Tshenolo Ministries breaking down denominational walls:

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The year 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone to say the least. With the Covid-19 pandemic, witnessing has been slow due to the regulation put in place for the safety our people. We might not have had the liberty to have the usual fellowship time we are used to as the body of Christ, and that has frustrated the spirituality of most people who rely on convocation for intimate time with the Saviour. In as much as Churches were closed, the advantage about the Ministry is that since we are not a Church it was easy for us to find ways in which we can make disciples for Christ.

The objective of Tshenolo Ministries is to make disciples for Christ. The primitive method of outreach has been slowly working and we therefore need to move with the times and exploit other methodologies of achieving the gospel mission. Due to being exposed to public campaigns, one of the challenges that we come across is that although people might have heard the truth from the word of God, they don't commit to embrace it. Many have given reasons such as ***"I will ask my pastor or bishop what he thinks about this truth."*** Consequently often such people end up being discouraged by their religious leaders, stating denominationalism as the basis of it all.

As a ministry we have noted this and thought of a way of reaching God's people with the truth amidst the prevailing denomination walls that are a barrier. After much consideration, we decided to explore the option of actually reaching out to religious leaders instead of their members. What motivated this methodology was the fact that if and when the leaders are won to the truth of God's word which is not denominational, it will make it easier for the flock to adhere to the truth coming from their leaders instead of "strangers in the faith." During the period of lock-down from alert level 5, we took that as an opportunity to come up with a strategy of how to achieve our goal of reaching the men and women of the cloth than just their mere members.

In one of our clergy meetings, we were afforded an opportunity to present something and that ended up in a seminar. As the Ministry is part of SACMIC which is a council of religious leaders and Christians across all denominations, we took advantage of that opportunity to empower God's people. What was special about this seminar is that it was attended by pastors, bishops and leaders in various church denominations. As we began with it, we made an emphasis that we were not going to be denominational in our approach but we are

going to be biblical. Our reason for that was quite simple: denominations don't save, it is Christ who saves. It was imperative for us to show prowess with regards to articulating fundamental truths that would be covered during the seminar which would be against popular belief.



It is perhaps important to note that from the beginning of our journey with this inter-faith organisation, many doubted if we would at all have an influence in advocating the truth. It took patience and determination because you don't just get into a different context and begin to advocate for certain principles without having first mingled within the context. It was in 2019 when the Chief of Bodibe village introduced the Ministry to the council. It was a fruitful year that turned out to be as we used that time to study carefully how we are to incarnate and be able to endow Spiritual gifts upon the members of the body of Christ.

A year later as we look back, we can only be encouraged and anticipating to do even more as we see the success of the patience of the ministry. We have come to learn that ministry is not about how well you can speak but it about how well you are able to transform the lives of God's people. The ministry of Christ in brief was a ministry of elevation: If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto myself, declared Christ. As soon as lock-down restrictions were eased and religious gatherings were allowed, we attended a few council meetings which led to the training that the ministry facilitated.

We had a prospective of about twenty leaders who showed interest of being enrolled in the training. As soon as we were ready to begin with the lectures, some fell by the wayside due to circumstances beyond their control and we were left with only eight leaders to train. Although it might have appeared as discouraging at the time, we understood that we ought to do our best because this was the beginning of greater things to come, considering the significance of the number eight which stands for new beginnings. This was indeed new beginnings for us as a ministry because history was being written. It was for the first time in the history of the ministry to actually train pastors, bishops and elders from different denominations under one roof. Previously we have conducted similar training however for just a particular denomination. We were stepping in the right direction in realising our dream of achieving our witnessing methodology.



The day came when we were to begin this great work. For obvious reasons, nerves were there as we were going to meet for the first time people we have never met before and we wanted them to get value for their time and sacrifice. Due to the nature of our audience, we had to conduct the lectures in both English and Setswana. It was not easy because the concepts and material are in English and we had to make it a point that the leaders are edified. By the grace of God we were able to deliver in that regard, through the use of an interpreter for the presentations that were done in English. The three weeks that we were

busy with the training, one of the leaders said in a particular lecture: “it is like a veil was removed from our eyes and now we are able to see what we didn’t understand.”

The leaders decided that the 07th of November should be the day dedicated for certification ceremony. We invited the following pastors:

1. Mlungisi W. Rangayi
2. Sikhumbuzo Baliso
3. Bishop Daniel Matebesi
4. Thabiso Salome



There were other pastors, Bishops and various leaders from different denominations that graced the event. As Tshenolo Ministries is part of SACMIC which is a council of inter-faith pastors, our influence has come to fruition as when Bishop Daniel Matebesi addressed the saints, he gave the ministry access to the organisation (SACMIC) and its pastors to minister to. Consequently, we have been given a platform as a Ministry to address about 150 pastors to organise training for them as we facilitated training for those in Bodibe. This 150 or so is for Kuruman alone, which a meeting will soon be dated so that we avail ourselves. Further to that, the President of SACMIC Bishop Daniel Matebesi has been so blessed by the ministry that he wants us to facilitate such trainings for ministers throughout the 9

provinces where SACMIC is represented, which would be an honour and privilege for us to continue the work of disciple making and empowering leaders with theological content. There was also a bishop that attended the event from Vryburg who was touched and would also appreciate the same initiative in his territory.



Bishop Daniel Matebesi, the President of South African Christian Ministers Council (SACMIC) as he spoke about the importance of the organisation and the contribution that Tshenolo Ministries has played, and is yet to play in the organisation. The man of God also touched on the importance of ministers of the gospel to improve themselves to strengthen the body of Christ.



Pastor Baliso spoke to the audience about the significance of leadership as a gift. The church has been blessed with leaders for organisational structure and order in the body of Christ. One of the points that he emphasised on was that people in the Church want to be leaders yet they are not willing to be led. For one to be a leader he ought to be willing to be a follower of Christ. There are many in the churches that have used leadership positions as an iron rod to religiously abuse the flock.

The man of the hour, Pastor Mlungisi Rangayi was used mightily by the LORD. As we were preparing to certify and give a charge to the graduates, the man of God spoke on giving heed to the times we are living in as Christian leaders. These are times when those we lead, seek to heap up for themselves teachers who will preach to them human ideology instead of the truth of the word of God in season and out of season. The most important lesson for the convocation was that we are given a mandate to endure sound doctrine in the midst of a fraternity full of those who have itching ears and preach doctrines of demons. We are to preach the truth in and out of season.



We were truly blessed by the ministry of Pastor Rangayi and are grateful that he agreed to be part of the historic event. Our desire and wish on his behalf and his family is for God to bless them abundantly.

This historic event could not have been the success it was, without the selfless contribution of Bozethe Media Company. They travelled all the way from Four-Ways in Johannesburg to not only grace the occasion but to also come and serve. It was because of their ministry that we were able to stream the programme for those who could not join us, particularly due to Covid-19 regulations. We can only pray that God blesses Bozethe Media Company.



These are they who have endured a three weeks of intense training and we are proud to declare as a ministry that we have worked hard to be able to empower these leaders. As we have alluded, this is just but the beginning of greater things to happen.



They are as follows from left to right (back row): Bishop Jacob Mazibuko, Evangelist Wenzile Dazuka, Bonolo Kolwane (Soloist), Pastor Mlungisi Rangayi (Guest preacher), Thapelo Sekobane, Bishop Moatlhodiemang Nkolisa, and Bishop Thage Phage. Front row from left to right: Bishop Elisa Molusiwa, Leader Nkagisang Mokoto, Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie, Bishop Ruth Monyebodi, and Leader Julia Mokoto.

We want to also acknowledge the hard work of women of God from ICCSA who sacrificed their time to prepare a meal for the event. Without their help, we wouldn't have been fed.



Lastly we want to appreciate ICCSA for hosting the ministry to conduct the training in their Church. Below is their pastor who received a token of appreciation on behalf of the Church.



As a ministry we honoured to have had the opportunity we were presented with to build a relationship with the different leaders across denominations. We believe that our fellowship and friendship will go beyond what the carnal mind can think off. We are excited with the avenues God has opened for us to not only empower the leaders but together with their churches so that we may show by unity in the body of Christ that we are not competing amongst ourselves for territories but that we will work together and be empowered to do the will of God even as we strengthen and replenish the kingdom of God on Earth. May God richly bless you all and may His countenance to so shine upon you as we move from glory to glory.