

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT
BINNIAL CONFERENCE HELD AT SHARPVILLE CIRCUIT WITHIN THE EASTERN
GAUTENG DISTRICT : 04TH JULY 2013 – 07TH JULY 2013.**

BY.REV.T.NGWENYA

*President of Conference, Deputy President, Office of the Secretariat..., YPD
Connexional Executive, District Chairmen..., Superintendent Ministers, Ministers,
District YPD Executives, Delegates..., Distinguished Guests!! To the saints and faithful
brethren in Christ..., Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ. I salute you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ ..., AMEN.*

*First and foremost praise is to the Almighty God, who has made it possible for me to
come and present to you this Presidential Address of the YPD.*

*Beloved in Christ allow me to call upon everyone present here today to join me in
remembering our fallen heroes and heroines since the 2011 YPD Conference. We want
to convey to their loved ones that their passing on has left noticeable gap and a void in
our lives that will stay forever : amongst whom is the late Rev.R.N Yeni our father...,
mentor and role model; and many Brothers and Sisters..., ' MAY THEIR SOULS REST
IN PEACE'.*

*Brethren we are gathered here today on the Binnial Conference since the existence
of our Church. In Spirit the Church of God in the World is well but it is daily confronted
with many challenges that seek to derail the Mission and purpose of the work of God.
We may as well draw similarities of the context in which we live to what one English
writer in the 18th Century – CHARLES DICKENS- in his book 'A TALE OF TWO CITIES'
said I quote..., **'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of
wisdom, it was the age of foolishness'**. Closed quote. In this country of ours we
might as well say it is the best of times..., it is the worst of times. Nevertheless the
Church of God exists in these contrasting realities of our time.*

*We meet in this City of Sharpville which was established in 1942 by Brian Walker...,
situated between two great industrial cities, namely..., Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging.
Sharpville has a history that will never be forgotten wherein in 1960 many black people
were massacred for rising against injustices of the erstwhile Apartheid Regime.*

*As the preacher of the Good news of Christ I have chosen to align my address with the
story of the healing of Naaman's (Nahaman) leprosy as found in the book of II Kings 5
:1-15.*

*This address comes at a troublesome time in our country. Like Naaman this country is
amongst the most and highly honoured countries in the world. It has one of the best
constitutions in the world but be that as it may this country experiences challenges of*

'leprosy' that seek to destroy all the gains that we have, since the advent of democracy. Most of our youth are unemployed. This country is rich in mineral resources and yet few people benefit from such riches as only a few benefit from those. The youth including the youth of this church still struggle to acquire skills that are necessary for one to access employment. The leprosy of poverty that runs across all the spectrum of our society also seeks to destroy everything that we have proudly gained. Self centredness and selfishness hinder efforts that seek to respond to service delivery in our communities. Efforts to find a cure for the 'leprosy' of Hiv and Aids are still researched and in the meantime our youth continue to die through this disease. Other leprosy of prostitution..., drug abuse..., excessive alcohol consumption also cut through the moral fibre of our society.

The church is faced with challenges in its growth and evangelizing processes because of the leprosy of jealousy, negative competition and pride although our motto is 'One Heart one Way'. Pride and jealousy continue to eat on the efforts that seek to grow the Church of God. When Naaman denounced his pride..., his leprosy was healed and cleansed. In the midst of the difficulties that we encounter our hope nevertheless is pinned on Christ Jesus, our hope for salvation and healing. Let us continue as the Youth of Christ to engage in Bible Studies..., Youth Camps..., Sunday School Camps..., Prayer Meetings as we seek to find lasting solutions to the 'leprosy' that want to tore our societies apart. John Wesley the founder of Methodism preached salvation by faith and that we are saved by grace. Let us strive together as we journey along as the Youth of Christ to be part of the solution to the problems that destroy our country.

In the 2011 Conference we took resolutions on the following issues...;

1. Church 'Head office'
2. Sunday school Syllabus
3. And setting of our website

Progress has happened on the implementation of those resolutions. The website is functional..., the Sunday school syllabus is also operational. Progress on our 'head office' resolution is still hindered by funds and I therefore beseech our youth to give as much as they could towards efforts of making this our dream a success.

A word of gratitude to our Conference Treasury..., Secretary of Conference..., President of Conference..., Central District members and YPD president of KZN all of whom are an inspiration behind the existence of the Sunday School syllabus. We greatly thank you for the work well done.

In closing I urge all of us to go to Fort Beaufort for the Jubilee Celebrations of our 80th Anniversary. I thank you for your co-operation and your prayers. To my family I say thank you for your continued support and love. Let us all hold fast in Unity.

Lastly I wish this biennial Conference a success in all its discussions and deliberations. Finally Brethren..., farewell!! Become complete. Be of Good comfort. Be of one mind. Live in peace and the God of love and peace abide with you forever Amen.