



Bantu Methodist Church of S.A.

Established in 1933 – Reg. No. B7/4
President of Conference



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Presidential Address to the 80TH Annual Conference held at Fort Beaufort circuit within the Eastern Cape District as from the 07th – 13th October 2013.

Deputy President, Office of the Secretariat, Treasury office, Chairmen of various Districts, Superintendent Minister, Ministers, Ex Officio members of Conference, Lady President and your Office, Officials of all Connexional Departments of our Church, Distinguished Guests and delegates from various Districts and all members of our church. Beloved I greet you all in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Firstly let me thank the Almighty and the only God of the universe for affording me this opportunity of standing before you to present the 2013 Presidential address. Can we all stand up and say AMEN to the Almighty and omnipotent God. The past three years have been very challenging to the leadership of the Church and to all members but despite these challenges we have seen some progress in building our beloved church.

Beloved I made an undertaking during my induction in 2010 that in 2013 I would seek no re-election and I still stand by that promise. I am grateful to all of you who have supported me and your prayers have kept me healthy. Before looking at our failures and achievements, let me pose this question to all BMC members, where is the youth, intellectuals, ordinary people who used to love and serve God under the banner of the BMC? “Siziyekile ezo nto ebekulilungelo lokuba masizenze. Sesuka senza ezo zinto ebekungemfanelo yokuba masizenze. Akukho nokuphila kuthi”. I am asking the latter because one staunch member of the church said, “the BMC is not progressing, she is sliding down the cliff because of its leaders who are very divisive and are afraid of change and transformation, I am going to quit my beloved church for a growing denomination.” This member stated this on the 21/09/2013 the person sounded very concerned and disgruntled and does not only blame the leaders but everyone called by the name of our church. The person further stated that we are patiently waiting for everything to come to us freely that we do not want to give, contribute or donate towards the growth and welfare of our church. The truth is always bitter and those who dared tell the truth have felt the wrath of everyone and sometimes have to leave their church unceremoniously.

We have been talking about building a head office and centralising funds but there is no progress in this sphere, we only talk year in and year out. Until such time we stop the talk show and start acting from our societies, circuits and districts we will never be able to leave the best legacy for our future generation. I am now making these to the Leadership, Ministers and all members of our church.

- Radical changes on the church administration from societies, circuits, districts and conference level needs to be effected.
- The 2010 Transformation Resolutions were not completely implemented, only stoles were effected but undisciplined practices have arisen.
- Implementation of Conference resolutions – membership and contributions needs to be emphasized and submitted to the central office to promote growth and wealth in our church.

- As long as Circuit Ministers are in the mercy of few individuals or a certain group of people in the Circuit, we will never have control over them. The best option and solution is by centralization.
- Our Ministers' needs to be send to school and for Theological Training to ensure that our ministry becomes comprehensive in the best interest of our congregants.
- The budget system could be done away with if we could start contributing according to the word of God. The Bible tells us to give according to what we receive. (MALACHI 3 : 6 – 12)
- Wellbeing of our ministers and their families remains the responsibility of the congregants therefore seeing a minister and family living in poverty will bring shame to the congregants.

We all need to be committed to live morally, socially and spiritually and die for the truth brought to us by Christ under the banner and colours of the BMC. For the President not to have a circuit nor a district is the best achievement for the church, it has its challenges but let us continue embracing this practice, we can only improve where a need arise. This is actually the best practice, I have experimented and experienced this practice.

Our forefathers, friends, Ministers, Preachers and all members who departed are watching on us therefore we need to be responsible in all we do to safeguard the legacy they left for us and our children. Presently the has members but their names do not appear in the common register of the conference meaning the conference is unaware of what is happening at society level rising to district level. For this institution called the church of Christ to grow we must have names and addresses of all our members and not ghost members. For the Bantu Methodist Church of S.A to be independent we need to all roll up our sleeves otherwise our beautiful church will forever be dependent on charities. We will only attain being independent if we remain united and work together. Unity is strength and divided we fall.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of you for your loyal support for the past three years and also my beloved family for your unconditional love. THANK YOU ALL.

I wish this conference success in all its discussions.

Yours in His Service

Out- going President

Dr. Rev. Mbulelwa Eric Besane

Dear beloved I greet you all in the name of our Saviour Lord Jesus Christ Am

Let me begin by thanking the Almighty God, Who have afforded me the opportunity to stand here before you today, to present the first of its kind a Deputy Presidential Address in the history of our Church.

Since my being elected as the Deputy President of the Conference at the Conference that was held at Fort Beaufort within the Eastern Cape District in 2009, life has become unbearable, just to listen to those who do not go along with reality, I have been called a rebel and Church divider, together with the people who are following me especially all the District Chairmen, namely Rev. Tyeya, Rev. Yeni and Rev. Tyopo, Rev. Mtshotshisa and Rev. Parkies, but I am encouraged by the grace of God that has made us one and unwavering by the insults directed to us.

I am also thrilled by the support and love we have received from all those members who are hungry for the truth and progress in our Church. I was under the impression that in the Bantu Methodist Church of South Africa, we are ruled by the love of God, but unfortunately the year 2009 showed me that we have been ruled by fear or through dictatorship or through autocratic leadership.

I am saying these words, not because of disrespect to our former President of Conference as well as to the Secretary of Conference, but I am saying this because their behaviour and attitudes left much to desire as they had held or seen themselves as untouchable and could not be called to order by people like us.

Beloved I may not be conversant with our Churches' Constitution, but it says all members should adhere to it and all of us irrespective of who you are you are obliged to reply or to respond to whatever allegations are directed to you, you do not have to ignore it, otherwise you are causing a precedent to the congregants and to our future leaders.

Most of us know by now about the situation in our Church and as to why we do not have a President of the Conference and the Secretary of Conference among us.

The whole problem started in 2008 at the Conference held in Klerksdorp within the North West District and that boiled over to the 2009 Conference that was supposed to have been held at Ladysmith Circuit within the Kwa – Zulu Natal District and had the President Executive taken place all these misunderstanding would not have occurred, but I think we had put too much faith to two or three individuals to run the Church for us any how and without giving us any feedback. One example I am referring to is the financial state of Church, we all do not know what is happening to the Church's monies and we might loose them, if we are not careful.

Beloved the Church has a duty of serving all its members irrespective of whom you are, be poor or rich , whether educated or not. What has happened in our Church should never happen again, or history would be against us and our children would for ever stay away from the visionless leadership.

The first Democratic elected President of South Africa; Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela, said we have now come to the end of being called the Skunk of the World and this should never happen again. I am also pleading with all of us to build the Church, so that it is able to accommodate all South Africans not only certain people.

I am also worried by the insinuation made between the educated and those not educated and according to the Constitution of South Africa that is discrimination. We must remember the first twelve Disciples of Christ were Fishermen, but they ended up becoming authors of the very same books in the Bible we are reading and following today and we are called Christians today through their God given knowledge and they became the greatest in their time and still in our time.

Beloved I would like to thank the Kwa – Zulu Natal District for their braveness and their humbleness' of not being selfish, even when they were treated inhumanely; they did not despair and continued to seek peaceful means of solving the problems faced by our Church, may the Good Lord be with them in all their endeavour struggling for peace, they have shown leadership, by not leading their members astray, even during the trying times of being isolated in their own Church and by their own brothers and sisters and by their spiritual leaders.

I will not be fair if i do not thank the following brave District Chairmen, Rev. Mtshoshisa, Rev. Yeni, Rev. Tyeya and Rev. Parkies and Rev. Tyopo even though they had received threatening letters that they would loose their Chairmanship, they continued to follow the truth.

Special thanks to Rev. Dladla, Rev. Ngwenya, Bro. Majova, Rev. Mvango and Rev. Makgene their families, all the mentioned people sacrificed their hard earned money to attend meetings without any complain may the Lord provide them with all the riches they are looking for and truly they done the Church proud, otherwise we would not have been where we are today and this gathering would not have materialised.

The said news is that we have two Ministers who had been hounded out of their Circuits before the end of the year without any valid reasons; those Pastors are Rev. Mvango and Rev. Stofile both from the Eastern Cape District and Rev. Jacobs in the Western Cape. During the Synod at Beaufort West in Western Cape a charge was laid against Rev. Jacobs and Rev. Mtshotshisa; although Rev. Mtshotshisa had not attended the Synod, the people present there it was I and Rev. Ngwenya but the Hand of the Almighty God had protected us. I am convinced that the Almighty God will protect and provide them with happiness and success in their Pastorship in 2011. Some of our Pastors (Ministers) have been stripped of their right to conduct marriages, because they are said to have resigned from the BMC and yet it is not true.

Still on the sad news: I am deeply saddened by the departing in this World of the living: The two brothers in Kwa – Zulu Natal Oobabu Mntungwa, Mother Njongwe in the Transkei District, and Mother Ngubane from the Kwa – Zulu Natal District and Rev. TS Ramathetje from the North West District, may their Souls rest in peace. It is a pity the Conference that they have attended for many years, was unable to attend to their funeral services and to assist financially except the burial of Mother Njongwe.

The actions attitude of the Treasurer of Conference has once again came to the spotlight that he does not care about the well being of other members and rightfully these members had contributed to the Minister's Insurance, but unfortunately, they have been illtreated.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kwa Zulu Natal District by contributing R2000 towards the burial of Rev. Ramathetje and we need to refund the KZN.

The following people have travelled extensively to some Districts trying to quell the propaganda directed to destroy our credibility and dignity: Rev. Yeni, Rev. Mtshotshisa, Rev. Dladla and Rev. Ngwenya, they have even travelled to the Northern Cape and Western Cape within two days and that should have been the longest journey and we need to meet all of them half away financially.

This Conference need to take drastic actions and decisions to protect our Ministers from now onwards and the Church should be involved in engaging the Government in all deliberations or discussions affecting the Community and to issue statements, regarding the happenings in our Country, babies are being raped and killed and old people are being targeted in some area especially in some villages and Rural places and our Church is silent on such issues.

The 2010 Fifa Soccer World Cup had come and gone, our team Bafana Bafana may have not won important matches, but the Country has shown all the doubting Thomas's that South Africa is able and it managed to hold such an enormous event without any serious incident as the Police were number one, may the crime in our Country remain low as during the Fifa Soccer World Cup.

Lastly beloved let us respect and love one another and the love that we have displayed during the year in all our gatherings of 2010, should never depart amongst us.

I wish this 77th Conference a success in its all deliberations.

Go bless you all.

Rev. ME Besane.....

Deputy President of Conference.l