

2019 SPECIAL MEETINGS IN TANZANIA

Mbeya - 29th September and 6th October 2019

A group of 11 Zambian brethren visited the Mbeya to hold special services there. Due to the local rules prevailing in that area, the church was not allowed to conduct services in the morning. However, the 2 hours given by the local authority proved to still be a blessing to many as it increased the hunger to pray in the short time given. It was spiritually refreshing for the brethren in Mbeya and other surrounding areas who travelled to attend this meeting. This was demonstrated by their fervency to pray, the 2 hours given to them could not stop them. Some would secretly enter the church before the scheduled time, close the door of the church and pray silently. This reminded many to appreciate places where there is liberty to hold church meetings at any time.

Bible teachings that were taught included, "Who is a Christian?", "Power in the Blood", "Sanctification", "Consecration", "Unity of believers", The highest attendance in this meeting was 76 people. One afternoon, the choir rendered a variety of local songs and was followed by the altar call. By the end of the meeting, 3 were saved, 5 sanctified, 3 baptized with the holy Ghost and Fire, 2 re-anointed, 14 healed and 49 recorded having received various blessings and answers to their prayer. One man testified how he had backslidden for some years but was restored by the Lord during the camp meeting after learning about Samson's repentance during the Sunday school lesson. Others testified of the power of God to save them from sin and give the life of victory over sin.

(Click the link below to see pictures)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AW2Q749PKf1SE-P0fDIbujuuLiBk9H0Q>

Visits to Mbeya and Ilambo branches

On 25th October, the District Superintendent (Bro Boniface Banda) of the East Africa work with the newly appointed Director of Tanzania (Bro Knox Tweenda) and others travelled by road to Tanzania to visit, encourage the brethren and also introduce the Director of Tanzania work to them. The team passed through Nakonde branch which is a border Town on the Zambian side where they met the brethren and held a service. They were also admonished to assist Tanzania with the Gospel dissemination since they were close to the country.

The team then proceeded to Mbeya (the headquarters of Tanzania) on 26th October and were received by the overseer in Tanzania and other brethren. The following day (27th October), they held the Sunday school and the devotional service. A workers meeting was held in the afternoon where the need for relocating to a new place was discussed. The current plot and structure was not conducive and did not befit the standard of being a church headquarters for Tanzania. After the meeting, they went to view 2 plots that the brethren had found. One plot was found to be suitable and the brethren were left with the assignment to negotiate the price as the cost was too high or alternatively if they could look for another piece of land which would be cheaper and also in a good location.

The following day on Monday, 28th October, 2019, the team proceeded to Ilambo branch located in the Western part of Tanzania in Sumba Wanga District. They were received by the branch pastor, bro David Katumbi, his family and the brethren. It was so surprising to see how the Gospel could reach

such a remote area because the church is located very far from the City and the road network is very poor. It is indeed true that the Gospel shall be preached to the whole world as a witness before the end.

On Tuesday, a Bible teaching was held in Ilambo on “The everlasting love” by Bro Boniface Banda. Afterwards, all workers met for the meeting to introduce the Director of the work. The branch in Ilambo is expanding rapidly and the brethren already bought a bigger plot where they intend to construct a bigger church to accommodate them. The brethren were encouraged to venture into agriculture activities which could help with financing the building the church.

Bro David Katumbi also notified the team that Ilambo had 4 branches namely Itumbula, Kisa, Ilemba, and Laela. The branches were just starting and he sent out some of his ministers to help establishing the work there. In the afternoon was another service which was filled with spiritual refreshment. The brethren had a hunger for more of the word and requested if there could be another service the following but Because of the schedule to travel to Kigoma for the meeting there, they were promised that if Jesus tarried, they would travel again and stay a bit longer to encourage them.

The visit to these also provided an opportunity to explain to the brethren of the would be change of the Sunday School curriculum to the current curriculum used in Portland. It was emphasized that the change was not a change in doctrine but the objective of this new method was to allow members of the congregation to research and have a deeper understanding of the Bible. It was also noted that the change would only take place when all materials were translated, printed and sent to rural areas that did not have internet facilities. The brethren were also encouraged to find people within the church that would translate the Sunday School units into the local language there (Swahili).

The following morning on Wednesday, the team started off for Kigoma by road and only arrived on Thursday afternoon.

(Click the link below to see pictures)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18DOYBRPkIDv0FtHXnr5Dh9kVfxMYs0Gu>

Kigoma Special Meeting – 3rd to 10th November, 2019

The preparations for this meeting started with finding a venue to be used for the meeting and accommodation of guests. In a miraculous way, a building which was a former lodge was found and it was just the perfect place that was needed. It had all the facilities needed for camp meeting, spacious rooms with beds and mattresses to accommodate all campers, good water supply, enough rooms that were used as prayer room, dining, kitchen and storage room. A tent was erected outside which was used as the tabernacle.

For the first time in East Africa, all the District Superintendents (West and Central Africa, East Africa Region and Southern Africa) attended the meeting together. A total of 5 countries were represented, 2 from Nigeria, 1 from Uganda, 23 from Burundi, 12 from Zambia, 1 from Botswana and 1 from Zimbabwe. The other brethren were from within Tanzania including 1 person from Dare Salam and a group of 13 refugees of different nationalities but based in Tanzania also attended the meeting.

The meeting started on Sunday, 3rd November with the Sunday school lesson on Hanna's thanksgiving and the call of Samuel. It was good lesson to learn that our consecrations can lead us to have a beautiful and wonderful future as we serve the Lord just as Hanna's consecration led to the birth of Samuel who became one of Israel's prophets and judge whom God used to revive the hearts of Israel when they were in a backslidden state. The morning service was given by Bro Boniface Banda (East Africa District Superintendent) and was titled "The Great Repairer". Opening his text from Isaiah 61:1-3, he encouraged everyone to take the time of camp meeting as a time for the repair of broken lives as well as all broken pieces of our lives as this was the mission of Jesus Christ.

Monday through Friday mornings featured Bible teachings by ministers from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia and East Africa. The topics included "Prevailing Prayer," "Sanctification," "Baptism of the Holy Ghost", "Love Not the World" and "Who is a Christian?" The teachings were structured to make new converts in Tanzania and Burundi ready and spiritually fit to be used for the spread of the Gospel in East Africa. Before each teaching, choir members sung Spirit filled songs in the local language (Swahili) and testimonies of salvation were given especially by those who received various blessings at the camp meeting. It was thrilling to see young people tell of the change that God made in their heart after praying and confessing their sins.

Every evening, there were revival services, it was during this time, that many prayed through and received their Christian experiences. On Monday evening, there was a film show on "The Burning Hell", this was meant to teach everyone present the reality of hell to the non-believer. During evening prayer times, the altar benches would always be full as people rendered their hearts to the Lord.

On Saturday morning, water baptism service was conducted in the Tabernacle before walking to the banks of the Lake Tanganyika where the candidates were water baptism. A total of 9 brethren were water baptized (1 sister and 8 brothers) in Lake Tanganyika. It was a wonderful experience to imagine how it was when the disciples were water baptised by John the Baptist in Jordan River.

On the final Sunday morning service, Bro Boniface Banda brought the message on "Christian Conduct". He took his text from 2 Corinthians 5:17, stating that if one has received genuine salvation, their old life is gone and that new life begins which should be noticed by the world. He said the Christian conduct should be unique from that of the world starting from the home; husband and wife relationship, children and their parents and also the behaviour in the society. Citing the example of Daniel, he emphasized of the need that people should not find any fault in us in all areas of our lives except concerning the law of our God because that is the only way we could be a shining light to the world.

At the end of the camp meeting, a total 8 recorded having been saved from their sins, 8 sanctified, 11 baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire and 2 healed.

All praises go to God for the wonderful things that He has started doing in East Africa and truly, God is about to do a new thing in this region, God will make a way and the river of the Gospel will flood this land.

(Click the link below to see pictures)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Be7KF7Pe9rK_dAsUEINbh5F0pJvBXps