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We have found the Messiah

The Gospel according to John opens with the affirmation of Jesus’ divinity and incarnation giving us a complete picture of the execution of the plan of redemption coupled with the privilege for humanity to be part of the heavenly royalty if they so choose to. The narrative switches to the work of John the Baptist and the Pharisees who were questioning his credentials. His answer “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias,” should have settled it but they still did not get it. By referring to what Esaias had prophesied and given the stance of the Pharisees as regards the Scriptures it should have been very straightforward to them and should not have had a problem with who Jesus was and should have been elated now that the very prophecies that they had been reading of was being fulfilled. If their expectation was to see the Christ, that was settled the following day when John the Baptist pointed out Christ from the crowd and said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” The confession of John the Baptist and pointing Christ to them should have sufficed feedback to the Jews and Levites in Jerusalem who had sent them. But they still failed to accept both what they had heard and seen, if what the prophecies they had been studying was anything to go by.

The revelation of John the Baptist had a different effect on others present in the same congregation. John’s disciples were so elated at the privilege of having the prophecies being fulfilled right before their eyes. Having been studying the prophecies and looking forward to their fulfilment, the preaching of John resonated with their hearts and they had a burning desire to find out more from the Messiah that had just been introduced to them. To their inquest came the invitation to tarry with the Messiah and in the ensuing interaction they came to know more about Him. “Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.” (John 1:38-39). From the interaction they confirmed prophecies and the following day, Andrew one of the two who had spent some quality time with Christ sought his brother and the very first he reported was “We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

This brief account depict two diverse categories of students of prophecy. Inasmuch as they were both looking forward to its fulfilment, they had different expectation in terms of reality of the actual fulfilment. Several factors may explain this. First, they must have had prejudiced minds. The answer of John the Baptist should have made it clear to them that the prophecies were being fulfilled right before their eyes and they shuld have been excited that the Messiah that

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they had been waiting for was right in their midst more so not long after He was singled out from the crowd and referred to as the “Lamb of God” a statement which a student of the prophecies should have no problem whatsoever understanding.

Secondly prejudice can bind you to the status quo and you end up missing the opportunity to transition to the next level or state or from one dispensation to another and therefore fail to comprehend the import of what is going on around you and thus remain stagnant spiritually. The two classes were studying the prophecies and were awaiting its fulfilment with much expectation. What kept them going was much to do with the freedom from Roman rule and the restoration of the nation of Israel to its former prideful status. But because the Pharisees and the leaders in Jerusalem were not seeing how that would be made possible by someone who came from an obscure town (John 1:46), let alone the state of the one who heralded his coming or prepared His way. It is unfortunate that they were unable to transition from the expectation of prophetic promise to the reality of its fulfilment.

Thirdly, it is imperative that one reads the Scriptures with an open mind and a receptive spirit and be willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit so as to be able to appreciate the truths presented therein and its fulfilment at the right time. The fact that the group sent from Jerusalem were unable to comprehend the import of the Baptist's words tell a lot about their perception. They were rigid and unwilling to yield to the bidding of the Holy Spirit, had that been the case, probably the Biblical narrative of the life of Jesus would have been very different from what we now read, one of sustained resistance from the Jewish elite of Christ and His ministry. Since they had a lot of influence over the people they are as much to blame as are their subjects for failure to yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, humility is a very important virtue that every student of prophecy should have so as to be in position to receive the Word and accept to be transformed by its power.

Stephen Sisei

Passion for Literature Evangelism

Mwai John joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2001 May and got baptized in Jan 2002. He was actively involved in different departments of the Church, with the keen desire of winning souls for Christ. Yet in all the avenues for soul-winning provided, he loved the publishing ministries department most since it gave him the chance to present the gospel directly to people of all walks of life.

Pursuant to this he became a part-time Literature Evangelist in 2006, working on weekends and evenings by visiting people in their homes, which led him to regard the publishing work with a higher esteem seeing that it opened new ways for hearts to be impacted with the saving truth. He still felt that God was calling him to dedicate more of his time to Literature Ministry and so in 2007 he became a full-time colporteur.

“Serving as a youth LE was both fun and challenging. I worked for several months before finally responding to God's call to still come up higher and become a pastor. He joined the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton in September of the 2007 and joined the student Literature Evangelism club. Since then, I has worked as a student LE both in Kenya and abroad,” says Mwai.

More recently he had an opportunity to canvass in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the big town of Lubumbashi in the months of August through December in 2013. It was such a blessing to him and fellow students from UEAB, Bugema and Arusha Adventist University. To begin with, he had never interacted with large groups of people, more so among the rich and influential, who had such a keen desire to hear the present truth for this time. In some instances he would knock offices, and after a brief introduction and canvassing, the senior most officer would canvass to his colleagues at work. Some would even request to be notified the moment new titles arrived.

Secondly, there were the pastors of other faiths who would purchase books for their congregations, and even extend invitations to preach to their church members and even sell books to them on Sundays. It was such an encounter with those whom the Lord is leading us to minister to in foreign lands, especially those not of our faith.

The pastors would also ask him to pray for them, at times also invite him to visit with some of their church members to pray with them.

Thirdly, there were the numerous requests to supply Bibles to individuals and the clergy of other Christian faiths, especially study Bibles. John says “the best bit about selling to Christians within this region is that most of them are very honest, living up to the light they have received. They try to pay up on time and even introduce their friends and clergy to me so that I can meet their leaders to show them our books.”

However, there were several challenges that he encountered while working at Lubumbashi. There was the language barrier: most people use French, Lingala and Bemba to communicate, and French mainly for business especially on prices, time and residential addresses. They expect one to quickly master day to day French clichés, which to some is challenging if you don't know how to calculate money or reckon time in French. There is disparity in wealth and income distribution, that some individuals are not able to meet the very basic needs such as quality education and housing. Whenever possible he would assist them to pay part of the price for some books.

The greatest challenge, however, was lack of variety of new books, since the last lot as we discovered, had been received in 2009. It was quite discouraging after all the challenges I went through to get to Lubumbashi only to find that the stock at the book depository were the very ones my would-be clients had purchased years before. We pray that God may bless the publishing department to enable them to order new diverse titles and study Bibles to ease the work of LE's.

Glory, praise and majesty belongs to our God and Christ forever, Amen.

Mwai John Kimotho, is currently a third year student at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, pursuing a BA in Theology.

WKUC SECRETARIAT SEMINAR

May 19th and 20th 2014 the WKUC Secretariat and the Institution Administrative Assistants from all entities of the West Kenya Union Conference, namely KLC, RC, CNF, WKC, KAC, KAH and AHPH, met at the Eldoret Adventist Guest House for a two day training which was very informative as was interactive.

The training was a success. Most of the things we learned affirmed the key role played by the administrative assistants in the day to day running of the church entities and we were urged to be always diligent in our work.

Previously we were referred to as Administrative Secretaries; we are now referred to as Administrative Assistants.



A session of the Admin. Ass. Seminar



Administrative Assistants who attended the seminar

We express our deepest appreciation to the West Kenya Union Conference officers, more so our Executive Secretary, Pr. Japheth Ochorokodi for facilitating such a training. We also want to thank our respective Field/Conference and Institutions for allowing us to attend the training. We hope that we will be having such trainings as often as is possible so as to sharpen our skills and enhance performance.

God bless WKUC!

*Eva Eliamani,
Administrative Assistant, AHPH*

2014 WKUC OFFICERS' COUNCIL

The very first Officers' Council conducted by WKUC leaders was held at Eldoret Adventist Guest House from April 15 to April 17. In attendance were all heads of institutions in this Union, the Treasurer's and Heads of Institutions; Executive Directors, Executive Secretaries and Treasurers of Field and Conferences within WKUC territory. It was facilitated by the Executive Director of the Union Pr. K. Maena in a presentation entitled 'Leadership Principles from Proverbs' and 'Team Efficiency-Team Building'. Pr. J. Ochorokodi, Executive Secretary and Eld. D. Sande, the Treasurer also made important presentations that focused on the same theme.

This training was intended to set pace in the way of doing God's business 'LIKE NEVER BEFORE' to ensure accountability and increased efficiency in executing the Mission. This agenda was made clear by Pr. Maena in his opening devotional remarks and was echoed through-out the council.

There was also an ample time for departmental meetings where, treasury officers meet on their own to make resolutions while Presidential and the Secretariat held theirs.

Let us pray for the Mission in this New Territory - WKUC.



WKUC leaders in session

EKUC/WKUC PUBLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE SEMINAR

April 17-20 All leaders in the WKUC and EKUC converged in Baraton where Elder Howard Faigao, GC Publishing Ministries Director together with ECD Publishing Ministries Director Elder Philip Gai facilitated an Administrative Seminar in Publishing. This was a unique forum because it was the first time since the split of East Kenya Union Mission that leaders of the two Unions were brought together. I can further say it gives me joy that this happened through the Publishing Ministry.

The role of this seminar among others, was to bring awareness of the enormity of the Publishing work laid upon the leaders and how they can transform the publishing work in their territories. Elder Faigao reminded us that the mission of the publishing Ministry is the mission of the church. Leaders influence and involvement in Publishing will guarantee success.



Delegates of the Publishing Administrative Seminar

Besides the Unions executives and those of fields and conferences, in attendance were the Fields/ Conferences Publishing Leaders, HHES leaders and leaders of AHPH. On the final day HHES Kenya and the entire Publishing Work in the two Unions was evaluated and recommendations made that would aid growth.

Both articles were contributed by Alvin Eliamani

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