

## REFORMATION 500 CONFERENCE IN BUMALA 21-25<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 2017

### *Introduction:*

The Bumala Kenya Reformation 500 conference together with the Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK) meeting brought well over 70 pastors from all over the country to Bumala. This was not just to remember what Martin Luther did on 31st October, 1517 but to ask ourselves what we can do today! This conference has been described by many as the Revival 2017 in Kenya because of the nature of the proceedings and the way the participants embraced Reformation which has led all of us back to the Bible for all matters faith and life. Another peculiar thing with the conference is that it was a sign to the whole country for unity and peace especially now when there is a lot of polarization based on ethnicity! Here, the only ethnic tribe present was the Sons of the Lord Jesus Christ. A lot of Love was shown by all the tribes that were here as delegates who came from as far as Northern part of Kenya and the coast region!

### **i). PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE**

After a year of prayers from September 2016, it was time to welcome the participants who finally arrived in Bumala on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The church had prepared for participants to provide accommodation and food for the days they were going to take. We had also arranged with the Government security organs to ensure the safety of the guests. We thank God that there was not a single problem reported for the whole duration. We had a total of +70 pastors that attended this conference.

### **ii). Day One**

Arrival and registration by pastor Muchesi of Mukhanyo Theological College Bumala then refreshments, introduction, fellowship where participants shared about their churches and prayer needs there. We prayed together for the churches and after the evening meal, pastor Keith Underhill from UK spoke on the Reformation, its Origin, principles and Effects. He elaborated on the five Solas of Scripture and there was a lot of interest by the participants shown in their inquisitiveness and appreciation on the response from the speaker. This ended at 21 hours and so the participants had more time to have personal fellowship before going to bed.

### **iii)Day Two**

This was very busy ,it began at 5 am with washing/showering and breakfast and then Pastor Lodeki from Oyani in South Nyanza led the morning Devotion and prayer sessions. Then Pastor Keith Underhill took the stage again with the teachings on Reformation origin, principles and effects. Refreshments were served at 10 am and then Pastor Murungi from Trinity Baptist Church Nairobi gave a talk on The Reformed pastor until 1 pm when we all had lunch together. From 2 pm, Dr.Timothy from the USA spoke on The Importance of Trinity in shaping all our life in Christ. At at 4 pm, we had a coffee break and from 5-6 pm Murungi again handled all about the Reformed pastor. We all had supper from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.We again had all pastors' fellowship in which pastors shared the needs of their churches for which we had to pray until 9 pm when we went to rest for the night.

### **iv).Day Three**

We had planned to go for door to door evangelism but due to the volatile security situation in our area and Kenya as a whole, we made decisions to continue with the teachings on the Importance of Trinity in shaping all our life in Christ led by Dr.Timothy,who then divided participants into groups of 4-6 and in turn these participants had time to share their findings to the audience, this made it very interactive and easy to remember and apply in our daily life and work as pastors .At 11 am we had time to cut the Reformation 500 cake in Bumala and then we shared the cake and ate together to remember the Reformers that made it possible for us to know the Lord and serve Him alone using all the Bible and only the Bible.

More guests kept coming in and from Kisumu, we received pastor Graham &Sally Jones of the Grace Baptist Mission (GBM).I did introduce them to the audience and the said they had also come with textbooks at reduced prices for pastors to buy for themselves and their churches too.

From 2 pm,I took the platform and made a number of PowerPoint presentations as follows:-

#### **a)Mukhanyo Theological College**

I presented the PowerPoint about the College and its Distance Education of which the Bumala Distance group is an example. I elaborated on the procedures of forming such groups in Kenya, the training and this was a welcome programme by many who showed interest. I gave the website of the College and the Distance Coordinator's e-mail for contact incase more information is needed by any participant.

### **b)NETfoundation Netherlands**

Theology by e-learning for those who are pastors/evangelism on part time due to other engagements but can access the course through the internet via computers and Smartphones. I also shown how I had benefited by taking this course online and shown that it is a very good material for training pastors and evangelists. A lot of interest was also shown for this particular course which will be begin in January 2018 God willing.

### **c)Logos Ministries International(LMI) Northern Ireland**

As the Representative of the Bible Teaching Ministry and a graduate of this Ministry, I introduced the various courses offered free of charge and also textbooks, I also explained the requirements for the courses and the fact that the course material is delivered through the post office boxes of the various students. I highlighted the five programmes of study. I also informed the participants that I had application forms for them to use and showed them that they can access the online version at [www.lmi-org.net/distance-learning-application](http://www.lmi-org.net/distance-learning-application).

Or fill and scan paper/ application with photograph and send to [btm@lmi-org.net](mailto:btm@lmi-org.net).As a result of this,7 pastors were issued with application forms and were eager to apply immediately!

### **d).Christian Library**

I made a PowerPoint presentation about this organization (Reformational Study Centre) of South Africa with which Jane Korevaar formerly the distance coordinator with Mukhanyo theological college now works, I managed to catch up with this organization and got the PowerPoint from them in advance. Systematically I echoed the contents of this wonderful material which pastors can benefit from. Each participant was able to receive a flyer to make it easy to access these materials free at [www.christianstudylibrary.org.pl](http://www.christianstudylibrary.org.pl).From here, one can receive help with preparation of their preaching!.Many of the IT compliant pastors dived in immediately to find out for themselves what this was all about.

### **e).Farming God`s Way (FGW)**

I did not stop until I talked about this wonderful training which is useful tool in economic empowerment of pastors and their churches.I made it clear that should any group be ready for such training, they are free to consult me for further discussion and possible training them as soon as maybe possible. This is possible because of my background training in Agriculture and Livestock and it forms an entry point for discipleship training with such groups. This is also made possible with prayers and support from people who love the Lord so as to empower pastors to do the work of God effectively!.

## **f).International Training and Equipping Ministry (ITEM)**

The Kenyan representative of ITEM took time to explain how this organization under Dr.Steve Van Horn has trained Trainer of Trainers in most of the African countries on Expository preaching. He also explained the concept of Ephesians 4 (E-4) training model for the trainers. Kenyan trainers have been combined with Ugandan brothers and so there is a strong network. The TOTs have a task to hold seminars and get other pastors trained to preach the whole counsel of God in His Word, the Bible!.

There was time given for asking questions pertaining to every subject that was taught here. Pastor Murungi took time to explain to the pastors why women are not allowed to be pastors. He answered this from the Bible and this was appreciated by the participant and a pastor whose wife is also a pastor vowed to go back home and stop his wife from being a pastor.

## **g) Textbooks Distributed Free of Charge**

The Lord had provided textbooks to me before the conference in Bumala and it was time to distribute the books as follows:-

### **1.Prosperty?Seeking the True Gospel**

This book is by Mbugua,Maura,Mbewe,Grudem and Piper. This book that explains in a very simple manner about the so rampant prosperity gospel was made available to me through pastor Maura. He sent two boxes each with 120 textbooks. The first boxes were given out and I deliberately retained the second box for December 2017 when we will host another team of 50 pastors to be trained here for 4 days on Discipleship!

### **2. Living and Dying in Joy- a Devotional Guide to the Heidelberg Catechism.**

The Kiswahili version of this book which I translated in 2014 and which is on great demand was also issued free of charge and every participant had two copies of this book. This was made available through a American sponsor and Dutch friends in 2014. Most of the copies I kept are now depleted and I request for prayers to be able to provide for more pastors. Copies can be bought from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) by typing the name Kuishi na Kufa Kwa Furaha or can be made easily available by requesting the African Inland Church Kijabe Printing press Kenya.

3.I also printed over one hundred copies of the 95 Theses published on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct,1517 and ensured that every conference participant had the copies of this very valuable teaching material.

### **End of Day 3**

The day ended with fellowship and praying for each others as brothers pastors who came from the neighboring counties had to go back to serve in the churches on Sunday. Only the members of Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya remained to attend church service in Bumala and prepare for the Business meeting of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2017.

### **SUNDAY SERVICE ON 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2017 IN BUMALA.**

This went well, we had Sunday School children of Bumala make presentations after their normal service from 8-10 am, pastor Kivungi joined with the Sunday School teacher to help them and then make recommendations later.

The preacher of that Reformation Sunday was Pastor Timothy from California and the Lord's Table was presided over by Pastor Moses Miyawa of Guildford Park church Othoo in Ahero Kisumu.

Our hearts were helped by the preacher of the day and the Lord's table was also done in a way that glorify the body of Christ.

### **Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK) Business Meeting 2017**

This meeting took place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and members had to review new applicants, discuss previous minutes from the meeting held last year. Various minutes came on board and especially the issue of support for pastors to do the Lord's work effectively. We all agreed that the next meeting will be held at Trinity Baptist Church Nairobi (TBC), this will also be used to mark their 40 years of existence. As is normal, the new chairman had to come from or near where the hosting church is and so Pastor Kivungi was given the chairmanship. As the outgoing chairman, I handed over to him .There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4.30 pm.This marked the end of Reformation 500 Conference and the Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK) meeting 2017.