in prayer or to preachers who have no choice of special words in their sermons or utterances before or among mixed ages, that is the true church.

Best Church seekers often do not know what they believe. One wonders whether these people are not spiritual mal-contented. How does one reconcile the doctrines of 5 or 6 different churches? One church may believe in One Name, another one may believe in Trine Immersion, another one may believe that Jesus Was Just A Teacher and another one may believe that He Is God In Man. But up and down they will go with the fever of excitement.

There is one church in heaven. Yes, that is very true. But people are converted into religion. A young man describes how he saw the light. "I listened to the preacher one evening. 'I am the Light of The World' Jesus said. Those who hate the light do evil things. 'I am the Way of the World', Jesus said. The preacher told us that no-one could go to the Father, God except through Jesus Christ .. At the end of the sermon, he gave time to those who wanted to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. I stood up and repented." Another mother of three recounts how she became a member of the God's Apostles Church. I had a stomach trouble since the age of 12. Then a man of God came and he healed me. The man did not preach. He prophesied and only sang, 'Ameni Alleluya....' through out." Asked if she knew anything about Jesus Christ she said, "Yes but I cannot say exactly what His role is in my life."

Then one person chooses to be dishonest even with himself and pretends that these differences are nothing to his faith. I believe there will be members of every church in heaven. God will judge us according to the light we have. Light can come to us if we know what we need. If we mix so many so called truths we end up in religious quandary.

Where is the best church? The best church is in the heart of the believer. Obedience, love and faith in God are virtues that can originate and grow in an individual. God's church is made up of people whose hearts are pure irrespective of their denominations.

People should not waste their times running here and there. We shouldn't seek to be where there is emotional excitement and fun. God will judge us individually and not because we are members of this church which does that.

# BIBLE CHARACTERS

-Scotch M. Ndlovu

The dictionary defines a character in terms of a person's unique traits, and as such, it does not take much to be known as a character. However, to be considered a Bible character is an accomplishment reserved for only a few. Bible characters, fortunately, come in all shades and shapes representing a wide spectrum of experience. It is hoped that some of us will be able to identify with a few of the randomly selected personalities, starting with the Old Testament.

## Adam :

A friend suggested that maybe it would be unfair to include Adam among Bible characters since he stands in a league by himself. However, in Adam, we come face to face with a man endowed with the unique privilege of divine visitation. Did this man ever need faith? I was surprised that this name is missing in the "Hall of Faith" (Heb.11.) Could this stem from his disobedience and consequent curse as recorded in Genesis 3? For those of us who believe in dispensational ordering of things, Adam represents a period of child-like innocence while at the same time reminding us of the loss of that innocence.

## Abraham

Now, here was a real character! Here was a man of visions and visitations. Unfortunately Abraham was a very anxious man. Imagine, God tells him that he would father a son by his wife. He looks at Sarah and sees more wrinkles than ever before and decides (with the knowledge and encouragement of Sarah) that his domestic servant was to be the mother of his son. The outcome of this error has had historical ramifications as demonstrated in the animosity between Jews and Arabs.

Lest we forget, the promised son, Isaac, was finally born to Sarah, belatedly, as some may choose to regard the miracle son whom God had designated as the father of a nation as numerous as the sand. Truly, this man is the cornerstone of our faith and deserves to be in the 'Hall of Faith.'

## Ruth

Ruth is my favorite character. She represents everything that is ideal, though I do not quite understand some of her methodology. Can you imagine a woman finding her way into a strange man's bed without his consent and knowledge! Oh! No! That is not why we remember Ruth. We can identify her with the ethnic, racial and cultural tensions we have grown up with. We are uncomfortable when a Ndebele marries a Shona and vice versa. Worse still we cannot stomach interracial marriages. Ruth transcended all these human barriers and told Naomi that she would go with her furthermore, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried (Ruth:16-17)." What a character!

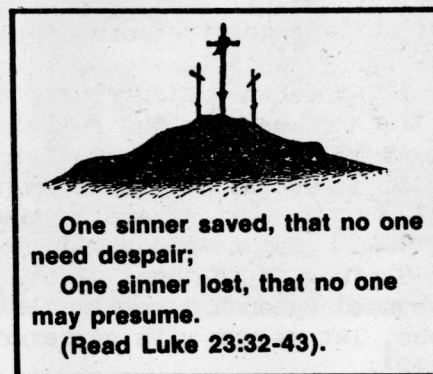
## Rahab:

Rahab was everything Ruth was not, and yet, inconceivable as it may seem, her name is in the 'Hall of Faith.' Who ever imagined that a prostitute could be commended for letting in two strange men (spies for that matter)? This is one profession our society abhors as deserving the depraved. What is important here is that, knowingly or not, she acted in accordance with God's will and became instrumental in the process of leading Israel to the Promised Land.

## Solomon

This man experienced it all but concluded that all was vanity. Of course we all remember Solomon as the greatest womanizer of all ages with relationships with more than 1,000 women. I believe that what distinguishes him is his apparent and proven wisdom. Anyone who reads the book of Proverbs will concur that Solomon has no equal. Yes, he was quite a character.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4



## Nathaniel

The new Testament says very little about this Bible giant. Here is a man who symbolizes perfection itself. Listen to the words of Jesus about Nathaniel: "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." What a character and what a man!!

## Tabitha (Dorcas):

Acts 9 gives us a glimpse into one of the most effective social workers in the Bible. She is said to have been "always doing good and helping the poor (v.9)." Does't she remind us of Jesus Christ? No wonder the whole Christian Community mourned over her untimely death and asked for and got a reversal of this state of affairs through Divine intervention. What a Christian!

## Nicodemus:

Nicodemus represents ignorant people who have no excuse for their predicament. Here was, not only a religious man, but a teacher of the Jewish law and yet he was so ignorant that even Jesus seemed to lose patience with him. To be sure, we have our share of Nicodemuses and we can only echo Jesus' prayer on their behalf: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

## John:

John, sometimes referred to as the Beloved Disciple, is one of the silent New Testament characters. He does not seem to say much, and yet each time you look at Jesus, you find John at His bosom. It was to the same John that Jesus charged to, "Behold thy mother." There is something remarkable about this man that those of us who think that talking too much is a means to an end should try to emulate this great man. What a Bible Character!

One can go on indefinitely and yet still fail to cover all the major Bible characters. We have attempted to portray each one of our characters as people with human experiences. If they were around today, we would recognize some of them as either our friends, pastors, evangelists, teachers and ordinary next of kin. Bible characters who fell 'by the way side' should remind us of our daily need of God's support and forgiveness. As Paul said, we are what we are by the Grace of God and no-one should take pride in God's gift to them. Seeing we are surrounded by such a remarkable cloud of witness, let us run with perseverance (Heb.12:12).

Amazwi Amahle

Let me take this time to greet you all in His Name and assure you that we have not forgotten you. Contrary to mistaken (purposefully) notion that those of us who are overseas do not care, let me assure you that we do. By the grace of God, time will come when we will be able to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to Him and you. Until such a time, we ask for your continued patience, understanding and best wishes. Rejoice in the Lord Always and again I say Rejoice (Phi. 4:4).

## OMAMA BEMADLOBHENI

### BANIKA IMPAHLA

-Fred Zulu

Omama besiqinti semadolobheni banike izigqoko ezedlula amatshumi amathathu kubantu abaswelayo eGwaai. Zizanikwa yisibhedlela. Ummumzana L. Bhebhe nguye owemukela impahla lezo kuNkosikazi E.Q. Moyo ongunkosikazi wesiqinti semadolobheni.

Unkosikazi Moyo wathi omama bemadolobheni bakhethe isiqinti seGwaai ngoba benanzelele ukuthi kuleziswelo kakhulu khona. Waveza ukuthi banikwa amalembu okuthunga yiChristian Care njalo bona banikwa ngunkosikazi O, Ndlovu umkamfundisi omkhulu.

Esamukela izigqoko umnumzana L. Bhebhe wabonga kakhulu omama bemadolobheni. Wathi kulabomama labantwana abanengi abaswela izembatho kulesi sabelo. Wanxusa abanye njalo abantu ukuthi banike yiloba kuyini abalakho. Wathi ucela ibandla lonke lilandele okwenziwe ngabemadolobheni. "Abantu banganika noma kuyini ngitsho lengubo," watsho la amazwi. Wathi ibandla lilomlandu wokusiza abaswelayo.

Unkosikazi Moyo wadumisa omama besiqinti semadolobheni ngomoya wabo. "Ngibonga kakhulu ngomsebenzi wabo. Ngicela ukuthi baqhubekele phambili lalo umoya kanye lalokhu kwenza kwesiKristu," watsho njalo uNkosikazi Moyo. Waphinda waqhuba wathi,

"Ngcicela abanye omama bakwezinye iziqinti labo basikhulekele. Siswela ukukhokhelwa nguNkulunkulu kukho konke."

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Ukutshumayela ngezenzo atshi ngamazwi kuphela. Abatsha beMtshabezi laba bethekelela umuzi wokuhlaliswa kutsha kwabantu (Resettlement) ongempumalanga kweMission. Bafika basebenza bencedisa izakhamizi zakule indawo.

Ngenxa yezenzo lezi abantu laba abahlala kule imizi bacela ukuthi benzelwe inkonzo. Emfanekisweni sibona bephethe amaBhayibhili sebeqedile umhlangano wenkonzo. Sekulenkonzo kule indawo ngenxa yobufakazi babantu abatsha eMtshabezi.





**FROM THE**

**BISHOP'S**

**OFFICE**

\*\* Rev. & Mrs. Elias Mc. Moyo and children arrived in Zimbabwe on Sunday the 31st July, 1983. They are home to visit relatives and the church. It is unfortunate Rev. Moyo's brother died just as they were making preparations to come. We sympathize with them and pray for the Moyos.

\*\*Three families from America came to work within the Church: On the 3rd August the Stoez family and the Bergen family arrived.

\*\* Mr. Stoez is a specialist in agriculture. He will work with the Farm Committee and farm managers. Mr. & Mrs. Bergen are teachers. On the 20th August the Daniel Shenk family was expected to arrive. Mr. Shenk is a teacher while his wife is a nurse.

Doctor Boyd of Winesbourg Brethren In Christ Church is still thinking and praying about coming to Zimbabwe. There is now a strong possibility that he may come in January. Pray for Dr. Boyd and the family.

\*\*Mr. Matthew Mathuthu served as acting Headmaster for two terms at Matopo Secondary School. The Lord used Mathuthu very well and successfully. We regret that he left us at the end of last term. We thank Mr. Mathuthu and family for their service. Mr. Mbonisi Moyo will be acting Headmaster to the end of the year year. Let us pray for him.

\*\*\* The following were delegates to the Zambian General Conference of 1983 on the 16th of August; Mrs. Nsimango, Mr. Micah Dube, Mr. Lot Nyathi, Mr. Eliot Msipha, Mr. Joel Ndlovu. The E.B.I. choir was also sent.

\*\* The 1984 International Brethren In Christ Fellowship will be held in France. It is hoped that Zimbabwe will send delegates. The whole church is asked to pray for them and contribute towards their going. Delegates will come from all countries in the world where B.I.C.C. was planted.

\*\*\*Mrs Florah Dlodlo took over from Sister Lorraine Buckwalter as sister in charge of all our medical work as secretary co-ordinating the Health work at Mtshabezi and Wanezi. Pray for Sister Dlodlo as she has to make necessary adjustment.

\*\* The Lord was in His throne in our District council meetings. Praise.

\*\*Thank you for your prayers for the City of Bulawayo while your member Clr. N.K. Ndlovu was mayor. Pray that he will continue to assist the new mayor Clr. E. Mdlongwa in leading the Administration of the City peacefully.

\*\* Jaconia Nkiwane and A.V. Masiye visited the Church in North America. They are both back.



**EZIVELA**

**EWOFISINI**

**KABISHOP**

\*\*Abendlu yako Mfundisi Elias Moyo bafika eZimbabwe ngeNsonto mhla zingamatshuma amathathu lanye kuNtulikazi 1983 Silusizi ngokufa komfowabo kaMfundisi Moyo yena odlule abakoMoyo besenza amalungiselelo okuza eZimbabwe. Asibakhulekele abakoMoyo. Bazakhuluma emhlanganweni omkhulu.

\*\*Imuli ezintathu zafika eZimbabwe ukuze zizesebenza lebandla lakithi. Mhla zintathu kuNcwabakazi abakoStoez lendlu yakoBergen bafika. Ummumzana Stoez uyincitshi kwezokulima njalo uzasebenza kakhulu lekhomithi yamapulazi kanye labaphathi bamapulazi. AbakoBergen bonke ngababalisi. Ummumzana Daniel Shenk ngumbalisi kube kanti inkosikazi yakhe ngumelaphikazi.

\*\*UDokotela Boyd oweWinesbourg Brethren In Christ Church usebike ukuthi kungenzeka ukuthi abuye kwelakithi ekuqaleni komnyaka ozayo. Asikhulekele kanye lemuli yakhe.

\*\*Ummumzana Matthew Mathuthu obepethe elibambela esikolo sobuhlakani seMatopo usebenze kakhulu njalo ngokuphumelela. Siyadana ukuthi usesukile ekupheleni kwethuba lesibili (Second Term). Siyabonga umnumzana Mathuthu lemuli yakhe. Ummumzana Mbonisi Moyo nguye ozaphatha elibambela kuze kube sekupheleni komnyaka. Asikhulekele umnumzana Moyo.

\*\*Nampa abakhethwa ukuthi babe ngabameli emhlanganweni omkhulu weZambia mhla zilithumi lesithupha kuNcwabakazi 1983: Nkosikazi Nsimango, Mnumzana Micah Dube, Mnumzana Lot Nyathi, Mnumzana Eliot Msipha, kanye lomnumzana Joel Ndlovu. Iqembu labahlabeleli besikolo seBhayibhili lalo lathunyelwa.

\*Umoya kaNkulunkulu ubukhona emihlanganweni yezindaba. Asimbongeni uNkulunkulu!

\*\*Ummumzana A.V.Masiye kanye lomnumzana J. Nkiwane bethekelele amabandla aphetsheya eMelika engeNyakatho. Bonke sebhendukile.

\*\*Umhlangano webandla labazalwane kuKristu umhlaba wonke goqo okal984 kuthiwa uzakuba seFrance. Kukhangelelwe ukuthi abeZimbabwe bazathumela abameli. Ibandla lonke liyacelwa ukuthi linike imali yokusiza labo abazakhethwa ukuthi baye kulo umhlangano. Abameli bazavela kuwo wonke amabandla abazalwane kuKristu umhlaba wonke.

\*\*Unkosikazi Flora Dlodlo usethethe isikhundla sikaSister Lorraine Buckwalter ukuba ngumelaphikazi okhangele zonke izibhedlela zakithi. Asikhulekele uNkosi. Dlodlo njengoba enze amalungiselelo athile.

\*\*\*\*\*

## IBANDLA ELISEZULWINI

-nguNaka Sazini Moyo

Ngangivela emfuleni. Ngabeka inkonxa yami phansi. Ngezwa sengihlatshwe yisihlabo. Sangikhulela sibili kwaze kwabanzima ukuphefumula. Ngehluleka lokudla ntambama. Enhliziyweni yami ngangicula iculo elalibusisa umphefumulo wami kakhulu. "Jesu Nkosi ngiyakhala; Ngisize ngiyafa; Sondeza Usindiso Nkosi ngithathe nginje.....;" Abantwana bayabiza umakhelwana esasikhonza sonke. Wafika wafaka umthandazo. Sasihamba sonke ezinkonzweni. Ngangiphatha lami eminye imihlangano ikakhulu eyabomama. Ibandla lami laliyilo kuphela elilalela uNkulunkulu ngokuzwisisa kwami. "Abanye abantu abakwazi sibili abakwenzayo. Kambe njengoba leBhayibhili lizitsholo nje ukuthi elethu ibandla yilo elikhonza uNkulunkulu ngobuqotho bona benzani?" Ngabuza amanye amakhosikazi. Saphendulana njalo sivumelana ukuthi bonke abantu abangakhonzi kwelami ibandla balahliwe.

Ngajunywa ke yibuthongo obukhulu ngilokhu ngihlatshwe ngumthakathi. Ngaba lephupho engingasoze ngilikhohlwe. Ngaphupha sengifile. Ngahamba ngaya eZulwini. Ngafika ngavulelwa sibili esangweni. Isango leli lalikhazimula lenziwe ngegolide. Owayekhona pho wangivulela kodwa kazange akhulume lami. Lami ngangena ngicula iculo lami ngisithi, "Sinqobile ngeGazi leMvana. Makabongwe uJehova... UyiNgcwele..." Lo laye owayesesangweni wayesazi ingoma wakhanya eyivuna. Ngathi ngithi mehlo suka ngabona amaxuku abantu begqoke ezimhlophe kuthe qhwa! Ngathokoza ngoba ngasengifikile ekhaya lokuphila okunaphakade.

Ngaqala ke ukuthi ngidinge ababegqoke izigqoko zensonto yami. Ngabhoda, ngathalaza ngapha langapha. Phinde ngibabone. Ngibona bonke begqoke zona ezimhlophe njalo behlabele ingoma yona leyo engangiyihlabelele ethi, "Sinqobile NgeGazi leMvana; Makabongwe uJehovah UyiNgcwele -----" Ngadinga, ngabhudula kodwa phinde ngibabone.

Emva kwesikhathi ngaqala ukumangala lokuhlulukelwa ngoba ngingaboni abakithi. Ngacabanga uMfundisi Zalani, lomfundisi David, kambe bonke labanye babezenzisa? Khonokho ngezwa sengibizwa. Ngathalaza, ngezwa sengibuzwa,



"Ukhanya udinga, kuyini okudingayo lapha na?" labuza ilizwi. "Ngidinga abebandla lakithi ele----," ngaphendula lami. "Akulabandla elinja-lo lapha. Lapha akulansonto. Laba bonke ngabahlengwe ngegazi likaJesusu Kristu kuphela. Akulandaba ukuthi bab-engawaphi amansonto emhlabeni okukhulu yikhlanzwa ngeGazi ....." Angisezw-anga ukuthi waqeda esithini ngoba ngaphaphama.

Ekuphaphameni kwami isihlabo sasesingco-  
no. Ngabona ngaleli iphupho ukuthi  
ibandla likaJesusu Kristu lingaphezu  
kwebizo lebandla lami.

## NHAU DZAKANAKA

-Foster Muzanenhamo

Makereke mazhinji chose anopunzika. Ko chikonzero chiiko vanhu vaMwari? Kusash-  
anda pamwe chete kunoparadza mhuri  
yaMwari. Vamwe vanokweva vachienda uko  
neuko vanotevedzera kuda kwamunari, vamwe  
ndavanonyengedza kuti vanomunamata, vamwe  
mwoyo yayo yakabata paviri, zvenyika, ne-  
zwekumusha wakanaka wababa. Kwete kani  
maKristu ngatizadzisei kuda kwaMwari  
timutevedzere.

Jesu anotiudza kuti tiuye kwaari titore  
jogwe rake rakareruka. Kana taita izwi  
zwafanira tizvibvunze kuti chinangwa  
chejogwe ndechei? (Mateu 11:28-30) Mhi-  
nduro tinayo uye tinoiziva. Donza yaisva  
uyu musengwa inobva yaziva kuti basa  
ramuka. Zvimwe chetewo nejogwe raJesusu  
mukereke. Mukasunga donza nedongi nejog-  
we panova nezvimhingam'pinyi. Dongi  
rinokwevera uko uye rinofamba zvinyoro  
nyoro.

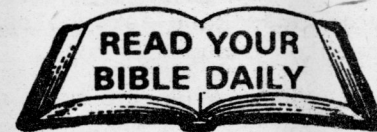
Hazvifaniri mukereke yaMwari. Kana Mwari  
achiti tive madongi ngative madongi kwete  
donza kana takanzi tive donza ngative  
donza. Takasukwa neropa raJesusu kuti  
chinhu chimwe. TirimaKristu nejogwe rat-  
akapiwa nderemaKristu kwete mahedeni.

Vamwe vanokweva neshoko raMwari neminama-  
to nekutevedzera kuda kwaTenzi. Saka  
avo vada kutakura jogwe redonza ivo

varimadongi, hazviiti. Tinofanira kuti  
tidzidze zvinoda Mwari nguva dzese. Jos.  
1:8-9.

Tikaverenga munaMabasa avaPositori 4:32;  
37, tichaona kuti kereke yakanga ichikweva  
pamwe chete, Mwari akatanga kuita  
zvimhamiso. Maridzo yaiva kuponesva  
kwavanorwara, nekubviswa kwemadimoni.

Yaiva michero yokubata pamwechete kwe-  
kereke. Kereke yakatanga kukura. Nhasi  
uno tinofanira kuona zvese izvi asi kana  
pasina kushanda pamwe hatangazvioni saka  
tisu tavakuzvidzivirira zvimhamiso  
zvaMwari. Zvino yava nguva yokuti tose  
mumwe nomumwe tizvitarise. Kereke ngaiku-  
re, zvimhamiso zvaMwari ngazviratidzwe.  
Kweva pamwe chete nevamwe !



### How Precious!

How precious is the Book divine,  
By inspiration giv'n!  
Bright as a lamp its doctrines  
shine,  
To guide our souls to heav'n.

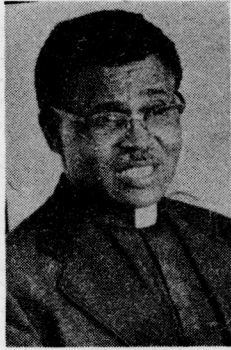
Its light descending from above,  
Our gloomy world to cheer,  
Displays a Saviour's boundless  
love,  
And brings His glories near.

## BISHOP'S TOUR TO OVERSEAS

-Good Words Reporter

Bishop S.N. Ndlovu visited Britain,  
Central America and the U.S.A. recently.  
He returned on the 23rd July, 1983. The  
Bishop went to London, Nicaragua,  
Honduras and the U.S.A.

these young men have indicated their desire to come and work for the church.



BISHOP S.N. NDLOVU

In Nicaragua he went to attend the Mennonite World Conference Executive Committee while in London he wanted to acquire travel documents. Bishop Ndlovu attended the Conference as the President of the All Africa Mennonite And Brethren In Christ Churches. "My visit to Nicaragua was very helpful to me. I saw how other missions operate," said Bishop Ndlovu.

While in the U.S.A. he met with three couples who had been recruited to come in the B.I.C. institutions. They had been contacted by the Mennonite Central Committee and the Brethren In Christ Church. He interviewed them and they are expected to arrive soon. One of them Mrs. Shenk, the daughter in law of Rev. and Mrs. J.R. Shenk (Rev. Shenk is the treasurer), is a nurse. Brethren In Christ hospitals are in need of Medical personnel. He also interviewed a doctor from Winesborough Brethren In Christ Church. The doctor indicated that he might come. Three of those interviewed were all teachers.

Bishop Ndlovu also held a meeting with former missionaries. "I challenged more teachers, doctors and nurses to come and help," the Bishop pointed out. He went on, "Some missionaries had been thinking that nationals were to take up the positions now. But I told them that they take up positions in government institutions."

He met some young Zimbabwean students studying at Messiah College. They are Doubt Sithole ( a well known character because of his good sportsmanship. He is a former striker of Highlanders F.C.), Sibusiso Mpofu from Mzinyathini and Ranford Ndlovu, the Bishop's son. Doubt and Sibusiso are doing some Sciences while Ranford is taking Mathematics. All

Amazwi Amahle

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## *The Church — What Is It?*

-Ian Dumakude

What is a church? There are many answers to this question. Different people have different answers.

One day I asked some Sunday School children what they thought a church was. "A church is a building for worshipping," replied Ngobizitha. Others agreed with this definition. That answer was honest. There are people who think that the church is a building for worshipping. Others call these temples. The worshipping does not need to be in the Name of Jesus. It can be any kind. So a church is sometimes known as any building where religious practices are carried out.

Such buildings can be used for other things as well. They can be used for women's meetings (clubs that do sewing) they can be used for political meetings, and they can be used as class-rooms for students studying anything. People don't care about what they do in these places. It is not surprising to see some people committing even the sins of adultery or feasting with beer in these buildings.

To some people the church is a building plus people who flock into it on Sunday mornings or afternoons. It is a place where people meet each other. Some people have gone to church ever since they were born. They cannot do otherwise now. It is now a very strong habit to them. "I can't stop going to church. My mother and father were ardent members of this church. I dare not do otherwise," said a woman who had married a non-Christian husband.

Music sometimes plays a very important role. Some young men like to go so that they will meet young women. Some young women do the same too. "I will stop going to the church if there is no-one who proposes to marry me among those boys," Saddy threatened after one Sunday service.

Old people too want to meet each other and discuss things of common interest. Some do so in order to be assisted in times of death.

But what does the Bible say the church is? What is it that God the Creator calls His church? Maybe we have to look at the History of the church itself. The church began a long time ago. In the Old Testament, the church was represented by the children of Israel. In the New Testament believers in Jesus Christ were called the church. The Book of Romans has the definition "so we being many are one body in Christ and every one members one another, Rom.12:5. So here we are. We are a particular body. Every member of this church is like a part of the body. Some are ribs, while others are hair. May be I am supposed to be an ear while you are supposed to be a hand. Someone is to be a foot. "...and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all." Eph. 1:23.

The scripture is clear. God sees the church as one body of Christ. It is an abomination to God if He sees us treating the church as a means of production for which we fight against each other. If we do this then, we have long ceased to be a body of Christ. We are an association organized to defile Christianity. When to us the church is a building or a building plus people who entertain us, we are God's enemies because the church is the body of Christ.

How does one become a member of the Body of Christ? Through new birth. Membership to this body starts if one becomes sorry for His sinful life, believes that through Jesus Christ, God can forgive him, and then repents. New birth means "being born of water and the Spirit". The Bible says we must worship God in Spirit as He is the Spirit. If one gets baptized, he confirms that he has partaken in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. One cannot be a member of this church, the Body of Christ just because he has been baptized by immersion or not. One cannot be a member of this church because his parents were members. Regular attendance, participating in the regular programme, the priest's confirmation or a long time of profound Biblical training cannot result in one becoming a member of the Body of Christ. The membership starts in ones own heart. One becomes a part of the Body of Christ from within not from without. The church of God cannot be seen by naked eyes. He sees the condition of our hearts. If they are

pure, He sees that we are members of His church. If we are members of God's Church from our hearts, then we are the church that Jesus Christ will come for. What is your definition of church?

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## KHUMALO — 'WHEATON 83'

-Good Words Reporter

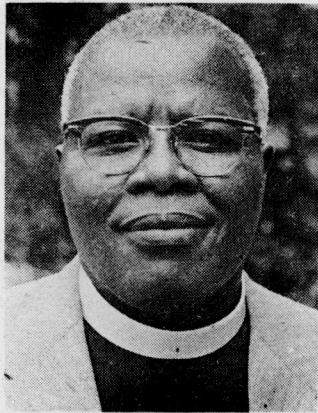
General Conference Secretary and E.B.I. principal Rev. P.M. Khumalo attended an International Evangelical Conference on the Nature and Mission of the Church. The meeting was held at Wheaton in the U.S.A.

Rev. Khumalo is the Associate President of Associations of Africa and Madagascar Southern Region. He represents evangelicals in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, Mozambique and Angola. "I had gone to Wheaton '83 as a representative of those who believe in the evangelical point of view. These are people who ardently believe in the Great Commission found in Mt. 28:19 and Mark 16:15," Rev. Khumalo said.

He has attended a number of International Evangelical gatherings and since 1960. He disclosed, "This has made many evangelical representatives all over the world to know about me. As a result of this my name is in a number of evangelical circulars."

The goals of Wheaton '83 were as follows:

1. To restate the Biblical understanding of the nature and mission of the church, its identity, unity, ministries etc.,
2. To bring integration between the various aspects of the mission of the Church—Growth and maturity, unity in mission and mutually supportive ministries of evangelism and social responsibility,
3. To promote the Theological, spiritual, missionary and structural renewal of local churches and para agencies,
4. To define the unfinished frontiers and call the churches to World evangelization.
5. To strengthen partnership in training and the sharing of resources and ministries between established missi-



REV. P.M. KHUMALO

ons and emerging missions of the third world, 6. To plan better leadership development by formal and informal means through co-operation in developing in curriculum resources etc.

7. To renew obedience and commitment to the church in its missions to the

world. The topics covered were, The Church In Its Local Setting, The Church In New Frontiers for Missions and The Church In Response To Human Needs.

Rev. P.M. Khumalo said he was particularly impressed by the subject on the Church In Response To Human Needs. He noted that the church is usually one sided. "We always care for the spiritual needs but neglect physical necessities of life," he said. He also spoke about the need for our church to focus on local expansion. "Expansion begins at home," he declared.

Asked how this expansion can come about the ex-Bishop replied, "Local leadership must be strengthened. Jesus taught his disciples to be strong and influential leaders. They should be trained to be dedicated prayer leaders. Finally local leaders need a training in church planting programmes."

Rev. P. Khumalo revealed that the Church Growth/Evangelism Committee would implement most of the ideas he got from Wheaton 83. He also said that there is now an awareness in in real-

ization of that Church Growth is very important. "We must begin with the Executive Board, the Overseers and then the pastors who in turn will take the message to the local leaders," he concluded.

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## OMI KUHLE NGUBANI?

-nguMgezela

Abantu abanengi bathanda ukukhuluma ngendoda loba ngomama omi kuhle. Kanti isibili, ukuma kuhle kutshoni ngomuntu osebandleni na?

Abanye abantu bangakhanya bemi kuhle emehlweni ebandla, loba emehlweni omtshumayeli. Pho-ke okuyikho yikuphi na? Ensukwini zalamhla ukuma kuhle kutsho umuntu othi ibandla ligcwele indlu acelwe ukuthi, akhuleke. Yikho yini esikutshoyo ngomuntu esithi umi kuhle ebandleni na? Nxa kunjalo siyehlukana.

Ebandleni lendulo babekhokhelwa liBhayibhili nxa babefuna indoda eqotho legcwele umoya oyiNgcwele. Lalamhla lokhu siyaswela amadoda labafazi abanjalo phakathi kwebandla lakithi. Siyaswela amajaha emi kuhle phambi kweNkosi atshi phambili kukamtshumayeli.

Ake sikhangele ibandla lezolo ukuthi lalisitshoni ngomuntu omi kuhle ebandleni IZenzo 6:3-8. Asikhangele eZwini leNkosi njalo sesibonile umuntu okuthiwa umi kuhle. Lowo muntu uyafinyelela yini kula manyathelo ebandla lezolo na?

Nxa engafinyeleli, loba nxa singafinyeleli njengebandla asilungiseni izenzo zethu. Iapha eZwini leNkosi umuntu omi kuhle ngonjengoSitefani lalabayana akhethwa labo. Thina njengabantu bebandla ake siyekele ukuthi umuntu umi kuhle ngoba ekhuleka ensontweni. Kodwa asivule iBhayibhili sibone amanyathelo omuntu ofaneleyo. Titusi 2:2-3.

Thina sonke siyinyama, asingehlulelani njengoba sonke sisona. Nanso-ke isiboniboni sebandla-iBhayibhili. Yiyo incwadi esimele siyihlole singakavuli imilomo yethu. Tithusi 1:6-7.

Ibandla lendulo lafeza umsebenzi walo, ngokulandela iBhayibhili. Atshi amacebo kaMangena.

Umuntu omi kuhle ebandleni ngumuntu oqotho ogcwele uMoya oyiNgcwele lokuhlanipha. Sinjalo thina na?



## IBANDLA

## ELINGCWELE

-S.S. Ndimande

Omunye umama wezwa uFudu exoxa loSenzeni besithi, "Uyazi Fudu lapha ensontweni yekhaya asikhholisi mani yeyi wena." Njengoba laye uFudu lowo wayengomunye owedlula zisengwa wathi, "uqinisile Se, lami sengidiniwe ngale insonto yezalukazi lamaxhegu." Wayaphambili wathi wathi, "Abebandla elingcwele bayakholisa. Inkonzo zabo ziphethwe ngabatsha atshi izinto lezi esezizakufa."

Umama lowo wayesevela egcekeni wathi, "Lithini na? Umuntu omtsha oyisoni uyatshumayela yini? Bathula bobabili. Kodwa bathi, "thina sifuna ibandla lapho abantu abatsha banikwa khona ithuba lokutshumayela njengeBandleni elingcwele ayikhona lapha kithi."

Umama waseqala ukufundisa wathi, "Bantwabami ukutshumayela ayisikho ukukholwa. Noma ungaze utshumayeke liphuma lize liyetshona kunina ungelathando konke okutshoyo kuyize. Into erkulu yikuzuza ukuthethelelwa kwezono mandulo andubane uphume uye tshumayela. Njalo mangaki amankazana eBandleni elingcwele enda emsulwa na? Bonke tabonwa ngezisu. Pho, bungaphi ububandla benu batsha na? Njalo akukho ibandla okungathiwangelabatsha. Ibandla lonke lilabo abatsha njalo labadala. Iba baqotho njalo bayazithiba emlonyeni yabo kanye lasezweni. Bantu abatsha funani kuqala umbuso kaThixo andubane libe libandla labatsha Mathewu 6:33 Izenzo yizo eziyisiminya emntwini okholwayo loba mutsha loba mdala. Abatsha

bavunyelwe ukuthi baphathe iZwi leNksoi. Kodwa into eyethusayo yikuthi abanye abatsha abakhethi amazwi abalingeneyo.

Amabandla wonke alabo abatsha futhi balibandla linye. Into eswelekayo yikumazi uJesu Kristu ngeqiniso atshi ngokubanga umsindo ezinkonzweni. Abantu abatsha ligugu lakusasa lalamhla. Khépha baswela intobeko yokuthatha okubalingeneyo lokwazi ukuthi abazali badala njalo sebonile okunengi okunzima njalo okwesabekayo. Ibandla linye. Ngelabatsha labadala. Alikho elingcono ngoba lingela batsha. Atshi.

## EZIVELA

## EGWERU

Ikomithi yeGweru yahlangana zingamatshumi amabili nanye kuNkwékwézi. Njengebandla elikhulayo eGweru bayaswela umhlalwazi wexuku elihlabelayo. Ngakho ke asibakhumbule emthandazweni.

Ibandla leli elitsha seliphezu kwamalungiselelo omhlangano omkhulu oseWanezi Mission ngoNcwabakazi. Kulesiswelo esikhulu eGweru. Umtshumayeli kalandlu. Kodwa ikomithi iyiphethe le indaba njalo yenza amacebo amahle aqondene lendlu kamtshumayeli. Futhi ikomithi kanye lebandla, bafuna ukwakha indlu yokukhonzela. Njalo amalungiselelo aseqalisiwe lomakhi sebeke bakhuluma laye.

Ebandleni leGweru, bafisa lokufisa ukwethekelela izindlu belibandla atshi umuntu ngamunye. Njalo kusweleka omasonjwana abazasetshenziswa ngumtshumayeli ekuhambeni.

Ibandla leli lifisa ukuthi lithole kuhle incwadi zalo njengoba sebelendawo yekheli eyile: Gweru B.I.C.Church, Box 14, (Mkoba,) Kusweleka ukuthi kubhadalwe amadola alitshumi ngonyaka. Okunye abakusweleyo zingwalo zomsebenzi amalekodi amabili.

Leli bandla leGweru, liswela ukuthi likhunjulwe libandla elidala ngokulikhulekela imihla ngemihla.