

Dear friends and ministry partners.

It is with great joy that I report to you what the Lord did through your ardent prayers and sacrificial support towards our recently concluded annual conference. We are not only thankful but also immensely encouraged to continue hosting it in the coming years, God willing. May this report encourage you as you continue praying for us.

1] Participation. Over 400 delegates registered for last year's December Conference.



A panoramic view of the delegates

Our delegates were drawn from Africa and beyond: Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Utah (USA), Uganda, South Sudan, and Kenya.



A delegation from Jordan Valley, Utah.

The attendance/participation of our member churches was outstanding. Evidently, the conference continues to register a remarkable numerical growth for which we sincerely thank God. Our prognosis is that these numbers may grow further in the coming years, God willing. The last three years have especially registered an exponential growth. Although the conference is organised by our Association, it is planned and executed by Grace Baptist Church-Kisumu through a committee

that is ably chaired by Elder Ken. It has pleased the Lord to grant Kisumu much wisdom and experience over the years in navigating the various challenges related to hosting the conference as they uniquely emerge. In 2020, for instance, we did not cancel the conference despite the lockdown due to the covid pandemic. Instead, we undertook to run the conference virtually by harnessing our media platforms.

Additionally, this annual conference that began over a decade ago as a local conference is metamorphosing into a regional conference. Kisumu's location is strategic in the region for which we thank God. It allows our neighbours to conveniently cross over the border. The regional buses from Uganda and Rwanda enroute to Nairobi pass through Kisumu. Most of the time, these brethren, especially from Burundi and Rwanda, arrive in the wee hours of the night. This does not pose any logistical challenges to our conference planning and management team.

2] Proclamation. The theme for last year's conference was "Getting The Gospel Right" (adopted from Dr Richard Barcellos' book, "Getting The Garden Right"). This theme was both timely and timeless. When you hear those normalised phrases like "prosperity gospel" you would think that there is a plethora of gospels to be explored and proclaimed. Yet the Bible anathematises any other gospel apart from the apostolic gospel (Galatians 1:6-9).

Pastors Elly Achok (Mumias) and Naphtally Ogallo (Eldoret) were the plenary speakers. If the conference were a volleyball match, these men played the role of libero and hitter interchangeably.



Pastors Elly and Naphtally labouring in the plenary sessions.

I was privileged to be their setter, tasked with laying for them the foundation as a keynote speaker. My task was to pin on the

noticeboard, as it were, the reality of man's total depravity and man's total dependence on God in salvation (Ephesians 2:1-10).

Pastors Sam Oluoch and Michael Maura, both seasoned church planters, led very profitable workshops, focusing on the centrality of the gospel in missions, evangelism and church planting amidst the many challenges in the field.



Pastors Sam & Michael doing justice to the workshops

3] Postmortem. We have been receiving reports of those who were tremendously blessed by the conference. (1) **Conversion.** A lady reports that she believed in the Lord unto salvation during the conference. She has since been actively looking for a biblical church with the help of her sister who invited her. (2) **Comfort.** The brethren from Rwanda rejoice in the Lord who granted them the opportunity to closely fellowship with other believers at the conference. Their pastor, Emmanuel Masengesho, died a while back and they have since been without a shepherd. In addition, the government closed down their church and they have not been able to meet physically for worship. Over 30 of them crossed the borders to attend the conference. Through the goodwill of our partners in the gospel, we were able to cater for their conference fees and accommodation. This conference greatly served to grant them much comfort after a long period of lack of fellowship. (3) **Confession.** A number of brethren are coming up to share with us how God used the conference theme to help them reconsider what the gospel truly is. It may interest you to know that most of our brethren who are now in various biblical churches in Kenya have a very strong Charismatic/Word of Faith background. (4) **Commendation.** We have received very kind and positive words of review from most of our delegates, especially encouraging words to our planning committee. The delegates have expressed their gratitude to Elder Ken and his team for sacrificially planning, coordinating, and executing the conference. Each department was driven by a great desire for excellent service unto the Lord. We hope to start the planning earlier this year since we are anticipating even more delegates this year.

4] Prayer.

- Thank God for all our friends across the world who fervently interceded for the success of the conference.
- Thank the Lord for the brethren in Jordan Valley, Utah, for sending 7 of their members to be a great blessing to us.
- Thank the Lord for our partners in the gospel for generously funding the largest percentage of the conference budget. With such generosity, we are able to subsidise the fee so that many can attend and be profited.
- Thank the Lord for our member churches for their active involvement and participation in the conference.
- Thank the Lord for the GBC-Kisumu conference planning committee for their sacrificial labours. God gave them so much wisdom to seamlessly run the conference.
- Thank God for the wisdom granted to the Association members to domicile the conference in Kisumu after much prayer. Such wisdom continues to bear fruit with each passing year.
- Please thank the Lord for the brethren who put up bookstalls during the conference. Good materials were displayed at every bookstand.
- Please pray that the profession of faith so far exhibited would turn out to be genuine.
- Please pray for much fruit to be harvested from among our delegates.
- Please begin praying for this year's December conference: the theme, speakers, funds, etc.

5] Plea.

- Please consider partnering with us, especially in meeting the budget for this year's conference.

In Christ,

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Please access the recordings via the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLL4jT14jHBR4apOXiQCMFki0vv1Jp6hju>