

The Berean AFRICA



The body of Christ in Africa and the world should be a body that focuses on enlightenment and encouragement in the scriptures.



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...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH



The Mirror Effect

When we are looking into the mirror, what do I see?

Am I angry at self?

Proud?

How do I feel about my achievements?

Do I like my eyebrows?

My hair?

What can I do to be better?

Sometimes I mock myself for the bad and negatives that I see.

Sometimes I congratulate and encourage myself.

If I'm looking shabby in the mirror, deep inside I know I'm looking shabby, and I can see that. And people will also see that. To some, shabby might be normal, and I might meet worse-looking people out there.

But the mirror was never really about clothes. As the Lord told Samuel when he came to anoint a king, "**man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart**" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Whatever I see in the glass, He sees further in.

Within my internal conversation, I'll have reasons why — out of clothes? Only available clothes? Borrowed clothes... and hopefully I'll strive to be better and not let this be my permanent look. This is James's picture exactly: **"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed"** (James 1:23–25). The glance that forgets changes nothing. It is the steady, continuing look — at the Word, not just the glass — that produces the doer.

While Bible study constantly guides us on what we need to do, living by them can be harder than physics theories applied in reality — it needs more than mastery. Self-assessment may be the easy part, but navigating a world where other, unconcerned people can easily influence your spiritual life choices needs keen navigation.

My safest option is to withdraw to oneself, where accountability is not stretched beyond my existence, and if it is, I should be comfortable with the consequences, however bad, fully conscious. It is a reasonable instinct, but not the one Scripture leaves us with. **"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"** (Hebrews 10:25). Withdrawal may feel safe, but it was never presented to us as the finished path.

I'm on a journey where I'm consciously joining different communities and letting more people in, with the belief and hope that they share the same hope and conviction as I. I'm also learning that different people have a different mirror effect. Some don't even have mirrors and rely on the next person for a reference if they care about looks or a second opinion. Some will watch you with a wardrobe malfunction and say nothing.

Spiritual growth may not have measurable factors in the physical world. Unfortunately, we can only know where we lie on Christ's coming. If I rely on brothers for reflection, I could be misled, or I could mislead them. The latter is less likely, because of my conscious "not to be involved" mental state, until I feel it's worth it.

I would watch the world go by because of my beliefs and bad experiences in being involved. But a few copies behind, Bro. Sid's article spoke about social interaction and how speaking helps. That involves being able to talk about the bad things with the same attention as the good things. It felt like self-reflection, but on a larger scale — talking things out helps. Maybe my wardrobe malfunction is because I hurt myself and cannot button properly. Someone needs to help me.

Also, I can assure you there are people out there who do not, and have never, looked at themselves in the mirror.

For Sundays I do a report on myself, on guesswork. Do I think God is impressed with me more or less this week? If Christ came, would He be impressed? The answer is **not really about impressing anyone this week at all, but about becoming ready for the day itself: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"** (1 John 3:2–3).

The mirror, in the end, is not for admiring or condemning the reflection. It is for the purifying.

African Berean Ecclesia

News & Events

**The Berean Christadelphian
Africa
Annual Gathering**

Location: Madowa, Uganda
Dates: 17th - 20th December, 2026

Theme: Be Ye Transformed

**It is with joy that we announce the
baptism of Brother Adam Julius
(Mtondia ecclesia), which took place
on 9 August 2026, during the Kitui
weekend Bible study.**

**We pray that our Father in heaven will
guide him along the narrow way that
leads to the everlasting kingdom!**

matt 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John was calling people to repentance, and baptizing them, while explaining that he was not the Christ, but that One greater than him was coming. Matthew tells us that when Jesus came to John to be baptized, John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are you coming to me?" Jesus replied with the following words, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.

The bible teaches one baptism is essential for salvation. Nicodemus learned it the night he visited Jesus that unless one is born of spirit and water can't see the kingdom of God.

John 3:1-3

**Bro. Stephen
David**



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Growing Faith, Growing Food: Our Keyhole Garden in Ikutha

From the beginning, God gave mankind a garden to tend, joining physical labour to spiritual purpose. Our household in Ikutha has taken up this calling by building a keyhole garden: a raised, circular bed around a central compost basket, an idea from Sis. Eileen.

Why We Built It

We believe humanity's future health lies not in processed shelf food, but in what we breed and grow ourselves.

Building Without Rocks

Stones weren't available, so we used bricks from our brother's brickmaking business, bound with soil and water instead of cement. Our sister's donkey hauled water by cart from the distant river. We layered the bed with maize stalks, animal waste, then soil, and planted.

Sourcing Our Seeds

Herbs came from the Nairobi market, seedlings locally, and seeds from East Africa Seeds and Simlaw Seeds at a good price. Every seed grew except thyme, a lesson, not a failure.

A Household Transformed

The family gained new vegetables and nutritional know-how, with Sis. Ivykaye teaching them to cook what they grow and taking seeds to her Uganda farms. A Safaricom 5G router now helps them research, and interest in keyhole gardens is spreading locally.

Unwelcome Visitors and Growing Further

Birds raided favourites like pumpkin leaves, so feeding spots now draw them away. Cassava stems from Bungoma and baobab snacks have widened the harvest. Ahead of the rains, we hope for nursery nets and more routers for neighbouring households, each garden showing that tending earth and soul are one labour.

Please send African ecclesial communication to:

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Continue next month should the Lord will.
