

Burundi Connection

Harvest Partners

March 2015

1st National Convention in Burundi

It was an exciting day on November 6th when the National and International Delegates began arriving for the first National Convention to be held in the nation of Burundi. As many as could had always joined in with us in Rwanda, so we were rejoicing that they have grown to the point of celebrating together within their own nation. May God be glorified.



Bishop Cyril Odendo, Bishop Faucett Khaemba, and Rev Daniel Kimori from Kenya, joined by the National Overseer Bishop Redias and his team from Rwanda were

privileged to be international guests for this event.

The host pastor, Brother Jean Bosco Subire, who is also the Field Secretary for the COGOP in Burundi, was there always to welcome and receive both our national and international delegates.



The theme for the convention was: **TOGETHER GLORIOUS** based on the Word of God when our Lord was praying for His disciples before He left them with the ministry, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:22).

Upon the arrival at the church on the first evening, the international delegates, the National Overseer, and team were welcomed by the **Burundi Traditional Dancers who performed traditional drums in praise and worship to the Lord** (see photo below). This experience was very exciting and entertaining.

Bishop Redias, National Overseer of Rwanda and Burundi, officially opened the 1st National Convention by welcoming all the national and international delegates by encouraging all the participants to focus on the unity of the church.



Burundi Traditional Drum Team



We were very much blessed by the choir from Nyanza Lac and their presentation, as well as, the National Youth Director's report and presentation.



The speaker on the first day of the convention, Bishop Faucett Makhokha Khaemba, preached about the theme based upon John 17:22, and on the power of being together in unity which the church obtained from our church fathers in the book of Acts 2:41-45. His message inspired and stirred us with passion to get into unity of the church. He also reminded us that as one body, we need to be one for the sake of the harvest that is ever before us.

Following Bishop Khaemba's message, Bishop Cyril Odeno, National Overseer from Kenya, blessed the participants with an anointed altar call. As a result of the people responding to seek God, 4 were saved, 4 sanctified, and 4 filled with the baptism of Holy Spirit that evening. To God be all the glory.



The highlight of the next evening's service of the convention began by different choirs leading in praise and worship until the Field Secretary called upon the preacher of the day, Rev Daniel Kimori, who called the musicians back to the stage and continued the praise and worship. He led the congregation into a rich praise and worship time. Then he embarked on preaching his sermon according to the theme based upon John 17:22.



He started his message with verse 20 about the importance of the glory of God in the presence of His people. Rev Kimori reminded the participants what happened to the god called dagon when compared with the God we serve. He reminded us that the presence of our God is the glory that is evident among His people and the church, and that the nation, church, man, nor woman can remain same when encountering His presence.

Saul, the son of Kish, was nobody but a donkey keeper's son until after the anointing of the Lord to be King. He was changed after encountering the glory of GOD.

When we encounter the glory of God, we are changed and become special people and start seeing things differently. The glory of God is the ability of God working in us to become what we cannot be except in the presence of God. When you are anointed, you get the ability to go to the next level and to overcome obstacles. It is the distinguishing factor between me here in this capacity and you there as a special man of God.

Moses encountered this powerful glory when called to go and told God that he will not go unless God was going with him. He simply said that if your glory is not going with us, we won't go because how will we know the difference.

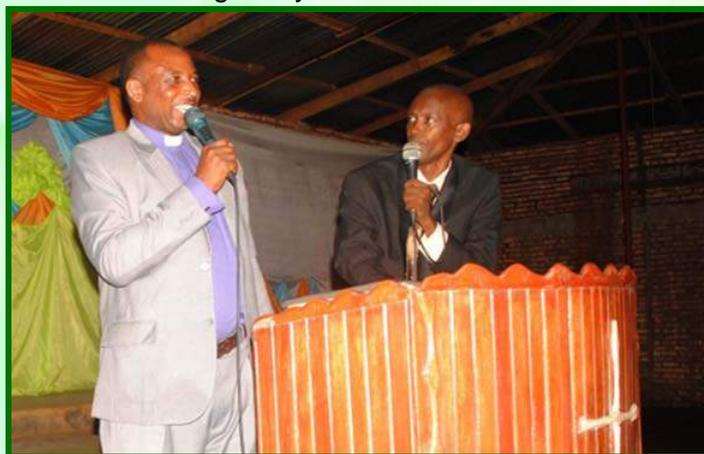
The moderator of the following day was our Brother Nizigiyimana Ferdinand. Choirs from Kirema, Kirundo, and Cibitoke made the day very rich and blessed everyone by their youthful worship and praise filled with excitement for the their 1st National Convention. This was, indeed, a milestone for our COGOP in Burundi.

The evening session began by the youth choir from Cibitoke leading the 300 delegates congregation in praise and worship in English, French, and Kirundi. They advertised their CD production being for sale to support their singing ministry. Various choirs from the districts and visiting churches ministered throughout this convention with their presentations of dynamic songs of worship and praise.



This was also the day for the Church Districts and Ministries reporting which began with the Children's Ministry Director, Sister Witonde Esperance, who was not in attendance but her report was read by Assistant Brother Barandagiye Jean-Claude. During the children's presentation, a little girl age 12 years recited 10 salvation memory verses from the Old and New Testaments. The moderator shared that she had memorized 50 verses, but due to lack of time she stopped at 10. We are so thankful for inspired children's leaders who are teaching and training these little ones and discipling them for Christ.

The National Overseer commended the Sunday school teachers and the girl, but also challenged the parents to bring their children to Sunday school because that's where they will all learn to love God and serve Him. He emphasized that what you teach a child when they are still young is what they will always remember as their instructions in life. He requested the parents to feed the children with the Word because that is the best heritage they deserve for their future.



The Men's Ministry reported by performing a parade behind their National Director, and presented what they were doing to build the kingdom of God and His church. The National Overseer challenged the men that when Jesus was in the grave, it was the women who first went to the grave while men were hidden in their troubles. But if it had been the men who were the ones who went first, it would have been different. Men must work harder in dedicating themselves to God and the church, and become the real head of their family by being good godly examples in the home and in the church.

Following next was the National Women's Ministry report given by Sister Filde Aberinka, the Director and also the wife of our Field Secretary. She reported about various projects being implemented by the women in Kayanza and Kirundo where women are raising rabbits and goats, conducting hospital visitations, and Bible studies, as well as, organizing women's clubs to encourage one another..

The District Overseers and National Evangelism Director reported about evangelism activities and how many people have been saved and added to the church.

The guest speaker of this evening was Bishop Cyril Oendo who welcomed all members and friends of the Church, and also reported that the Burundians have now matured and come to the standard where they can defend themselves. He also said that it was an amazing occasion for a man from deep down in Nyanza Province in Kenya to come to Burundi not to trade gold and silver, but to visit his brethren in the Lord. What a wonderful love!



He preached from Matthew 14:22-29 where our Lord sent His disciples across, went to pray, only to come up from nowhere to come and save them from a storm. He also encouraged the brethren that the storm should be there to test us and find out how you stand. Where are you in times of the storm? Will you stand and remain with Jesus? Or, will you go with the storm? He also shared that the storm is there to test us in 3 areas: determining if we learn what we are taught; have the ability to teach what we learn; and, to determine if we shall trust the Lord for His deliverance.

The alter call was given, and all the ministers were called to pray for all the saints. Many came forward to be delivered from various kinds of oppressions and issues that are against their joy and blessings from God. All were blessed and everybody felt the hand of God in this National Convention.

All the participants were blessed by the giving of the Word from anointed ministers of the Church who attended the convention, and the many praise and worship choirs from all our local churches who ministered to the hearts of the people with anointed sings and worship during the 3 days convention.

The National Overseer, Bishop Redias, in his closing remarks of the convention came and thanked all who worked and came to the convention. He called all ministers forward to be prayed for their anointing and made appointments for the next 2 convention years. He dismissed the congregation in prayer and wished everybody well until we meet in the next convention.

Convention Reporter
Pastor Nkuzimana Mechack

More Scenes from 1st Burundi National Convention



Burundi Delegates

Burundi Ministers/Pastors



Burundi Youth Christian Drama



Bishop Redias Taught on Church Flag



Burundi Appointments by National Overseer



Burundi Honored International Guests

Harvest Partners Ministry

a division of Global Missions Ministries

Annette Taylor | Liaison

Church of God of Prophecy International Offices

PO Box 2910 | Cleveland | TN | 37320-2910

Phone: 423.559.5207 | Fax: 423.559.5238

E-mail: annette@cogop.org

-or- harvestpartners@cogop.org



All gifts are tax deductible and 100% of your gift is applied to the need you specify.