TSHENOLO MINISTRIES

Newsletter:

GoldFields District Camp Meeting 2018 Kroonstad

***GOLDFIELDS DISTRICT CAMP MEETING 2018 HELD IN KROONSTAD CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COLLEGE FROM THE 30TH SEPTEMBER – 07TH OCTOBER.***

The Goldfields district being a newly born district hosted its second camp meeting, as an independent district. The district is under the leadership of Pr. Mbuyiseni Mahlangu.

Upon arrival, as expected the brethren were excited to be at the camp meeting. This was the first time that the district would camp at a venue that was ideal as the venue that was used. The district was blessed with seasoned preachers of varied preaching styles.

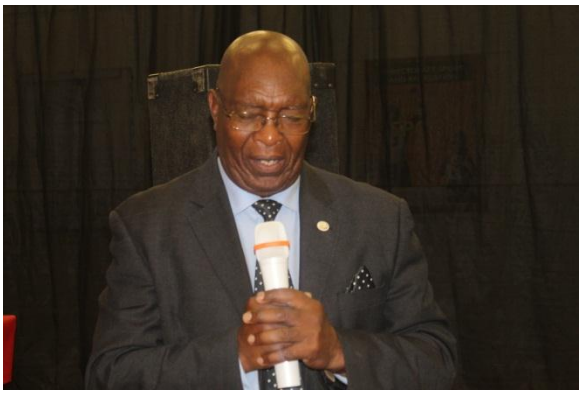
The venue was prepared, the messages were prepared, the speakers were prepared, the pastors were prepared and the district was ready to be elevated to higher ground. Just as the theme for the camp meeting was "The upward way", the aim was to be so elevated spiritually to the maximum potential that is God-ideal. The presence of the LORD was indeed with us, right from the beginning to the end of the camp meeting.

**MEET OUR GUEST PASTORS**



**From the left: Pr. Mbuyiseni Mahlangu [District Director], Pr. Given Malakalaka, Pr. Thabiso Mohau, Pr. Tumelo Silas Motsie [co-host], Dr. Paul Shongwe [TOC President], Pr. Gift Shoko and Pr. Mlungisi Rangayi.**

The event was opened by our senior guest Pr. Mahooa. He spoke on the importance of understanding that for one to climb a mountain, one should get rid of the load that will hinder the process of climbing up the mountain.



**Above: Pr. Mahooa**

What was interesting about this camp meeting was that it was designed in such a way that it does not only empower the church spiritually, however to empower the entire being.

In the mornings we had physical training which was facilitated by Pr. Mahlangu. Not only was the man of God aspiring to get his flock

spiritually fit to face the Devil but he also ensured that all the campers were trained physically to be able to meet the physical challenges. It was overwhelming to see elderly folks involved in the physical training. As a result this enabled cohesion in the camp.



**Pr. Mahlangu facilitating his fitness class**



**Never too old to be physically fit**

It is encouraging to see that our pastors don't just care about our presence at church but they care about our physical well-being. The truth of the matter is that some people are unable to focus at church because of the stress that the body is carrying. The essence of true education is to elevate all the faculties of the entire human being and that is exactly what the camp provided to the campers.

The highlight of the camp meeting for the youth was the career exhibition which was organized by the district education department. It is imperative for the youth to acknowledge that church is not only about knowing your verses and knowing when to say amen.

Prior to different professionals within the church having to address the youth, we had a short and precise presentation on the philosophy of Christian education. We discovered that true education has three pillars namely-:Theocentric, Anthropology and Service. These three inform our choices of careers and are imperative to us as Adventist youth.

We acknowledged that when we choose careers, they ought to be theocentric because it matters to God what we want to become. Our career choices involve anthropology as we will not be aloof professionals. The mere fact that we are people, we daily interact with folks hence it becomes important that our choices of careers should enhance human relationships. Lastly we discovered that we all called for service, which is the third pillar of true education.

After having several professionals addressed the youth, they were divided into various groups according to their career choices. This was to give and guide them into what would be expected to them in the anticipated near future. Many young Adventist youth hardly get spiritual guidance before choosing careers. The reason that the district education department organized this program was so that our brothers and sisters understand what true education is in the context of what we believe in as practicing Seventh-day Adventists.

**Meet our District Education Director:**



**Goldfields District Education Director: Mrs. Karabo Ntlokotsi**

The District Education department did well to have the youth in mind during this particular camp meeting. It made aspiring students and professionals comprehend that God does care about education, true education in essence which covers the entire human being. The hard-work paid off because many young people had positive feedbacks on the career exhibition program which was organized for them.

**Meet the aspiring Accountants and Engineers:**



**Above: Aspiring Accountants and behind them aspiring Engineers. The aspiring Accountants were facilitated by brother Lehlohonolo Mande Chachu and the aspiring Engineers had the attention of elder Themba Chachu.**

**Meet our future Scientists and Doctors:**



**Facilitated by Shepherdess Dr. Mahlangu**

**Meet our future Psychologists, Officers and Administrators:**



**Facilitated by sister Naledi**

**Meet our future Educators:**



Facilitated by Mrs Karabo Ntlokotsi

Equally the adult folks had their equal share of being addressed by professionals. Various presentations were done by brother Xolani addressing issues of finances. It didn't only include the importance of stewardship in the house of the Lord; however he encouraged financial stewardship in our homes as well. Truly the church was blessed by his ministry. Then we had the district health professionals who addressed at length aspects of health that ought not to be taken for granted.

We did not only invite our own professionals in the Advent Movement but we had a Mental Health professional who spoke very well on the issues of mental health.



She spoke on the ills of how we tend to think more about the future instead of the present time that affects our future. In one of her illustrations, she proved to us just how much we stress ourselves with the things that we have no control over. At the end of her two hours presentation, we did an exercise as a church and when the feedback came, we realized that many of us were suffering from mental health although not being cognitive about it. To many of us, this was one of the life transforming presentations that we had about our mental health state.

**Let's talk about the Worship:**



The young people were not holding back when it came to worship. In many church events we tend to see the youth reserved and not being actively involved in church programs and leading out, however this time around they were determined to be actively involved in enhancing congregational singing.



The climax of worship as anticipated was to be during the Holy Sabbath hours. Both the young and the old were revived by the worship. Some who had aching knees forgot a bit about the pain and worshipped the LORD for He is worthy for our worship.

Perhaps next year, people will not wait for the final day of the camp meeting to be as motivated as they were on the last day to make a joyful sound unto the LORD.

**Train up a Child:**



The kids had their own guest preacher, Pastor Gift Shoko. He like other rare preachers has the art of teaching and ministering to children which many of the clergy don't have the gift of. Working with kids is not as easy as it would appear, however it takes a lot of hard work and determination from their teacher.

Often we assume that giving kids crayons and papers to colour is equivalent to teaching them. Learning from the ministry of Pastor Shoko, one realized that it takes more faith to work with children than it is for adults because they know and can relate with most of the things we teach and are taught. In the short space of time, the pastor was able to teach these young ones to memorize passages of scripture and his ability for storytelling is a marvel to watch, as he is able to engage the young ones and make them to participate in their own activities.

It was however unfortunate that the pastor could not finish the seven days of camp with us due to reasons beyond our control. The little knowledge that he was able to impart on the young ones will go a long way in grooming these kids. Yes there is a lot of room for improvement from the Children's Ministry Department and that can only be achieved when leaders and parents work together in the programs for children ministries.

**Kids having fun in the presence of the LORD:**









**The Children Ministry Camp Meeting Choir:**












**Manna:**

The Bible declares that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). It would be an understatement to say that we were not fed spiritually, the pastors did exactly what God had entrusted them to do. There were no complaints there.



We were equally fed and nourished with physical food. The kitchen stuff really did their best with the limited resources that they had. The food was everyday well prepared. It was not easy for everyone who participated in the kitchen ministry. May God bless all the effort that was put into feeding the people of God. I recall one day a certain group that was responsible for the kitchen slept in the early hours of the morning, just so that when the saints come for manna it is there in abundance. We were grateful for such sacrifices.



**Prayer-band – the heart of the Camp Meeting:**

Prayer was the heartbeat of the camp meeting. Without the commitment of men and women to seeking the Lord in prayer on behalf of the saints, the camp would have not finished the seven days that we were able to tabernacle with the LORD. There were a lot of challenges right from the commencement of the camp. Upon arrival there were those who struggled to get their rooms due to challenges that the administrative bunch were faced with.

Some of the brethren were not as honest as they intended to be before the camp meeting. However those issues were ironed out and as a district we hope and pray that next year there will be no problems regarding issues of accommodation. The hosting administration had several problems with us which threatened our expulsion. We had to call upon the Lord to fight for us because it was evident that the hand of the evil one was at work. The prayer-band had to wrestle with God on behalf of Israel.



In a day or so, the One that was able to turn the heart of Pharaoh was able to turn the heart of the hosting administration. Things gradually changed for the better and the mood within the camp also change. Numbers of campers were increasing daily and yet it appeared that the manna storehouse could not be able to feed all those people. Petitions were presented before God and He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. For those six days, men and women breathed prayer which we can only hope it will not be distinguished by the trials and tribulations that we are daily faced with. A prayer box was utilized for those who needed to be prayed for. Daily the box was full of requests which needed the prayer-band to pray for. One thing that we appreciated was that the more we prayed for each other, the more we found strength to meet other challenges that came our way.

**Holy Communion:**

What a way to welcome the holy Sabbath hours with the Lord's Supper. The praise team was vibrant and the church erupted in harmonious worship. The proceedings as usual began with the service of foot-washing.



When we had finished the service of foot-washing, we proceeded in the main hall to join the women as the table was set for us. The ceremony was conducted by Pastor Mahooa.

As always, the Communion service was dignified. Each time we partake from the table with the Lord, it is always an emotional experience because this we do in remembrance of Him and what He has done for us, through the shedding of His blood to redeem us.

**The Table was set:**





**The bread body and the blood of Christ were prepared, to aid those on the upward way in remembrance of Jesus.**




It is imperative that folks understand that unlike other denominations we do the Communion service with unleavened bread and unfermented wine. This is because the body of Jesus did not decompose when He was in the grave those three days.

**The body of Christ:**



**The Saints were served the bread:**



**The Saints were served the wine:**



To some this was the first time that they partook of the Communion service. So this was a special occasion for them and for the rest of the Church.

**The ordination service:**

After the Communion service, we proceeded to ordination of the officers that were elected to serve the church next year.



**The elders of 2019 ordained**



**The deacons and deaconesses of 2019 ordained**

May the LORD God Almighty be with these men and women as they will be serving Him through His people. Our prayers are with them and their families as we know that it will not be easy for them and their families.

The climax of the camp meeting in the words of the district director was the death of our brothers and sisters in the watery grave of baptism. Every time people take this important decision to follow Christ, always reminds one of their own conviction when they decide to die to sin in the watery grave of baptism.

Many stood for baptism, particularly young people. These could not decide to be baptized then, however they made a commitment that on the next baptism in the district they will make a public declaration too. The following are the baptismal pictures:



















**The District Director making the final call for those who commit to being baptized on the next baptism.**



In total nine people were baptized and a few more having committed to being baptized on the next baptism. Now for those that have been immersed, it is the responsibility of us all at the local church to continue to teach them to observe all things that Christ has commanded us to keep.

**It was difficult to say goodbye:**



**First lady of the district presenting a token of appreciation to Pr. Mlungisi Rangayi**




**First lady of the district presenting a token of appreciation to Pr. Given Malakalaka**



**District Director presenting a token of appreciation to brother Xolali**

All our guests received tokens of appreciation. With the little that we were able to thank them with, we pray that the LORD will increase it in the territory of the various ministries of the men and women that were used by God to lift us up to higher ground.



**A token of appreciation to our hosts:**



**A token of appreciation to Pr. Mahooa**



**A token of appreciation to Pr. Thabiso Mohau**

**Suggestions and recommendations:**

A moment of reflection of reflection is imperative such that we may improve where we need to improve and correct where corrections are needed. Some of the brethren felt that though the venue was ideal, organization of how to properly allocate rooms correctly and on time should be improved. It was frustrating for

some of our brothers and sisters who could not get their rooms on time.

One hinted that perhaps going back to camping at schools would assist in alleviating this problem. However the general feeling was that folks were grateful to have spent a week sleeping on proper beds. Administration should just be improved.

On the issue of meal tickets, it is recommended that perhaps instead of making a printout of papers in colour, it is recommended that the printing should be done in black and white. Secondly that instead of having several tickets for the camp, one ticket should be issued with a tick box for the anticipated meals for the duration of the camp meeting. That way the district will be able to save costs.

The idea of eating together has been embraced so well, however some request that next year as we improve, the food should also improve in the sense that a menu should not be repeated. It is also imperative that dietary issues should be taken into consideration for those who may because of health reasons or spiritual reasons to have their special diet available on the day that what they don't eat is on offer.

The youth was blessed with their programs and their facilitators. They desire that next year let the standard be improved and that sex should not be the only thing that is emphasized in their discussions. Issues pertinent to their spiritual growth should be taken into consideration.

It was also recommended that there should be time allocated just for personal time and meditation. The program was too packed that it was program after program and as a result most people did not attend certain lectures because they were tired.

It was also highlighted that there should be time allocated for progressive classes each day of the camp. Not only for progressive classes but for all departments within the church to meet and share ideas on their departments and the challenges they might be facing at their local churches and how they can deal with them. By so doing it will promote cohesion within the leadership of the departments within the district.

Those that are given responsibilities in their local churches should not want to be elected to perform the same duties at the camp meeting. It was evident that some because their names were not appearing on the camp meeting programs, they were not interested in serving. This should be taken into consideration to avoid the same faces doing several duties over and over again even though there is a pool of capable individuals equally abled to perform those duties.

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