

**78TH CONFERENCE OF BANTU METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA BY
HONOURABLE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, DR
PEMMY MAJODINA**



DATE : 09 OCTOBER 2011

VENUE : MANKONTSO SOCIETY @ MT FRERE CIRCUIT IN ALFRED NZO

Officiating Minister, allow me to greet this conference in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

District Bishop

Circuit Superintendent

Executive Committees of All Departments

Ministers

Preachers

Stewards

Ladies & Gentlemen

Thank you Secretary of Conference, Rev Dladla, for inviting me to address this Conference. I feel very much humbled and privileged to be amongst men and women of God in this 78th Conference.

“LIGHT THE CANDLE THAT THE WORLD MAY BE SAVED “

(Matthew 5:14-16)

There are two most important terms in this theme that I would like to put focus on, and they are, LIGHT and SAVED.

- **LIGHT**: This noun appears about 120 times and is clearly a poetic term. The first occurrence of light is in the Creation account: ‘Let there be light; and there was light (Genesis 1:3). Here ‘light’ is the opposite of ‘darkness’. In the Hebrew mind the ‘day’ began at the rising sun. ‘He dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.’(2 Sam 23:4).
- In the metaphorical use ‘LIGHT’ signifies life over against death.’ For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living.’(Psalm 56:13). To walk in the ‘light’ of the face of a superior or of God is an expression of a joyful, blessed life in which the quality of life is enhanced. The believer is assured of God’s ‘light’, even in a period of difficulty.

Christ had lately called his disciples, and told them that they should be fishers of men, here he tells them further what he designed them to be--- the salt of the earth, and lights of the world, that they might be indeed what it was expected they should be. All Christians are light in the Lord and must shine as lights, but ministers in a special manner. Christ calls himself the Light of the world and they are workers together with him, and have some of his honor put upon them. Truly the light is sweet, it is welcome, the light of the first day of the world was so, when it shone out of darkness, so is the morning light of every day, so is the gospel, and those that spread it, to all sensible people.

The world sat in darkness, Christ rose up his disciples to shine in it, and, that they may do so, from him they borrow and derive their light. As the lights of the world, they are illustrious and conspicuous, and have many eyes upon them.

UMGOMO: "KHANYISA IKHANDLELA OKANYE LUMEKA UKUZE IHLABATHI LISINDISWE"

THEME: "LIGHT THE CANDLE THAT THE WORLD MAY BE SAVED"

Nina nilukhanyiso lwehlabathi, umzi phezu kwentaba awunakufihlakala.

Ngu Yesu lo uthetha lamazwi kwintshumayelo yakhe yasentabeni, uthetha nabafundi bakhe bokuqala, kusemveni kokuba ebarhintyele kwindawo ngendawo ezohluka hlukeneyo wababiza bashiya izinto ebebezithanda balandela uYesu.

Ngoku apha kulentaba uyabaxhobisa ubabonisa okwekholwa ukuhlala, kusemveni kokuba ephilise umlwele evela kwindawo ngendawo, yiyolonto athi umvumi wasekhaya, "besiza bezihlewele uyabanceda bonke" ukukhanya kweza ngoYesu kodwa ke.

Ekuqaleni ke uThixo wadala amazulu nehlabathi, ehlabathini kwakusenyanyeni kuselubala kwakumnyama phezu kwamanzi enzonzobila, umoya kaThixo wafukama phezu kwamanzi lawo wathi uThixo makubekho ukukhanya, wakubona uThixo ukuba ukukhanya kulungile wahlula uThixo phakathi kokukhanya nobumnyama wathi uThixo ukukhanya yimini, wathi ubumnyama bubusuku, kwahlwa kwasa, yangumhla wokuqala.

Yiva xa athi uThixo makubekho izikhanyiso esibhakabhakeni samazulu, zibe zezemiqondiso zibe zezamaxesha amisiweyo, zibe zezemihla neminyaka mazibe zizikhanyiso esibhakabhakeni samazulu zikhanyisa ehlabathini. uThixo wenza izikhanyiso ezikhulu ezibini esikhulu kuso salawula imini (ilanga) inyanga yona yalawula ubusuku njengoko simva umbhali ngomlomo womPostile uPawulo esithi inkwenkwezi iyohluka kwenye inkwenkwezi ngobuqaqawuli ewe sizohamba ekukhanyeni.

Lunge ke ukhanyiso olwabekwayo ehlabathini, lolo Khanyiso sixelelwa ngalo zizibhalo ezingcwele esithi umbhali kwincwadi kaYohane 8 vs 12 esithi uYesu, **NDIM**

UKHANYISELO LWEHLABATHI, (I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD). Lolokhanyiso elathi lakuva ukuba uYohane unikelwe entolongweni lwemka lwaya ngase Galili wathi esukile eNazarete weza wahlala eKapernahum engaselwandle, emideni yakwa zeBhulon neyakwa Nafetali wendlela yaselwandle, phesheya kweYordan. Abantu abo babehleli ebumnyameni babone ukukhanya okukhulu nabo babehleli ezweni nasethunzini lokufa bavelelwe kukukhanya. Banga Bavuma ingoma entsha, khangelani nizibone izibele ezingaka, zityhiliwe ngumsindisi owafela thina Bantu, besihamba emnyameni singalwazi ukhanyiso wasinceda wena Thixo wasinika unyana wakho wasikhanyisela ngaye.

As a preacher you must walk the talk. You were called to preach in the wonderful name of our Lord. Preachers are ambassadors of God. An ambassador represents his/her country of origin in the foreign country. We must bring hope to hopeless situation; heal those who are spiritually and emotionally wounded.

Umshumayeli makabanjwe ngumkhala. Nokuba iimeko zithini yena makangatshintshwa zimeko kodwa atshintshe imeko yena. Ibuhlungu into yokuba kuthiwe lo otshicela esifubeni yayingu-Vice wabashumayeli.

Umshumayeli makangabi yiPeanut Butter, ngaphandle ibe nomfanekiso weKati kodwa ngaphakathi abe yiPeanut Butter yokuthambisa isonka. Be a preacher inside and outside. Preacher must research and contextualize the bible to pass a message of God to the congregation / communities. We must not only preach to our congregation but kubantu bonke, ingakumbi abakude nofefe lukaThixo.

“Inja neBaskiti’ Inja lost focus iphethe I Baskiti

“Don’t ever lose focus bashumayeli”

“Umntu owayethunywe igusha wachola isihlangu”

Always Respect and Fear Pulpit. We are representatives of the powerful word. As preacher we are also wounded healers-

Ingxaki siye sifune ukuhamba sodwa kulendlela. Uthi uYesu kuSimon “Nyathela apho ndinyathela khona ukuze ungabuvi ubunzima balomnqamlezo”. Xa sihamba sodwa sizakubulaleka endleleni.

Our God is like scotch tape, He holds us together but Yena abe e-invisible.

I saw a boy playing with a kite in the midst of heavy smoke.

It is during our time of preaching when we preach to those infected and affected by HIV& AIDs, MDR, XDR, Cancer, Lesbians & Gays.

The role of the church must be:

- To restore dignity & Integrity, healing, forgiveness, peace and reconciliation, positive attitude, mutual care and support. Hospitality, the spirit of giving.

It is evident that government cannot resolve the social ills that engulf our communities without the full support of the religious fraternal.

I remember a story about tortoise that had a problem, there was drought in a place where it lived and all animals had to relocate to another area. He was a friend with doves who easily fly and leave the area. They said “we can come with you but it is difficult. We will have to take you with a stick. We will then use all our mouths to hold it. The deal is if you open your mouth you will fall”.

They agreed and so they moved on their way passed a school, children coming back from school. The children laughed and ridiculed the tortoise for being unable to fly and he forgot the deal and opened his mouth to answer. He fell and so missed the new destination.

The story means that you don't have to answer everything and if you have the pride of the tortoise you will fall. Kobu bushumayeli” Pride comes before a fall”

We call for the civil society to work closely with government to heal the wounds of our sick Society through Ubuntu and the church as an embracing institution is well positioned to the centre of this mission.

Theme: “Light the Candle that the World may be Saved”(Mathew 5:14-16)

Bashumayeli yesterday is a cashed cheque, and cannot be negotiated, tomorrow is a promissory note and cannot be utilized. Today is cash in hand, spend it wisely.

Our God does not look for perfection. He looks for obedience.

We preach to members of our congregation who are also civil servants with a most difficult sin in Christians to overcome sin of financial dishonesty.

God trusts us because of the indwelling Holy Spirit within us. God works through us in spite of all our inadequacies if we have faith in His power. God never assigns a task and then deprives His agent of the tools required to complete it.

LIGHT THE CANDLE THAT THE WORLD MAY BE SAVED

Ukhanyiselo lwehlabathi nini through your actions. Makungabi mnyama kukhanyisiwe endlini kuba akhona amaxesha anjalo.

Remember Jeremiah ^{WASA 18 U 4} ~~29 vs 4~~ when he talked about a Potter who recreated a vessel after it broke into pieces. He did not throw the clay away. The vessel went out of assignment. We as Preachers, we are expected to be the light of the world but we are broken into pieces. We want God to remake us by his living spirit to be equal to the task we were called for.

Ihlabathi will write you off but God rebuild you.

A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. The Disciples of Christ, especially those who are forward and zealous in his service, become remarkable, and are taken notice of as beacons. They are for signs, men wondered, all their neighbors have any eye upon them, and study to imitate them, others envy them, hate them, censure them, and study to blast them.

They are concerned therefore to walk circumspectly, because of their observers, they are as spectacles to the world, and must take heed of everything that looks ill, because they are so much looked at. The disciples of Christ were obscure men before he called them, but the character he put upon them dignified them and as preachers of the gospel they made a figure, and though they were reproached for it by some, they were respected for it by others, advanced to thrones, and made judges, for Christ will honor those that honor him.

As the lights of the world, they are intended to illuminate and give light to others and therefore they shall be set up as lights. Christ has lighted these candles, they shall not be put under a bushel, not confined always, as they are now, to the cities of Galilee, or the lost sheep of the house of Israel, but they shall be sent into all the world.

The churches are the candlesticks, the golden candlesticks, in which these lights are placed, that they light may be diffused, and the gospel is so strong a light, and carries with it so much of its own evidence, that, like a city on a hill, it cannot be hid, it cannot but appear to be from God, to all those who do not willfully shut their eyes

against it. It will give light to all that are in the house, to all that will draw near to it, and come where it is.

Those to whom it does not give light, must thank themselves, they will not be in the house with it, will not make a diligent and impartial enquiry into it, but are prejudiced against it. They must shine as lights by their good preaching. The knowledge they have, they must communicate for the good of others, not put it under a bushel, but spread it.

The talent must not be buried in a napkin, but traded with. The disciple of Christ must not muffle themselves up in privacy and obscurity, under pretence of contemplation, modesty, or self preservation, but, as they have received the gift, must minister the same. By their good living they must be burning and shining lights, must evidence, in their whole conversation, that they are indeed followers of Christ. They must be to others for instruction, direction, quickening and comfort.

Therefore we are SAVED:

- Of material and temporal deliverance from danger, suffering, etc
- Of the spiritual and eternal salvation granted immediately by God to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
- Of the present experiences of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin.
- Of the future deliverance of believers at second coming of Christ for His saints, being deliverance from the wrath of God to be executed upon the ungodly at the close of this age and from eternal doom.
- Of those who endure to end of the time of the Great Tribulation.
- Of the individual believer, who, though losing his reward at the judgment seat of Christ hereafter, will not lose his salvation.
- Of the deliverance of the nations at the Millennium.

Ukhanyiso luxanduva lwethu bazibiza ngokuba sibisizwe ngokwezi text zilandelayo:-

VERSES

Kwaba se Efese 5 vs 8-“Hambani ngokwabantwana bokukhanya”

Yohane 3 vs 20-“Baluthiya ukhanyiso bangezi elukhanyisweni”

Isaya 60 vs 1-“Sukuma ukhanye kuba kufikile ukukhanya kwakhe, ubuqaqawuli buka Yehova buthe chapha kuwe”

Umpostile uYohane 2 vs 8-“Ubumnyama obu buyedlula, ukukhanya okuyinyaniso sekubonakala”

Indumiso 119 vs 105-“Lisisibane senyawo zam ilizwi lakho, likukukhanya emendweni”

Luka 2 vs 32-“Isikhanyiso Sokukhanyisela iintlanga”

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