

God has blessed us at OBC and below is the praise we lift up and prayers for the coming month.

OBC 2011 Pastors Conference Report

This year's conference was held Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 12 at Open Baptist Church. 190 attended the event. Many of these were from outside Botswana; 83 from Zimbabwe and 45 from Zambia. All those coming received name badges on lanyards; registration packets with the conference agenda, bios of the lecturers, maps of the campus and off site hostel lodging; gift bags of donated toiletries and scarf's for the ladies and ties for the men and an executive writing pad and pen. Unlike past years there were two tracks of training, the pastoral encouragement and equipping and children's leaders ministry training; 43 participants completed the Children's ministry training. Dr. Phil Roberts, Pastor Craig Rees and Pastor Joel Carwile taught the pastors. Pastor Todd Fleming, Beth Beal, Chylene Burdick and Scott & Tonya Shipes taught the children's ministry leaders. Both curriculums were challenging, interactive and enlightening for those attending. The material they all presented was amazingly cohesive and complimented one another. Everyone met together for morning devotions, lunch, dinner and nightly worship services. From the first day of registration, welcome and orientation there was a high level of excitement amongst everyone present. Pastor Boston Mwebela of Lighthouse Community Church in Kabwe Zambia and Pastor Johannes Kgwarapi president of the Apostolic Faith Mission in Botswana made statements concerning the challenges churches are facing in their countries which resonated in everyone's hearts and minds. The next three days were the bulk of the teaching starting at 8 every morning and finishing with a worship service and sermon from one of our three pastoral lecturers every night around 8:30pm.

Friday was a celebration of completion with awarding of certificates, praising God for what was accomplished during the week and blessing the delegates with clothing items which was a joyous experience for all. Many relationships were formed between the pastors, those wives who were there, the lecturers and OBC staff. Pastors shared how they have not had an opportunity such as this at any other time and that they were convicted of God's call on their lives through the teaching and preaching. OBC leadership and our guest lecturers received many invitations from pastors to come visit them and continue the experience in their home villages, towns and cities. Next year we are confident in bringing the conference to Zimbabwe and ask all our partners to pray about this possibility and their involvement.

We want to thank Valley View Baptist Church and Whitesburg Baptist Church for their generous financial support of the conference. Every day we hear from pastors that attended telling us how they have been able to use what they learned and how they were rejuvenated by the Holy Spirit during their time together at the conference.

We thank God for His blessing each and every person that attended and for those that planned and volunteered for this event. For providing our every need, protecting us in health and safety and unifying us as one in the body of Jesus Christ. May God continue to guide and direct us in the work of further building His Kingdom throughout sub Sahara Africa. To Jesus be the glory.

OBC Campus Ministry Development

On September 2 the World of Golf driving range opened adding to the sporting options already present at Open Baptist Church. Even though this is operated by a third party it complements the already present basketball, volleyball and nature trail with trim park present on the church campus. Mr. Lawrence Phiri continues to develop the sports ministry and will have soccer and netball clinics for other church sport leaders every weekend in October. On Saturday, September 3 OBC celebrated its anniversary and moving to the new campus. Members came out and planted 200 trees throughout the property. The two new soccer fields continue to fill in with turf as the warm summer weather approaches.

A visit from Jeff Williams and Ricky Wheeler from Johnson Ferry Baptist Church led to many conversations with staff and key leadership. Discussions covered many ministry aspects and had particular focus on the Face the Nation program. From this we hope for God's leading as we continue serving together in these areas.

Our intern program led by Dr. Vimbisai Nhundu has seven students enrolled; this is through the Baptist Theological College in Johannesburg, South Africa. In August our first shipment of theological books arrived from a book depository at Montgomery Community Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is a huge blessing to our students and ministry partners as we start to share these books. We hope to receive several shipments throughout the year.

In October OBC will host its 2nd Annual Missions Conference. This will bring together our African ministry partners to share and learn from one another. Guest speakers include Ken Galyean from Call to Africa Ministries and Dr. Sam Ndogo from the Baptist Theological College in Johannesburg.

Mission Points

Over the last 3 months teams of volunteers from OBC have been traveling to Mantshwabisi Baptist Church to the west of Gaborone about 2 hours in the Kweneng District. This area is made up of small villages some being settlements the government started some 30 years ago. Angie May with Reaching the Unreached (RTU) has been focusing on this village and another called Diphuduhudu. Relationships have developed and in the next month we plan to start a disciplining initiative between our team members and the people there.

Molepolole Calvary Baptist Church baptized 10 recent converts the last week of August. Pastor David Thokwane continues to develop cell groups in the community. There are more people attending service than can fit comfortably into the building which was once a bar. He continually reminds us how he was blessed to attend the pastors' conference in early August.

Pastor Andrew Mwima continues to develop the pre-school in Mulambakwena and church in Mosojane. Elizabeth his wife has new help at the pre-school, Grace Chobela from Lighthouse Community Church in Zambia where Pastor Boston Mwebela leads joined them on September 1st. This came about during their time together at the pastors' conference. The pre-school continues to struggle with enrolling enough fully paid students. OBC has been able through the generosity of members to donate staple food items since May so the children can have a solid meal. In October Ken Galyean with Call to Africa

brings a mission team which will conduct a pastor's enrichment conference in Masunga. Scott & Tonya Shipes will conduct children's ministry leaders training and a soccer clinic and tournament outreach will happen at the Junior Secondary Schools.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the team traveling every other week to Mantshwabisi and that God would lead through the disciplining process.
- Pray for Face the Nation, the university club on campus, the Radically Different Concert on UB campus Friday, 16 of September and the steadfast commitment to Christ by the students involved.
- Pray that many lives would be impacted through the sports ministry.
- Pray for the preparations of and time spent together at our annual missions' conference.
- Pray for the Call to Africa mission team and for lives to be changed during October 3-12.
- Pray for our ministry partners: Pastors Boston Mwebela, Andrew Mwima, David Thokwane, Sister Angie May, Chaplin Herrick Hussein