

Diocese of Mpwapwa Rooted in Jesus Conference

Kibaigwa Deanery, Mpwapwa Diocese, Tanzania, September 2013

Team: Canon James Almasi, Rev Charles Unjiro (Tanzania), David Ridge, Mike Hutchinson & Hilary Buckingham (UK)

After long and interesting journeys the UK team arrived safely. We were very grateful that Canon James, the team leader, was with us from the start of the event and on Wednesday morning Rev Charles Unjiro joined the team at very short notice in Kibaigwa Deanery in Mpwapwa Diocese in Central Tanzania. Kibaigwa is a market town that set up a large commodities market 8 years ago for the cereal farmers and is 56 miles from Dodoma, the national capital of Tanzania.

The first day was somewhat challenging as more delegates than were anticipated arrived at St Matthew's Church and thankfully the prayers for wisdom for the logistics of such a big group were answered. Originally the plan had been for a follow up conference following the introductory conference of May 2011. Thirty of those delegates came *and* there were 130 new delegates (and sometimes the numbers were reported as even more) at the 4 day conference. James is a very competent leader who helped everyone benefit from his teaching and organisational skills. His humour and love enabled 160 delegates to get to each session in good time, he encouraged the 'cookers' to have food ready at the right time, he assigned the delegates into 12 different practice sessions, and his feedback from those sessions was masterly.



The workshops became larger each day. One workshop was held in the open air and two in the church (for the benefit of the two fair skinned leaders). This was not ideal, especially when 50 delegates stood to pray at the end of the workshop on Pastoral care: their praying filled the whole church like rumbling thunder.

Ministry times happened in the allotted slot in the programme and throughout the conference. Feedback included:

- Man with walking problems was prayed for by the delegate and he started walking
- One of the translators' wives, Grace, had a great deal of stress, she described burning pains in her stomach, we prayed with her on Saturday evening and on Sunday morning she was pain free
- Isaac had a scalp lesion following an incident that happened 3 years previously. The lesion had started to bleed recently, after being hit on the head with a frying pan, and he was experiencing headaches. There was a word of knowledge opening him up to confess that he had been unfaithful and he returned to the Lord.
- An elderly man had pain in his knee following a road accident where he had sustained major injuries. Following the prayer he experienced coldness in the knee which had not been there previously.
- A lady had a frozen shoulder. After prayer she was able to raise her arm up half way. After 24 hours full movement was restored.
- Ezekiel, a graduate, is looking for work. We prayed for him to find a job and to pick up a gift of prophecy. Which he was reluctant to receive. Later he reported an experience of feeling Spirit filled.
- Many delegates with stomach problems and head pains were prayed for and many reported healings.
- A middle aged man with stomach pains: On talking further the man shared that his father had recently died from similar pains. A female delegate prayed specifically for the pain and the second prayer received a word from the Holy Spirit. "Oil was pouring onto his head", his bereavement was prayed for, the pain moved and after further prayer it disappeared.
- 7 year old Kudra, with spina bifida & hydrocephalus, whose mother had died, was being cared for by our food hostess, his aunty Anna. Kudra was befriended by David and prayed for regularly.

Judith Chitemo had been a delegate in 2011 and shared her testimony. Her marriage to Michael was not good. Following a time of ministry at the previous conference she received the Holy Spirit's joy and power into her heart and she was like a new woman. When she returned home her husband could see such a change in Judith that he wanted to come to church. He now knows Jesus and he received the Holy Spirit too.



It was good to preach at local churches on Sunday and in the prayer ministry many were prayed for and Joyce put her faith in Jesus.

The Vicar general joined us on the final day of the conference. One hundred delegates received Rooted in Jesus book 1 and told to start their groups. These would add to the already 95 groups in action in the Diocese of Mpwapwa.

The English members of the team were overwhelmed by the generosity of the hosts; the lively worship of the delegates and joined in the interaction of the teaching. We returned having received more than we gave.

Hilary Buckingham

