

BOTSWANA CAMPMEETING

14 – 21 July 2024

A Day Before the Start – Saturday 13 July 2024

Botswana camp meeting this year was held from the 14th to the 21st of July, 2024, at a rented campground in Gaborone. The atmosphere was filled with spiritual anticipation as attendees gathered at our newly rented campground in Gaborone. Despite the predicted cold front, the weather was favorable, a clear answer to our prayers.

From morning, saints from all over Botswana and about seven Southern African countries (Zambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Angola, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and South Africa) arrived. The joy of reuniting with old friends was evident on their faces. It was a great time of fellowship and reunion.

The evening was marked by heartfelt prayers and deep reflection, setting a promising start to the camp meeting. Brother Moses Zulu, focusing on the theme 'The Enemy Within' used Jeremiah 17:9 to emphasize the importance of not letting the enemy steal anything from us during the camp.

First Sunday Services – 14 July 2024

The first day began with lively Sunday school sessions. The spacious facilities comfortably accommodated various classes for different ages and languages, creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment. The mood was one of excitement and eagerness as children and adults alike delved into their lessons.

Following Sunday school, the choir led the congregation in a devotional service with spirit-filled songs, like 'God can do anything', and 'He'll do it again', preparing hearts for the Word. The opening service was delivered by Rev. Lordick Motshidisi with a sermon titled "The Unfailing God" (Modimo yo o sa palelweng), based on Deuteronomy 31:7-8. He emphasized the need for strength and courage, reminding the congregation of Moses' journey and God's unfailing provision. Rev. Motshidisi stressed the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with God, making decisions rooted in His guidance, and standing firm in their faith. Highlighting God's love and power through scripture, he urged the church to seek deeper spiritual experiences, including salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In the afternoon service, Brother Michael Zano, delivered a sermon titled "I Can Do All Things," based on Philippians 4:13. He encouraged the youth to overcome challenges through Christ's strength and not abandon their faith during difficult times. Bro Zano urged the congregation to rise above their struggles, trust in God's solutions, and apply even small faith, like a mustard seed, to be victorious over circumstances.

The day concluded with an evening service by Rev. Johnson Moyo who preached on "From Jacob to Israel." He began with Genesis 3:8-9, highlighting humanity's fall and the need for redemption. Rev. Moyo emphasized the importance of confessing sins and seeking God's forgiveness instead of hiding, referencing Isaiah 1:18 to encourage approaching God for forgiveness of sins. He warned that a time will come when it will be too late to seek God and stressed that only through being born again in Christ can one overcome sin. The sermon concluded with Genesis 32:24-30, urging the congregation to confess their sins and experience true salvation.

Ministers Brunch and the First Bible Teaching – Monday 15 July 2024

On the second day, the camp meeting began with a special brunch for ministers and their spouses. The session started with singing gospel favorites and a prayer. Botswana District Superintendent,

Rev Lordick Motshidisi welcomed everyone, emphasizing the importance of this relaxed gathering for sharing pertinent matters. As attendees enjoyed the special dishes and mingled, Rev Onias Chitanda shared an extract from the ministers' manual on conduct, focusing on Paul's command to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:1-8. He highlighted the importance of integrity and time management for ministers, urging them to avoid poor timekeeping and last-minute cancellations. Bro. Kwaziso Boshsha, the acting Regional District Superintendent, concluded by reminding ministers that they represent God in all their roles. He thanked Rev. Lordick Motshidisi and the saints for organizing the brunch and encouraged them to continue their good work.

The first Bible teaching was delivered by Rev. Kwaziso Boshsha, based on Matthew 19:16-26. He emphasized that true goodness comes from God and cannot be achieved alone. Rev. Boshsha highlighted the camp meeting's purpose for those seeking God's kingdom, stressing that knowledge must be applied and everything we have is from God. Using Matthew 6:33 and other scriptures, he urged the congregation to prioritize seeking God's will and focus on eternal life. The sermon concluded with a call to re-dedicate their lives to God, align their actions with His word, and trust in His guidance. The sermon was precluded by the choir singing 'Have you counted the cost?' and 'I'd rather have Jesus.'

During the afternoon service, for children, Sis Bonolo Kemorwale shared a message, "The Unfailing Love," using a demonstration with empty cups and overflowing water to illustrate God's abundant love from John 3:16. She taught the children that God's love leads to kindness and that only Jesus brings salvation and forgiveness. Emphasizing prayer and the Holy Spirit, Sister Kemorwale encouraged the children to accept Jesus into their hearts, promising that God's love is enduring and transformative. The children responded by approaching the altar for prayer, seeking a love that leads to salvation and eternal life.

The day continued with impactful evening services, by Rev Edwin Mashau with the congregation engaging in spirited worship and attentive listening to the Word. Drawing from 1 Samuel 30:4-6 He encouraged the congregation to remain calm and steadfast in difficult situations, reminding them that God is present even in adversity. Citing Psalm 84:5-7, Rev Mashau assured the church that, like David in the valley of Baca, God hears our cries. He urged everyone not to give up, encouraging them to pursue, recover, and reclaim from the 'Amalikes' or the enemy.

The camp meeting continued to build momentum, with each session drawing participants closer to the central theme of God's unfailing nature.

Holiness and Seeing it through God's Eye – Tuesday 16 July 2024

The day began with a sermon by Rev Johnson Mkonto on the importance of holiness in a Christian's life, based on 1 Peter 1:15-17. The message urged believers to live a pure, prayerful life and avoid worldly influences.

Rev Sipiwe Nyadongo led the youth in a service emphasizing viewing life through God's perspective, trusting in His promises, and giving thanks in advance. Using examples like David and the three Hebrew boys, she illustrated unwavering faith and divine deliverance, encouraging the youth to embrace a perspective of faith and gratitude.

The evening service sermon was titled "The Wages of Sin is Death," contrasting Jehoshaphat's righteousness with Ahab's evil. The message by Rev Last Mateyu warned about the consequences of associating with evil influences and emphasized that true prosperity comes from spiritual well-being and being right with God rather than material wealth.

A Glimpse into the Future and Excursion – Wednesday 17 July 2024

Rev. Evans Mhlanga opened the day with a sermon titled “A Glimpse into the Future.” He encouraged the congregation to embrace the blessings that come from listening to, reading, and acting on God’s Word. Emphasizing the importance of living with a vision of the future, Rev. Mhlanga reminded everyone of their mortality and the accountability of their choices. He discussed the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the New Testament and warned of the devil’s attempts to hinder reconciliation with God. Rev. Mhlanga concluded by urging the church to self-reflect on the condition of their hearts and to ensure that their lives align with God’s will.

The afternoon provided campers with free time for personal reflection, rest, or a short excursion to explore some of Gaborone’s notable sites. Many visited The Fields Mall, the iconic Three Dikgosi Monument, and Botswana Craft, experiencing the rich culture and history of Botswana. This break allowed attendees to recharge and contemplate the powerful messages received throughout the week.

In the evening, Rev. Ben Bhuka delivered a sermon titled “Seek Ye First,” based on Matthew 6:33. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing God in every aspect of life, urging the congregation to seek God’s kingdom above all else. Rev. Bhuka used Scriptures like 1 Samuel 1:10 and Psalm 34:18 to highlight the significance of earnest prayer and spiritual readiness. He reminded everyone that they are on a journey toward an eternal destination—either Heaven or Hell—and urged them to choose wisely. The sermon served as a powerful reminder of the need to seek God first in all things and trust in His guidance for true prosperity.

Godly Home, and Urgency of Salvation – Thursday 18 July 2024

The day began with an uplifting orchestration and inspiring testimonies that set the tone for a sermon by Rev John Mapepuka. His message focused on the Christian home and marriage, emphasizing the indispensable role of God in these sacred institutions. Drawing from Genesis 2:18, 24, and Ephesians 5:22-25, Rev. Mapepuka highlighted that a Christian home must involve a triad of God, the husband, and the wife. He stressed the importance of mutual respect and submission within the household, urging wives to respect their husbands and husbands to treat their wives well to avoid hindering their prayers, as instructed in 1 Peter 3:7. The sermon concluded with a heartfelt call to maintain a God-centered home, characterized by love, respect, and unwavering commitment.

In the afternoon, Rev Loeto Gaogane led the youth service with a sermon titled “I Will Arise,” based on Luke 15:18. He focused on the parable of the prodigal son, emphasizing the importance of taking decisive action to return to a righteous path. Rev Gaogane urged the youth to engage in self-reflection, repentance, and a determined commitment to change. He warned against treating religious teachings as mere stories, encouraging the congregation to make proactive steps toward positive transformation. His message was clear: redemption is always possible with God, but it requires action on our part.

The evening service brought the day to a close with Rev Mpasso’s sermon, based on Isaiah 55:6, urging the congregation to “Seek the LORD while He may be found.” Rev. Mpasso emphasized the urgency of seeking God without delay, warning that there will come a time when it will be too late. Citing Acts 17:26 and Amos 8:12, he highlighted the pressing need to seek God now, as a day will come when people will desperately search for the Gospel but will not find it. He reminded the congregation of the brevity of life and the critical importance of securing their salvation. The service ended with the hymn “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior,” reinforcing the message of urgency in seeking God while He is near.

Spiritual Warfare and an Epistle of Praise to Generations – Friday 19 July 2024

The sixth day of the camp meeting began with a sermon on spiritual warfare delivered by Rev Motlhabani Kemorwale. Drawing a vivid parallel between the life of a soldier and the Christian walk, Kemorwale used Ephesians 6:10-11 as the foundation of his message. He assured the congregation that being on God's side is being on the winning side and reminded everyone that God has given unfailing promises. He emphasized the need to be strong in the Lord, stressing that spiritual strength does not come from personal might, education, or power but from allowing God to fill us with His Spirit. Using Exodus 17:10-14 as an example, he underscored the reality of spiritual battles, which, though invisible, are very real and are fought on multiple dimensions. Rev Kemorwale concluded by reassuring the congregation that while the devil may devise evil, God's protection and full armor will safeguard them in every battle.

The evening was marked by a remarkable music concert, themed "An Epistle of Praise to Generations," that drew a large crowd and had a profound impact on those who attended. The concert featured different generations rendering heart-inspiring songs from all ages. Songs rendered included: "Make a Joyful Noise," "Baka Jehofa Wena Moya Wame," "Take My Life and Let It Be," "Awake, Awake Put on Thy Strength."

Ordinances: Do This in Remembrance of Me – Saturday 20 July 2024

On the last Saturday of the camp meeting, the saints gathered for the highly anticipated ordinances service, a tradition that holds deep spiritual significance. Rev Onias Chitanda led this sacred service, reminding the congregation of the profound importance of the ordinances and the blessings that accompany full obedience to God's commands.

Rev Chitanda focused on the Scripture, "As often as ye drink, do it in remembrance of me," underscoring how this sacred act serves as a constant reminder of Christ's sacrifice and a crucial aspect of a believer's spiritual life. The ordinances service is not merely a ritual but a vital practice that reinforces the covenant relationship between believers and Christ.

The service culminated in a time of heartfelt singing, with old choruses resonating in Tswana, Shona, English, Zulu, and other local dialects. This created a beautiful atmosphere of fellowship and unity among the saints, as the diverse congregation joined together in worship, transcending language and cultural barriers. It was a truly wonderful and spiritually uplifting experience for all who attended, leaving a lasting impression as the camp meeting neared its conclusion.

Closing: Sunday 21 July 2024

On the closing Sunday of the camp meeting, the day began with engaging Sunday school classes centered on "Willing Service." This was followed by a devotional service that featured a vibrant orchestral prelude and inspiring performances from the children and choir, setting a joyful and reflective tone for the final day.

Rev Confidence Nemahungani delivered a sermon titled "Unashamed," focusing on the transformative power of obeying God's Word. Drawing from Proverbs 11:2 and Genesis 3:8, he highlighted how disobedience leads to shame while obedience brings light and clarity. Emphasizing that light overcomes darkness, Rev Nemahungani encouraged the congregation to live unashamedly, fully embracing their faith and commitment to God.

The service concluded with the hymn "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," a fitting farewell that left the congregation united and committed to their spiritual journey. The closing moments were filled with a renewed sense of purpose and fellowship, reflecting the spiritual growth and unity experienced throughout the camp meeting.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 2024 Botswana camp meeting was a great success. Five people were saved, seven were healed, and 27 experienced spiritual revival. We are deeply grateful to all who attended and participated. We believe that the teachings, fellowship, and spiritual experiences from this camp meeting will have a lasting impact until the day of the Rapture.

Also, the new facility provided several advantages over our usual venue. It offered hostels, multiple halls, a kitchen, and a guest house, all within a well-secured and safe environment for children to play. Additionally, its proximity to our traditional campground made logistics easier, and it proved to be more cost-effective than operating from our own facilities.

We are thankful for these blessings and pray that God will continue to provide similar facilities in the future until He grants us our own campground with comparable amenities.