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The month of June began with a bang for the ministry as we continue to grow and impact the lives of those we minister to. After months of putting things into place, we finally came up with an instrument to use to make disciples of children to the Lord. We gave birth to a children's book which will assist us in taming the little ones as early as possible to be fishers of men.



Above: The MC of the day: Ms Bangisi

We launched the book Advent Colours, which has been designed to teach and mentor kids from an early age to have a knowledge of their Saviour. The book is authored by two of our brothers namely: Thami Tyokolo and Khulelakani Mahlangu (who happens to be a member of Tshenolo Ministries).



Above: Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie who opened the launch with a short devotion.

We realised as a ministry that we can't afford to only focus on the youth and adults; hence, Advent Colours which aims at exhibiting brilliance. The support that our ambassadors got from their parents and family members was well noted. The launch of this book made it a possibility for parents and kids who are not Seventh-day Adventists to receive the word of God in the proceedings of the launch, which may be considered as family life evangelism.



In attendance were several professionals which some were given an opportunity to speak to us on issues pertaining to the development of children. Elder Mthokozisi Sibanda, a teacher by profession spoke on

child development. The following are some of the highlights of the launch.



Above: Elder Mthokozisi Sibanda

Below: The elder is an engineer and an author of several books. He spoke about the issues pertaining to getting a book published, explaining all the stages that one goes through before the book reaches its consumers. He admonished the hard work it took our brothers in completing the book and how to improve themselves going forward.



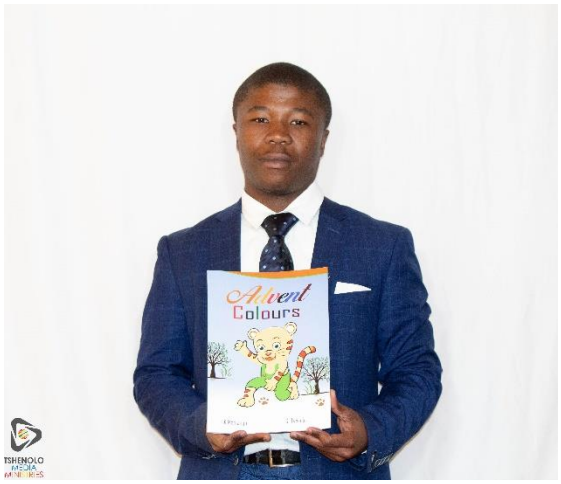
Meet Advent Colours ambassadors:



Above: The authors of Advent Colours together with the ambassadors



Friends who believe in what we do:







The long anticipated Youth Rally:

We had a desire to revive the youth of Mahikeng District, where we are currently based for mission. When we are to reflect on the Advent Movement, we will realise that revival and reformation throughout the ages has been through the young people.

The state of participation in soul-winning by young people in the district was something to be desired. Which begs the question: were young people not being involved in the mission because of exclusion? Did they really not care about the gospel commission? These were the questions that we had to ask ourselves.



Above: Federation leadership. Back row from the left: Pastor Tumelo Daniel [guest preacher], Daniel Owiredu, David Thato Letuka [guest preacher], Emmanuel Bafana, Bongani Mtungwa, Tinashe Magama. Front row from the left: Andiswa Ndamase, Kgotsuko Maloka, Motshidisi Maloka, Sibusiso Ntandane, Ntebogang Mothelesi and Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie

We came into partnership with the District Youth Federation in organising a rally that will revive the young people in the district. Truth be told, there is no revival without challenges. Challenges were there; however, we persevered to ensure that the rally does continue.

One of the two international speakers we had invited was the only one given the prerogative of ministering. Elder David Letuka from the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho did a sterling job together with Pastor Tumelo Daniel, in motivating the young people to bring others in the fold and to also enable that they are kept.



Above: Pastor Tumelo Daniel with Brother Thapelo Sekobane

Pastor Daniel dealt with addressing the issue of who “they” are and to “where” do we want to bring them in. very importantly he highlighted the fact that most of our young people are caught in the same web as young people outside the Church. Which then makes it difficult because it appears as if we are all the same because we are suffering from the same things. A point that resonated well with the house was that the Church has been telling young people what not to do but has failed to tell young people what to do.



Above: Evangelist David Letuka

Worship:

The worship started off a bit timid but it was probably because of the morning chill. However as the morning progressed, we worshipped as young people. Our team of choristers did a sterling job. Though the services were packed and we had limited time to really assimilate all the information that we were showered with from our speakers.



Above: Worship team included: Tshegofatso Motshegwa, Andiswa Ndamase and Sibusiso Ntandane

We would have loved to have the support of other churches in the district, however only a limited number of the churches were represented. The greatest challenge that the district is facing is that of finances. It could either be that or God's people still need the spirit of sacrifice in order to see God's mission progressing, particularly in the district.



We were encouraged to understand that God has entrusted His mission in our hands. Like Jonah we need not try to escape from our responsibilities of the gospel commission.

When all was said and done, it was time for us to appreciate our guests for gracing us with their presence and allowing God to use them in a special way in reaching out to us in the district. Silver and Gold we might have not had but the little token of appreciation goes a long way.



Above: Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie handing out the token of appreciation to evangelist David Letuka; and below to Pastor Tumelo Daniel.

A few of the recommendations given to us pertaining such an event is to have it over the weekend. This will allow us time to be able to reciprocate the spiritual feeding. Perhaps this will be a possibility in the future should finances not become a hindrance, as organising such an event requires financial muscles. We want to appreciate the contribution of everyone who made the rally a success, and may God richly bless His people.



Above: Singing guest group - Topaz

Bodibe Village Mission:

As a ministry we are looking to enlarge our territory and influence as many people as possible to be actively involved in soul-winning, which is the core business of our high calling. We planned a mission camp in Bodibe Village, to assist the local Church there to grow not only in membership but spiritually as well. The mission was aimed at training the local Church members on witnessing and evangelism. We strongly believe that when people are trained on how to do the work, the harvest increases because people would have been taught how to effectively witness for Christ.

The outline of the programme was to have theoretical training in the morning, and then have field training and application of what was taught. Through these trainings during the week, we established many had a perception of witnessing and evangelism. It is a big mistake for Churches to assume that its members know what witnessing and evangelism entails.



On the first day we looked at the role of Church members in the Church. The aim was to trigger in the thoughts of those who were part of the mission to realise that the reason they were in the Church of God was not to be spectators but to be actively involved with the LORD according to their given responsibilities – as we all form part of the body of Christ.

"Christ was constantly confronted with apparent failure. He seemed to do little of the work which He longed to do in uplifting and saving. But He would not be discouraged. He knew that truth would finally triumph in the contest with evil" – Gospel Workers, pp. 514-515. This we used to encourage brethren that our fear of failure shouldn't derail us because even Christ was constantly confronted with apparent failure, but that did not stop Him from reaching out to the world.

The following statement resonates well with the objective of Tshenolo Ministries: "Before evangelism can ever be a program, it must be first a passion. If we are to witness for Christ successfully, we must honestly care for people" – Sweeting, How to Witness successfully, p. 83. It will not make an impact in the lives of people if evangelism is not a passion to the one who seeks to be involved in it. The fundamental truth that we shared with everyone in Bodibe was that evangelism should by no

means be a programme of the Church but it should be a passion for everyone who claims to have been saved by Christ.



We established that the sad reality about Church members is that a majority of them are spectators of religion. It was explained that evangelism is largely a process of explaining to others doctrinal truth.

The reason that many of our brothers and sisters in the LORD are not involved in witnessing and evangelism is because they don't understand what they believe in to the extent of explaining its truths to others.

We also trained brethren on soul-winning approaches. What is important is that in our approaches we ought to be relevant. We should not witness to people to become Church members but we witness to them because it is our passion to share and explain to them the salvation truth we have found in Christ. The most critical thing to do is to give an assurance of acceptance and of eternal life to people which Christ only offers, not the Church.



The methodology of Christ in reaching out to people was not to make them Church members but to bring them to Himself. Perhaps we are failing as gospel workers is that our drive is to convert people to our denominations instead of making Disciples of Christ. It is imperative to note that we must introduce Christ to people, then later on introduce the doctrines of Christ to them, not Church dogma.

On a daily basis after our outreach, we would give feedback such that we may have an idea of the challenges that we were exposed to as a group. This was also for the purposes of assisting each group regarding the difficulties they would have encountered, so that they are equipped to deal with it in the future.



Above: Brother Owethu Makhosonke giving feedback.

Blundering members who are working are to be preferred over perfect preachers who are not putting members to work:

Day two we looked into what witnessing entails, covered from both Testaments. We established that witnessing is sharing with people one's personal encounter with God. People have in the past been taught that when doing witnessing they need to identify with their denomination, we

discovered that in actual fact it is not imperative to introduce yourself by a denomination, as it might raise a barrier of prejudice.

It happens that often people tend to enter into an argument with others in reference to the gospel. However the training made it clear that the best way to avoid an argument is to preclude it, to anticipate the objections that the prospect may have, and answer these objections in a tactful and kind way before an objection is raised. One once said that: “blundering members who are working are to be preferred over perfect preachers who are not putting members to work”.



Above: Mrs Karabo Ntlokotsi giving feedback

Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin:

Day three the training was about the principles of witnessing. We were made aware that some people are not involved in witnessing simply because they have not been trained how to go about it.

It is the duty of ministers of the gospel to devote more of their time to educating than preaching. Let them teach the people how to give others the knowledge they have received, that is according to testimonies for the Church volume 7. One should reiterate that the purpose of this mission was to equip the local Church to be able to know how to go about witnessing and evangelism, instead of coming and doing the work for them.



We also touched on the significance of home visitation. Gospel workers ought to be diligent in their approach of home visitations because there are families who will never be reached by the truth of God’s word unless we enter those homes. We addressed issues pertaining to how to conduct a Bible study, things to avoid when conducting a study and how to counteract objections, using a thus says the LORD and not your own opinions.

Bringing people to a decision:

Day four we focused on honing the skills of bringing people to a decision to follow Christ. We witness not merely for the fun of it but we do it to ultimately lead people to Christ. Again we need to take note that we don’t persuade people to come to our Churches but to come to Christ, to have a deeper understanding of who He is and grow in Him. That entail us as soul-winners to have the right experience with Christ in order to lead people to Him.



The excitement that we saw in Bodibe words may come short to explain what we saw. Pictured above, we were from a homestead near Itsoseng community to comfort a bereaved family. Time was not a factor in Bodibe! We had fun in the service of the LORD and that's an experience we will all cherish.

Making Follow-ups:

It would actually be in vain if we were to labour for people and don't intend to do follow-ups. Day five we looked at the importance of making follow-ups, which involves leading people into a deeper knowledge of their LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ. We ought to be aware that Satan doesn't easily give up on those that have shown an interest in becoming Disciples of Christ, therefore it is imperative to be diligent in making follow-ups.



The feedback that we were receiving on a daily basis were encouraging to us. Each day became better in the field than the day before. We learnt that there are certain things that require us in the field to have a better appreciation of them. People can't be taught how to win souls for Christ from the pulpit, it requires them to be taught practically. Some who were in attendance anticipated many people participating in the program; however, they realised that God's work doesn't rely on the majority, but it needs people who are willing to work.

We had people who never thought that they would be able to share their faith; however, the mission challenged them and they were able to share their faith with others. An important aspect of Disciple making is to give those under your care the confidence to do God's work. People were given courage to move from their comfort zones and be the best God wanted them to be in Bodibe.

We closed the mission in remembrance of Christ:

The end of the mission was marked by the communion service as we welcomed the hours of the Sabbath. What a way to end a mission.

The team assembled and we began the service. One must say that the way it was conducted had more meaning than what we are accustomed to in our Churches.



Above: Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie, washing the feet of our host.

And we ate the body of Christ:



And we drank His blood of the covenant for the remission of our sins:



It was an overwhelming experience which each one of us were blessed by to say the least. We were rejuvenated to continue in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fullness of the Sabbath day, we were merely celebrating an experience we had with the LORD throughout the week. We reflected on our experiences. Highlighting the fact that it is God's mission and we are just the instruments. The following are the highlights of that celebration-:



The Sabbath School panel lead by Sister Thato Ntlokotsi together with Mrs Ntlokotsi and Mrs Wesi.



Sisters in Christ Trio blessed us with music



Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie presenting a certificate of appreciation to the hosting Church.

We expressed our gratitude to Bodibe Seventh-day Adventist Church for allowing us to come and train the Church to equip her for mission. The support that Church members gave to us was wonderful, they made sure that we were as comfortable as possible.



Above: The individuals that graduated from the training mission.

These men and women gave it their all to ensure that Bodibe gets to know about the love of God and the Salvation of Jesus Christ. As a result of their hard work, a total number of 330 DVD's and tracts were distributed around Bodibe. These included the truth about Biblical Rest, State of the dead, The Second coming of Christ, God's Church and the Law.

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