

What do these stones mean?

(Joshua 4:6-7)



UBF Kenya had a conference to celebrate its 30th anniversary. We planned this conference to clearly remember what God has done in our ministry during last 30 years and to have spiritual direction for another 30 years and to raise future national spiritual leaders.

The conference was held in 'Bible Translation and Literacy Conference Centre', in the suburb of Nairobi from 19th to 21st October. Total attendants were almost 90 including delegations from USA, Korea and other African UBF chapters (Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Uganda).

Opening message was delivered by Sh.Caleb Kim from Chongno UBF, Korea, based on 1Timothy 3:1 'Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.' He encouraged all of us to serve God's sheep, to experience power of personal prayer and to learn the life of Jesus Christ.

After the opening message, Dr. Mark Yang and Pastor Ron Ward gave us a introductory lecture on inductive Bible study. The lecture timely supported one of the main legacies of UBF, which is “go back to Bible”



During the conference, Dr. Mark Yang and Pastor Ron Ward from Chicago led 3 sessions of inductive Bible studies based on the book of Ruth. Through this, we were able to learn how to find the treasure through the Bible study so that the words of God can transform each of us. Ruth followed her mother in law to honor God giving up her human comfort. Eventually she married to Boaz and was blessed to be an ancestor of Messiah Jesus. Through this Bible study, many brothers and sisters resolved to come back to God.

On first day night, Dr. Charles Kim from Chicago gave us lecture on the history of UBF with introduction of the founders, Dr. Samuel Lee, and Mother Sarah Barry and UBF spiritual legacies. This lecture helped Kenyan local shepherds to understand about UBF and its history and its main spirit. Among the 8 spiritual legacies of UBF which we know, the lecture focused on “back to the bible”. We were reminded that our ministry should always focus on the Bible.



After that, Sh. Daniel Rhee who has been supporting Africa ministry from UBF Korea over last 20 years and now serve as silver missionary in South Africa, gave us lecture on the history of UBF Africa ministry. He introduced how missionaries struggled to help African leaders to learn “giving spirit” based on Matthew 14:16, and to love God’s word, to serve God’s sheep and to pay tithe faithfully. He emphasized that now is the time for African shepherds to be the owner of the ministries.



In the same evening, congratulatory video messages by Dr. John Jun, Missionary Moses Yoon, Sh. James Lee (Zimbabwe, Africa Coordinator), other UBF Africa senior missionaries were presented. UBF Kenya ministry began when Msn. Jackie Yoon, the first UBF missionary to Africa, came to Kenya in December 1989. Their messages congratulated and encouraged Msn. Mark and Jackie Yoon, Msn. Livingstone and Lydia Chung, Msn. Joshua and Pauline Kim, Msn. Jeremiah and Esther Hwang. Three senior shepherd's family who are pillars of UBF Kenya ministry, Sh. Kevin and Nancy, Sh. Juma and Janet, Sh. Otieno and Lucy also received much encouragement and congratulation.





In the second day morning, Sh. Augustin Lee shared his life testimony. Like the prodigal son appear in Luke 15, he had left God to seek for worldly pleasure and squandered his life. But he repented and came back to God and witnessed God's wonderful salvation grace. His testimony taught us true example of repentance.



During this conference, 5 Kenyan shepherds for whom we are praying to succeed the ministry with three senior shepherds, shared their life testimony. They are Sh. Kennedy Onyango, Sh. Isaac Sonteddy, Sh. Brian Anyianda, Sh. Ken Kataka and Sh. Cosmas Karisa.



(Issac, Caleb, Davis, Cosmas, Kataka, Brian, Onyango)

In the same morning, Sh. Brian shared his life testimony. He lost his parents in his tender age and worked hard to be successful in the world and to establish happy family. However he only found that he became a slave sinful desire and wandered much without direction. Eventually, he resolved to follow Jesus in the ministry.

In the same day, Sunday message was shared by Pastor Ron Ward based on Ruth chapter 1. Although Ruth was in miserable situation, when she resolved to follow God and her mother in law to the land of Bethlehem. Then eventually she became an ancestor of messiah Jesus. His message encouraged us to live a life of following God even if we are in desperate situation.

In the evening, Sh. Isaac Sonteddy shared his life testimony based on Ruth 1:16 'But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." ' He used to live a life of squandering with worldly friends. But through this passage, he resolved that he will never leave God but will leave as much more devoted disciple of Jesus. He is faithfully serving Sh. Steven through Bible study.

After that, Sh. Cosmas Karisa shared his life testimonies based on Ephesians 2:19, 'Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,' He witnessed about his spiritual status and resolved to live as a campus shepherd committing his job and future fully to God. Especially, he is serving 5-7 brothers every week through Bible study co-working with Sh. Juma.

In the evening, our three senior shepherd, Sh. Otieno, Sh. Kevin and Sh. Juma presented their research about three topics, 1) UBF Kenya history and spiritual learnings, 2) House church establishment, 3) Disciple making, respectively.



(shp. Kevin Namudeche, shp. Nickson Otieno, shp. Juma Fuchingo)

Sh.Otieno shared about UBF Kenya history. He shared how himself and Kenyan brothers and sisters grew spiritually through the discipleship ministry. In the beginning, there were much spiritual challenges and misunderstanding between missionaries and Kenyan leaders. He witnessed how he grew in self-supporting spirit and seeking for God's kingdom first to honor spiritual legacy for last 15 years since he joined UBF and until he become a leader and established house church and became an influential senior shepherd.

Sh. Kevin shared about house church ministry in Kenya. He himself established first house church in Kenya ministry followed by Sh. Juma and Sh. Otieno. Although the two other shepherd married in the ministry but they left. Sh. Kevin emphasized about the importance of establishing God centered house church in Kenya where there are so many broken family.

Sh. Juma serves currently many brothers through Bible study. Especially he has been serving Sh. Ken Onyango who will establish house church after the conference. He shared about disciple making in Kenya UBF. According to him, faithful 1:1 Bible study, group Bible study, testimony writing and sharing were keys to raise disciples of Jesus. Also by preparing environment for members to grow through Friday member's fellowship and Sunday worship service were keys to raise disciples of Jesus. Especially he served Sh. Ken Onyango even by taking him to hospital and paying his hospital bill when he was seriously sick.

On the last day of the conference, in the morning, Sh. Ken Kataka shared his life testimony based on Colossians 3:1 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” He lived a life of following worldly value but resolved to follow heavenly value. He was shepherded by Msn. Moses Marji who went back to Chicago ministry. When he made a resolution, he became a faithful shepherd and even decided to marry by faith.

The closing message was shared by Msn. Mark Yoon, based on Joshua 4:6-7, ‘to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, “What do these stones mean?” tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.’ During last 30 years, God established disciples of Jesus. This is the work of God’s leading Israel to pass the Jordan River. Now this is time to enter the promised land. He emphasized that our Kenya leaders should be main leaders in this ministry from now on. At the end of the message, he proposed that Sh.Keven, Sh.Juma and Sh. Otieno should serve the ministry in turn for each year independently as a part of directorship training.



After the conference, as a special event, there was engagement ceremony between Sh. Ken Oyango and Sh. Faith Nyakowa. We are praying that they may marry in December this year.



After the conference, we planted a Thika Plam tree in commemoration of UBF Kenya 30th anniversary conference. It is known that Thika Palm grow up to 6~10m. We prayed that like this tree, our ministry also may prosper and become more fruitful during next 30 years and even for many more years to come!

One word: “What these stones mean?”

<Tree Plating>



