

2016 WTC ALUMNI RETREAT

REPORTS AND TESTIMONIES



Celebrating 6 years of Gods faithfulness, expansion of the Kingdom, preaching of the Gospel and raising of the Gospel army



Greetings in the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we trust this report finds you well in Christ. We are happy to share with you news of the wonderful blessings which have been ours in Christ in the two days between 28th-29th October 2016.

ONE OF OUR FLAGSHIP CALENDAR EVENTS

Many of you would know that a big part of the Gospel mandate entrusted to us is closely tied to the evangelization of Pentecostal and charismatic denominations (from which the Lord delivered us). This we do in two primary ways, **first**; the Reformation conferences held every year in several parts of Kenya at which hundreds of pastors, church leaders and churchmen and women are challenged towards Biblical Truths and religion. **Second** branch of that mandate is to train up pastors and church leaders in a formal 'boot camp' kind of college WISDOM TRAINING CENTER. These training centers are spread around several parts of Kenya and include an online program.



LEFT: DELEGATES IN A PAST REFORMATION CONFERENCE MUMIAS



RIGHT: PAST STUDENTS NEXT TO WTC PREMISE

WISDOM TRAINING CENTER ALUMNI RETREAT-BORN OF NECESSITY

The men and women, who matriculate through WTC, either at the certificate or diploma level through the years, face diverse challenges. Firstly; the 1 year spent at certificate level, and 2 years for the diploma are hardly sufficient to establish them in all they need, to confront the huge task of pushing back the darkness of a false

Christianity from which they are weaned. The Alumni retreats serve therefore as refresher conferences, further development, training and also distribution of ministry resources; like books and tapes to aid and encourage them as they serve the Lord. Secondly: The truth of the Gospel as captured in the reformed faith (The doctrines of Grace) is very unpop-

ular in an apostate scene of African Christianity (much of which is imported from Western religious apostasy).



THIS YEARS THEME: THE COST OF GOSPEL FAITHFULNESS



Above: Pastor Barnabas teaching at the Alumni retreat. He came in the morning before the day of Alumni. Despite his ill health, the Lord helped him exceedingly

IDENTIFY THE AUTHENTIC GOSPEL FROM THE SYNTHETIC COPY

Pastor Barnabas in his first presentation helped us to see, that we could not be faithful to that which we do not know. Identifying and coming to grips with the source, nature, contents, outlay and implications of what Paul calls "the Gospel of God" (Romans 1:1) is the first essential towards Gospel faithfulness. Barnabas appealed to Pauline distinction between the Gospel he preached to the Galatians, "which you received", and "another Gospel" so called (Galatians 1:6-8). To the Corinthians Paul proceeded to unpack contents of that distinctive Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The life and times of men in church History like Martin Luther testify to a Gospel faithfulness which arose from a clear identification of the authentic from the synthetic. The Gospel at its core is not a social message, nor is it an invitation to become 'a better you'. The authentic Gospel is a revolution in the human soul. It is a demand to produce what you cannot produce. It emanates from, and it ends with the person, work and worth of Jesus Christ.

ESTABLISHING THE PREEMINENCE OF THE GOSPEL

Barnabas set out to vindicate the proposed thesis "The Gospel is the body, soul and sole business of the Christian Church". The gathering was particularly blessed with Barnabas exposition of 1 Corinthians 1:21-22 (a text which galvanized all his presentations). The apostle in the text is anxious that we have the highest view of the Gospel. It is "the power of God" - 1 Cor 1:18, Romans 1:16, it is the only means by which God saves - 1 Cor 1:21, Ephesians 1:13. In view of the decoys often popped alongside or in the place of the Gospel Paul in the text lists Baptism. He is glad he did not baptize anyone in Corinth except two people - 1 Cor 1:14 (as important as that Christian rite is). His rejoicing is that "Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel" - Verse 17. Wisdom does not replace or rival the preeminence of the Gospel. The Greeks, with their gnostic love for new information and quest for latest 'revelation' (Acts 17:21),

disparaged and looked down upon the Gospel. It is similar in our day when most preachers forsake the old trusted message, in favor of so called 'new revelations'. Some try to modify the Gospel into some contemporary relevance. The clamor is to make the message acceptable to the 'intelligentsia' and the modern man. To Paul, as should be to us too "the Greeks seek wisdom", but "we preach Christ Crucified" - 1 Cor 1:22 (b)

After lifting the Gospel above the rite of Baptism and human wisdom, the Apostle now attacks the Jewish barrier to the Gospel - the demand for

signs. What a similar fallacy in our 'power evangelism' times! Like with the Jews; the message of the cross, the Gospel of Christ, is veiled by the hubris and clatter for signs and wonders. For some, human genius and man made techniques make substitutes for the preaching of the cross. Even in such a confused environment we must insist on the plain statement of the Gospel.



THE OFFENSE OF THE GOSPEL

In his third presentation pastor Barnabas zeroed in on Paul's insistence on retention in our Gospel, of that which is rough and unpalatable to the fallen man. This is what constitutes "the saving ingredient in the Gospel pill". To ameliorate, rationalize, tone down and smoothen the rough edges of the Gospel of Christ is to strip it of its saving efficacy, and make it no more than a social appeal; well within the wisdom of Buddha, Nelson Mandela and a host of gurus with nice wisdom for life, suggestions on character modifications, but without saving power. For Paul as should be for us, we insist on this "lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power" - verse 17 (b).

THE 4 LEPERS IN THE DAY OF GLAD TIDINGS -

The final address by Barnabas rallied the convention with a passionate appeal to go and spread the glad tidings to our people, stuck in false religion, saddled under 'another gospel, another Spirit, another Jesus', another planting by the enemy of Christ, altogether blind and lost in the 'church'. Faithfulness demands that we take up a burden to accost and roll back the darkness of the mongrel message. He read to us the Biblical story of the 4 lepers who during one of the worst famines in known history (and despite their terrible malady), stumbled upon food supplies. They said to each other (as we all must say to each other today) "this is a day of glad tidings, we cannot keep it to ourselves"

TESTIMONIES FROM BRETHREN COUNTING THE COST

My name is Pastor Aloice Oginga Nyadol-from Kisumu-western part of Kenya. Despite many years as a preacher, It was in 2013 when the Lord converted me after I came to grips with the genuine gospel of salvation. Billy & Tessa Sked's contact in Uganda had invited me to the Reformation Conference in Mumias Hosted by Pastor Elly. Hearing Gods plan of salvation expounded by Pastor Keith Underhill from Romans 8:29-30, and then a probing message on being born again and having the imputed righteousness of Christ by Papa Billy Sked; Intense conviction finally gave way to a whole new knowledge of Christ in saving grace. The task then was to give this testimony to my wife, and also to the church I pastored. Both received this as a strange doctrine. We went through a period of turmoil and heartbreaks but thank God for His faithfulness. Since then we have sought to bring this Gospel to our churches amidst struggles and opposition from family and friends. Thank God the churches are gradually taking a stand for the truth of the Gospel, and we now have a WTC training center in Kisumu to help us fight the good fight.



I was born and raised an Anglican. Grew up in the church system and finally went to theological training, after which I became a church minister at different levels and posted in diverse places. All this time I had never heard the genuine Gospel as it was taught to me at Wisdom Training Center. It was last year (2015) that I was convinced of the error of Anglicanism and the false religion I had imbibed from youth.

Struggle and turmoil ensued because I sought to bring these truths to the 120 people who sat under my ministry every Sunday and other week days.

Early this year my denomination wrote me a letter to dis-fellowship me, and ban me from any Anglican gathering. I have taken the decision to join Gospel Missions Agency Church in Sabatia and am glad my soul is at rest.

2016 WTC ALUMNI RETREAT MY PRESENTATIONS

In my first presentation, I sought to show from the evidence of Church history, that attacks on the Gospel have firstly, and chiefly aimed at attacking the person, work and exclusivity of Christ. From the Docetist error of the first century, which disputed that Christ came in the flesh, to the gnostic sect of montanism in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, with its challenge on Christ as God's last word. From the Arian controversy in the fourth century, challenging the deity of Christ, to the Pelagian heresy in the fifth century diluting

the sole efficacy of Christ's work in behalf of sinners. Through the turbulence of Christian witness in history, you will see a church which jealously and strenuously contended for "the faith once and for all time delivered to the saints". The great creeds of the Christian Church bear testimony to a church which was constantly concerned with clarifying issues of theology and churchmanship in Christ and in the Gospel light. It must follow that we in Gospel faithfulness must not get our eyes off the Gospel ball, and constantly and consistently train them on Christ Jesus.



GABRIEL WASICHE ALSO TESTIFIED OF GODS GRACE

I met pastor Elly when he did a very controversial conference in one of the local churches

From the conference I was so surprised at the teaching which wrestled with my heart, challenging all I had known and believed.

Weeks later I saw him in town and literally chased after him. I asked him if might know more about the things he was preaching and he directed me to come to wisdom training center. I had protested that I could not read. Elly pointed to a poster that was near and asked me "can you at least read that?" And I said yes, he said to me "then you can come to class"

After months in school, I began to see all that was wrong with me

and the church I attended. Issues like women in leadership, the matter of the Holy Spirit, the sinners prayer etc. when I confronted the leader of our ministry on these issues he pointed me to the 29 years he had been in ministry and how my new perspectives could not be right

They started by denying me the right to preach the truth in my own congregation, I stepped out and started doing open airs

Soon after I was asked to leave the church and now still work for the Lord in the streets, doing house to house witnessing and receiving those who wish to know.



"THROUGH THE TURBULENCE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN HISTORY, YOU WILL SEE A CHURCH WHICH JEALOUSLY AND STRENUOUSLY CONTENDED FOR "THE FAITH ONCE AND FOR ALL TIME DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS".

"I WAS NOT DISOBEDIENT TO THE HEAVENLY VISION"-ACTS 26:19

THE NECESSARY ORIGINS OF GOSPEL FAITHFULNESS

In my second and last presentation, it was my duty to identify those necessities without which Gospel faithfulness would be a mirage. We saw that "if it is not worth dying for, it certainly is not worth living for". Unless the Gospel transcends intellectual ascent, unless it's necessary convictions are born of and fueled by a divine encounter deep in our souls, it will be fickle, negotiable in a heart beat and contingent on prevailing circumstances. Paul in expressing his faithfulness to the Gospel, for which cause he is accused before Agrippa, Felix and Bernice, declares "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision "-Acts 26:19. Here Paul hacks back to that fearful day, when the risen Lord knocked him down in a blinding light and a wonderful conversion happened to the chief of sinners. So true conversion births a genuine Gospel faithfulness. In the second place; the

beatific vision of Christ in all its beauty and captivating luster will spur the Gospel minister to faithfulness. Until and when we esteem Christ a pearl of great price, the excellency of all excellences, until we reckon him our chief delight, we shall stumble upon Idols, Imitations and detours which dent our faithfulness to His Gospel. Thirdly;

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Paul in his defense before Agrippa and Felix speaks of the "hope of the resurrection of the dead "-. Lifted beyond the present chains, stare down of the powers that be, the very threat of his own death, the apostle is kept within the Gospel tracks because of that hope. It is a hope that soon we all exit this fleeting world and step into eternity where all labor shall be laid bare and God's own be vindicated. This is the hope we read of in the saints who looked for a better city an eternal city (Hebrews 11:13-16). It was the hope Stephen held on to, as stones rained on his head and he saw the risen Lord stand to welcome him into glory. It was the same

hope nursed and cherished by thousands of martyrs, down the running centuries. Hope held by those who were beheaded, mauled by lions, burnt at the stakes. The hope of a world to come, in view of which "the present light afflictions are not worth to be compared with the glory to be revealed "-2 Cor 4:16.

WE HAD OTHER BLESSINGS AS WELL-BESIDES THE GOSPEL CHALLENGE



One of the main purposes we gather for this annual retreat is to fellowship together and touch base over meals and drinks. The Lord permitted us to have 102 delegates congregating in my compound under a tent. Some of these delegates were lodged in our premises for the two days -extending such a wonderful time of fellowship. We are always exceedingly thankful to the ladies in our church who labor to feed the many people in conferences and these special meetings



OUR HEARTS ARE VERY DELIGHTED AND VERY GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE



Pastor Keith Underhill, At such Alumni meetings ,you loom large in the background even in your absence. Thank you for training us in the Gospel, both by precept and deed, your labor among us shall only be fully declared in eternity. Thoughts of your faithful labor constantly rebuke our often regretted slothfulness. May we be helped to strive for what the Lord made out of you



Pastor Barnabas Kuogo; for your faithful labor among us. You never once failed to answer our call. We are glad the Lord gifted you that much for the advancement of the authentic Gospel

Billy and Tessa Sked, We could write pages upon pages, but you know what we think of you. Your steadfast partnership are the winds beneath the wings of this work, we look forward to being with you early next year for Reformation Conference.



Harvey Bay Bible Church in Queensland Australia : for your support in prayer and in Kind, we treasure our ongoing partnership in the preaching of the Gospel and in the training of ministers



SO CONSIDER THESE FOR PRAYER, SUPPORT AND PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

CHURCH PLANTS: Sabatia church plant, done late last year and led by pastor Noah Ikari, continues to thrive despite challenges and opposition; please pray with them. Of particular focus is the need to acquire a permanent piece of land to house the church and WTC center there. Koyonzo Church does especially need able men to help pastor Duncan with the heavy ministry duties in a rural setting.

GMA FRATERNAL MEETINGS: Much good has come out of these meetings, please pray that the men who shoulder ministry burdens will themselves be thoroughly acquainted with the Gospel they preach. most also struggle with daily necessities for life, pray for wisdom and provision in income generation for these men.

WISDOM TRAINING CENTERS: In western Kenya there is now four physical centers, add a diploma course and an online program and you see the scope of the work. Resources are needed to get run these centers and bring the reformed Truths to many pastors and church leaders

REFORMATION CONFERENCES: These are no doubt our premier events of the year, happening in multiple places in Kenya (months apart). Hundreds gather at these meetings. For many it is the very first contact they would be having with the doctrines of Grace-the Biblical truths. It is also here we find many would be WTC students. Wherever they happen they are massive logistical and financial undertakings.

THE BOOK PROJECT: We took a commitment by faith that we shall endeavor to give at least one commentary or book to our students (former and current). We realize once they are away from us they struggle to continue their studies and so we feel equipping them with reading materials would be a strategic investment.

TILL THE NEXT REPORT, TO GOD BE THE GLORY WHO SHINES THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL IN DARK HEARTS LIKE MINE AND YOURS...