

SEVEN LETTERS

FOR

ALL CHURCHES

An Evangelical Programmed Text

James

1 and 2 Peter

1, 2 and 3 John

Jude

Six

J. Ouko, H. Ros,
C. Ratz, I. Whitt

SEVEN LETTERS

FOR

ALL CHURCHES

Printed in Kenya
by Evangel Press, P. O. Box 1015, Kisumu,
for
Evangel Publishing House, P. O. Box 969, Kisumu,
located at Nyang'ori.

SEVEN LETTERS FOR ALL CHURCHES

Ouko Ros Ratz Whitt

Published by
**EVANGEL PUBLISHING HOUSE,
P.O. BOX 969,
KISUMU, KENYA.**

COPYRIGHT - EVANGEL PUBLISHING HOUSE - 1975

The Copyright for this book has been assigned to Evangel Publishing House by the TEXT-AFRICA production coordinator with the agreement of the authors. The book is a product of evangelical cooperation in Africa under the direction of the TEXT-AFRICA production coordinator working with the AEAM Theological Commission.

No portion of this book in part or in whole may be reproduced without the written permission of Evangel Publishing House.

Permission to translate this book into other languages will be granted upon request, when request is made in writing to Evangel Publishing House. It is against copyright laws to translate this book without written permission.

When requesting permission to translate this book, please state your name, your church or mission, the name of the translator and your full address.

Quotations in this text are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

INTRODUCTION

This is a home study book to help church leaders understand the Bible. It is part of a series of texts to help train pastors and church workers to do the work of God in a better way.

PI and TEE

The way in which these lessons are written is called programmed instruction or PI. The books are to be used for home study and weekly discussion meetings with a teacher. Using them in this way is called Theological Education by Extension or TEE.

TEE in AFRICA

As teachers, we have used many different methods to teach church leaders in Africa. We have found this way to be the best. During the past few years we have worked with many evangelical churches and missions to help them start Theological Education by Extension. TEE is so useful because it teaches many good men who are already working in local churches. These men have families and must work hard. They are leaders in their churches. They cannot leave these responsibilities. TEE takes the Bible school to these students. They continue to work at home and help in the church. Then they attend meetings near home with other students like themselves, where they discuss the lessons. The students learn by studying, attending the weekly discussions, and using what they have learned every day. More than 30 denominations and missions in 20 countries in Africa are using these PI books. They are using TEE to help church workers understand the Bible and do God's work.

TEXT PROJECT

Evangelical missions are cooperating to prepare the programmed books for TEE. The books are written by nationals and missionaries working together. Each lesson is written, tested, and rewritten until we know that it teaches well. Since there are many writers and they are new at programming Bible lessons, we edit and retest each book before it is printed. We do this to make the lessons easier to understand, to make them fit with the other books, and to make them teach in the best way. So, as editors we share in the responsibility of what is given in each book.

SEVEN LETTERS FOR ALL CHURCHES

This text was first prepared by the writers at a workshop held at Limuru, Kenya, in 1973. It was tested and then used with more than 35 students in actual TEE centres in Kenya. The material was then revised and retested.

This book teaches lessons from seven letters in the New Testament often called the General Epistles. These epistles are James; 1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2 and 3 John; and Jude.

The writers of this text have not tried to give a verse by verse explanation of the letters. Instead they have chosen the parts which they believe will give the student material to help him in his life and work in the church. The writers often faced the question, "What shall we put into the text and what shall we leave out?" They tried to answer the question by choosing what they felt would be most helpful to the church workers who will use the text.

We want to make these books as good as they can be. We will be happy to have you write and give us your criticisms and suggestions. Or you may want to tell us how God helped you and your church through these studies. Be sure to read the next page which tells how to use this book.

Your friends in Christ,
Fred and Grace Holland
TEXT-Africa Project
Coordinators and Editors

TEXT AUTHORS

The authors of these books come from many different backgrounds and churches. For this reason, we tell you a bit about them in each book.

Joseph Ouko is on the teaching staff of Pentecostal Bible College, Kisumu, Kenya. Before attending Bible College, he was an officer in the Kenya police. He has been a writer and editor with Evangel Publishing House for several years and is very active in the work of his church denomination.

Herbert Ros is a missionary from Germany. He has attended Bible college in England. He has worked for more than 5 years in Uganda, and is presently doing church planting and evangelism in Kenya.

Calvin Ratz has been managing editor of Evangel Publishing House. He is a graduate of Eastern Pentecostal Bible College, Peterborough, Canada; Carleton University (B. Com.), Ottawa; and Syracuse University (M.A.) Syracuse, United States. Before coming to Kenya, he was a missionary in Hong Kong.

Irving Whitt is a graduate of Eastern Pentecostal Bible College, Peterborough, Canada, and Central Bible College, Springfield, United States. He worked with Teen Challenge before coming to Kenya as a missionary. In Kenya, he has taught in a residential Bible college and has directed the TEE programme associated with the college.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is your teacher. It will teach you a lesson each day. Listen carefully to what the book says to you. If you want to learn well, you must obey the book just as you would obey a teacher. When a teacher tells you to take your Bible and read a verse, do you just look at your teacher? No. Do you say that you will do it later? No. You take your Bible and read. This is what you must do with this book. Obey it as your teacher.

Think about how a teacher teaches in school. First, the teacher tells the students something. He explains it carefully. Then he asks questions. When the students answer right, he tells them that their answer is good. If the students do not answer well, then the teacher explains again.

This book uses the same way of teaching. First the book gives you a small part of the lesson. Then it asks you a question or gives you something to do. If you read carefully, you will be able to answer the question. Answering the question does two things. First, it shows whether you have understood well. Second, it helps you to remember what you have learned.

These lessons are written so that if you read each part carefully you should get the right answer. If you are not sure of the right answer, you should read that part again. If you are still not sure, then write the best answer you can. Then go on. As you continue through the lesson, you will find out if you are answering correctly. But it is very important that you always write your best answer before you read the next part. It will help you if you use a heavy piece of paper to cover the rest of the page as you read. Move the paper down to the first heavy line which looks like this: =====. Read the teaching and answer the question. Then move the paper down to the next heavy line. In this way you will not read the answer before you are ready for it.

It will take you 10 weeks to finish this book. You should do one lesson each day, for five days of each week. Do not try to do two or three lessons in one day. The last questions for each lesson are the most important ones. They show what it is that the teacher wants you to remember. We call these the objectives of the book. At the end of the week, if you can answer the last questions of each day, then you have learned well.

This book is prepared to be used with a weekly discussion meeting. You should have a leader to help you with your problems. Your leader will also help you discuss with other students what you have learned from the book. If you have not studied your lessons before coming to class, you will not understand what is being talked about.

If there is no leader to help you with these lessons, call together some of your friends. Ask them to study the lessons. Then meet together and let one of the group lead the discussion.

We think you will like this kind of learning. As you study, you will try hard to get the right answers. You will be pleased when you get them. When you come to the questions at the end of the book, you will be surprised how much you have learned.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEEK ONE: James

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| Day 1 | Why were the letters written? | 12 |
| Day 2 | James was a servant and wrote for Jews | 17 |
| Day 3 | Trials make Christians strong | 21 |
| Day 4 | Desire brings sin and sin brings death | 25 |
| Day 5 | What is clean religion? | 30 |

WEEK TWO: James

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----|
| Day 1 | What is the King's Law | 35 |
| Day 2 | Faith without works is dead | 40 |
| Day 3 | The tongue is like a fire | 45 |
| Day 4 | What starts fighting in the church? | 50 |
| Day 5 | How to stop fighting in the church | 55 |

WEEK THREE: James

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| Day 1 | Christians should not love money | 60 |
| Day 2 | Christians wait patiently for the Lord to return | 65 |
| Day 3 | Christians should not take oaths | 70 |
| Day 4 | The church prays for the sick | 75 |
| Day 5 | Bring back brothers who leave the truth | 80 |

WEEK FOUR: 1 Peter

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| Day 1 | We were chosen by God to be holy | 87 |
| Day 2 | We have an inheritance in heaven | 92 |
| Day 3 | We were ransomed with the blood of Jesus | 97 |
| Day 4 | We are living stones in the church | 102 |
| Day 5 | We are strangers in the world | 107 |

WEEK FIVE: 1 Peter

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| Day 1 | Husbands and wives must live well together | 112 |
| Day 2 | We must love and serve one another | 117 |
| Day 3 | Christians suffer for their faith in Jesus | 121 |
| Day 4 | Shepherds must care for the flock of God | 126 |
| Day 5 | We must refuse the devil in faith | 130 |

WEEK SIX: 2 Peter

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| Day 1 | What can we do through the promises of God? | 134 |
| Day 2 | We must add to our faith | 139 |
| Day 3 | What do false teachers do? | 143 |
| Day 4 | We must prepare for the return of Jesus | 148 |
| Day 5 | Revision | 151 |

WEEK SEVEN: 1 John

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| Day 1 | God is light | 157 |
| Day 2 | Walking in the light gives us fellowship and cleansing | 162 |
| Day 3 | Christians should not love the world | 167 |
| Day 4 | False teachers say that Jesus is not God | 172 |
| Day 5 | God's Word must stay in us | 176 |

WEEK EIGHT: 1 John

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----|
| Day 1 | A child of God should overcome sin | 181 |
| Day 2 | How do we know a person loves God? | 186 |
| Day 3 | We must test the spirits | 192 |
| Day 4 | The love of God helps us | 198 |
| Day 5 | We can overcome the world | 203 |

WEEK NINE: 2, 3 John

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| Day 1 | Revision | 208 |
| Day 2 | We have no fellowship with deceivers | 210 |
| Day 3 | The preacher's greatest joy | 215 |
| Day 4 | All God's children should be fellow workers | 219 |
| Day 5 | Unfaithful people put themselves first | 224 |

WEEK TEN: Jude

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| Day 1 | We must fight for the faith | 228 |
| Day 2 | Jude warned about unbelief, pride and following evil desire | 232 |
| Day 3 | False teachers will be judged | 238 |
| Day 4 | Jesus will keep us from falling and present us to God | 243 |
| Day 5 | Revision | 247 |