

# 2014

BANTU METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN  
AFRICA

Dr Rev BGM Mtshotshisa



## [PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS]

Presidential Address to the members of the Conference that will be held in Mabeskraal Circuit within the North West, Witwatersrand and Botswana District.

# **BANTU METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT**

**MABESKRAAL CIRCUIT WITHIN THE NORTH-WEST. WITWATERSRAND AND BOTSWANA DISTRICT.**

**DATE : 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE.**

Ex-President of the Conference, Office of the Secretariat, Treasurers Office, Chairmen of the Districts, Superintendent Ministers, Lady President, Ex-Lady President, Vice Lady President, Office of the Connexional WPU Secretariat, District Chairladies, Lady Superintendents, Ministers' wives, distinguished guests, Connexional Departments' officials, Delegates and the house at large, I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ "Amen".

First and foremost I thank the Almighty for affording me this opportunity to stand before you today and read this address for the first time in my life.

## **Back to basic**

Methodists around the world owe their Theology Structure and enthusiasm to their founder John Wesley the son of the late Samuel and Susanna Wesley. Samuel Wesley was the Anglican Priest and Rector of the EPWORTH Parish Church and Susanna was a Woman of Uncommon Zeal, Intelligence and Character who was likely the most important human influence in John Wesley's life.

When John Wesley discovered that a new relationship with God comes through Faith in Christ rather than our own efforts. He encouraged participation in the sacrament of the Church. His preaching, teaching, writing, organisational skills, and inspirational leadership founded a movement which was to have worldwide implications.

The Primary Themes of this movement, the unique emphases of Methodist Doctrine and belief.

## **These are the themes:**

1. The bible as our ultimate Authority

*"The bible as our ultimate Authority"*

2. God`s universal love for all persons
3. Justification by faith in Jesus Christ
4. The assurance of salvation which comes through the Holy Spirit
5. Christian Perfection achieved through personal holiness and social justice

Mr Ex-President Sir, because of our different back grounds on Christianity the themes mentioned above are not all known in our methodical life style. As a result the standard of our church is going down. Referring to the four pillars mentioned by the General Secretary of this house on his report last year, check the financial, statistical growth and spiritual upliftment. Centralisation of funds implementation belongs to all of us especially Ministers but this project is not functioning satisfactory. We talked and talked but some Circuits are not responding well. The question is, do those Ministers need to be paid? District leadership must also take charge of the implementation of Conference resolutions spiritual upliftment will be shown on our statistical report, guess what, some circuits are not even attended by appointed to Ministers its painful. You cannot even know that those ministers are still with us or not.

I appeal to all Ministers to take charge of their congregation, if there is a problem they must not just keep quiet, brethren this church is belongs to all us.

### **Evangelistic:**

The BMCO, gave me the task to take charge of evangelical growth and I had to nominate two Wardens, one for Biblewomen and the other for the Evangelists groups to form a Missionary Department although there were already some members of this Department but there was no way forward. We started at Vredefort Circuit in the Free State and Lesotho District and blessed to be with the BMCO Members miracles happened at Vredefort, Biblewomen showed their talents and organisational skills, under the direct supervision of Moth. G.N. Tyopo. I really thank her to show us that she can. The second gathering was at Beaufort West and we were joined by members of this Church from various Districts. Thank you to those members.

### **Presidential Tour / Itinerary**

This was not easy for me because I had to travel with public transport but it was my choice to do so. My aim was to minimise cost for my own transport since the fuel is going up all year round. But on the other side it puts my life in danger as you can recall that one of the best Ministers from the Church was plotted by his best brethren or friends. Nevertheless my life depends on the best of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Beaufort West is the one circuit having a challenge due to the appointed Minister`s health condition and that affect the Circuit`s spiritual growth and Trustees` property condition. That needs the Conference to intervene. That is our agreement with the Superintendent Minister and the Chairman of the District is aware of that as well. I was welcomed in all circuits within the North Western Cape District. I really enjoyed the stay with them.

### **Western Transkei District**

“The bible as our ultimate Authority”

I have not yet completed my tour at Western Transkei, I am left with the two Circuits. I spent more time helping the Zithulele Circuit on completing the Church hall and I was accompanied by the District Trustees and District Chairman's Executive Members. Finally, the Church Hall is completed now. Differences among the church members are gone forever. Due to the loss of our beloved great man Rev. C.N Tyeya. May his soul rest in peace. The BMCO had to get someone as caretaker of that Circuit under the direct supervision of the Rev. Mnikelo Mbombo and the work was done successfully. I thank the BMCO to allow me to see how to get out of that situation it was not easy but God is a provider. Brethren, we must take caution and prevent our Church from further disputes.

Let me not forget to honour those brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers who passed on during the past year 2013/2014 may their souls rest in peace.

In conclusion Mr Ex-President and the house at large, may the good Lord of our Forefathers pour his blessings to all of us and wish this Conference success on all her deliberations.

Yours in Christ Jesus

***Dr Rev Gideon Benjamin Mathemba Mtshotshise***

***President of the Conference.***