

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM (LUKE 23:34)

(2024 EASTER BIBLE CONFERENCE-KENYA UBF)

28TH - 31 MARCH 2024 (BY JUMA FUCHINGO)

LUKE 23:34

“³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”

This year, we held our Easter bible conference from the evening of Thursday 28th to Sunday 31st March. Our theme was **“Father forgive them”** from Luke 23:26-43(34). Since we had many faithful growing student shepherds (esses), we prayed to cement their foundation of faith based on receiving and accepting Jesus forgiveness deeply. We prayed that all attendants might come to the cross of Jesus and receive this forgiveness through confession and repentance of our sins.

We dubbed our conference **“the sinner’s party”**. With the sinner’s spirit, God worked powerfully through our messengers and testimony speakers to open the heart of repentance among all people. We experienced great work of the Holy Spirit and many students and leaders wrote sincere testimonies and repented their struggle with sexual sin, alcoholism, hate and depression. During evening meetings, many were willing to share their testimonies in the whole congregation but we had limited space. However, we encouraged them to keep the spirit and share in our subsequent Friday fellowships.

128 attendants joined this conference. Among them were 66 students, 12 were senior leaders and missionaries, 19 junior leaders and 31 second gens.

Two weeks prior to the conference, we dedicated to pray for the conference. Our student shepherds (esses) devoted themselves to serve daily bread messages in the morning and served 5-minute messages during evening prayer as well. During the last Sunday to the conference, S. Otieno also served us with a special message with the title **“Everything is ready, come to the wedding banquet”** from Mathew 22:1-14(4). He invited us to the conference, which we dubbed **“the sinner’s party”**

This time, each shepherd from among the senior leaders & missionaries as well as junior leaders dedicated to prepare their sheep who were either messengers or testimony speakers. Junior leaders served as messengers while student shepherds(esses) served as testimony speakers. All of them expressed a willing heart to serve and they did their best to be ready early enough. Even though junior leaders had been very busy at work, they struggled to honor God through this preparation. One junior leader who was fully booked at work during Easter fought hard to have someone step in for him to serve the message. Even though he had the option to drop the message since he had already exhausted his annual leave days, he decided to pray and lobbied for many days to find a colleague to step in for him. Eventually God answered his desire to serve him and he could deliver the message powerfully.

During the last Friday to the conference, we had messengers and testimony speakers sleep over at our bible centre to finalize their drafts. The following morning, our senior leaders listened to all messages and testimonies and helped them to fine tune. By the time of the conference, most had finished their third draft.

At the conference, we focused on three main messages. First S. Brian served the opening message from Hebrews 12:1-13 (**Let us throw off everything that hinders**) Through this message, he challenges us to drop all hindrances to our coming to Jesus in repentance and set ourselves free to confess our sins in order to receive Jesus forgiveness. Main message 1 **“Go now and, Leave your life of sin (John 8:1-11)** was served by S. Davis. It gave us clear spirit of repentance through his deep repentance and as well Jesus clear command to leave our life of sin. He repented his former life of lust, dishonesty and alcoholism. Through his repentance, his co-

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worker who was not a UBF member before was touched by his transformation and spirit of repentance. Her heart opened to repent her previous negative view of his commitment to God and accepted to follow her husband is calling in supporting him to be a faithful campus shepherd. , Main 2 (**Father, forgive them- Luke 23:26-43**) served by S. Kennedy O. He repented his pride and spirit of hatred, which resulted in sickness and made him suffer for a long time. Through his obedience to God's word, he could be healed by letting go his hatred against his stepmother under whom he was brought up. Main 3 (**You will be my witnesses-Acts1:1-11**) was served by M. Natan Bekit who joined our ministry last year in August from York UBF in Canada. His co-worker and two daughters became sick with flu days to the conference. He struggled to take care of them and at the same time prepare his message. God saw his devotion and allowed him to deliver a powerful message sending us back to the mission field as Jesus witnesses after receiving Jesus forgiveness.

Two evening messages- Evening Message1 (**There is no condemnation in Jesus -Romans 8:1-17**)

Was served by S. Victor and (**Produce fruit in keeping with your repentance-Luke 3:1-20**) was served by S. Kennedy K.

Finally the three morning messages were served by Shepherdess Hannah on Friday (**Jesus' trial Luke23:1~25**),shepherdess Edith on **Saturday (Jesus died for me-"Luke 23:44-56"** and finally Sunday morning message was served by Shepherdess Ivy (**He is risen! – Luke 24:1-12**).

Student shepherds Peter, Samson, Allan, Simon, Sis Caren and Caroline served as testimony speakers to support both main and evening messages. Our student members prepared and served powerful skits and special songs before each main message.



This was the first Easter conference after P. Mark had gone back to Korea. I personally experienced great work of the Holy Spirit through dedicated prayer. This time even though the conference fee was high, we challenged all members from graduate level to pay the full cost as well the student fee was the highest. It looked like a mountain and one week to the conference, we only had pledges and very little had been paid by the students and graduate members. However though dedicated prayer, I was surprised that all had paid full registration on the day of the conference. Secondly, most messengers even though had prepared their first draft, the messages

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were still not clear in their hearts. I became very worried of what will become of our conference without clear and deeply meditated messages. Therefore, during the first night of the conference, I together with S. Otieno & Kevin agreed that we could only pray for the Holy spirit to touch each messenger deeply. God worked powerfully and all messengers transnited that day. From the following day, all messengers now took this privilege very seriously and prepared powerful messages. God richly blessed their devotion and many people shared sincere testimonies after each message. It was a powerful work of God revealed through this conference. Several junior leaders who had been away since COVID were also restored during this conference.

I thank God who also worked powerfully through the close support and co-working spirit between all missionaries and senior leaders in executing each role perfectly well. I could feel our spirit united and God was working through our leadership prayer, co-working and devotion to influence our junior leaders and student leaders to be one in spirit. We could see the continuity of this spirit through our Friday fellowship and worship service attendance, which increased as well.

Our second Gens also had their own full conference program led by shepherdess Nancy who co-worked beautifully with missionary Esther. This time CBF had memory verse recitation from the youngest to the HBF group. We pray that God may continue to build our CBF with a strong foundation to serve God's ministry in future.



We now pray to focus our spiritual attention to raise 17 candidates as campus shepherds during this year's Discipleship devotional Camp (DDC).

Prayer Topics

1. All members who repented their sins to deeply and receive Jesus forgiveness and live with confidence to serve God faithfully.
2. God may raise a new team of 17-student shepherds through the forthcoming Discipleship devotional camp from 15th April to 6th May 2024.
3. To raise 120 faithful sws attendants and 200 1:1 weekly Bs teams.
4. We continue to pray for Good health and Holy Spirit guidance for P. Mark and missionary Jackie as they serve in Korea.
5. God to grand Holy Spirit and wisdom to P. Juma Fuchingo to lead the ministry according to God's guidance.