

Dear Friends,

I want to agree with Brother Graham Power the founder of the Global Day of Prayer who once said, *“there should always be a time of reflection, a time to evaluate the past and then to set new dreams for the future.”* As I think back over the past week we spent in Botswana at OBC, I stand amazed at the faithfulness of our God. Who could have imagined that a vision born in an unusual way by Pastor Norman would in a 3 year period *catapult into a great regional movement?* There is no doubt in my mind that this is a move of God and it will grow in a most remarkable way. It is my Prayer. May I add here that for me this is not a surprise neither a coincidence, working with Pastor Norman now for over 7 years in equipping and training of Church Leaders here in Zambia, it only confirms the various issues and aspirations that we have both shared in our early days of Partnership. Our God is faithful.

Africa is ripe for the greatest spiritual harvest and the harvesting approach needs to be practical and well planned- preparing and encouraging both the LEADERS and the WORKERS. This is exactly what we experienced at OBC from all our speakers. As a church in this region we need to come together and capacitate the local church in our region (Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana) to reach her mandate in its own community with a clear Gospel presentation, and Pastor Graig Reese did a fabulous work on this one and we are most appreciative of his great insight and in exposition of the Word of God. One would think Graig was present when the Apostle Paul wrote those letters and his mastery at cross- referencing was amazing. God bless you Graig

But in the process of taking the Gospel in our areas of ministry, there are always pitfalls to avoid. It requires a discipline soldier of the Cross, we could not have had any one else apart from Pastor Joel Carwile, who took us along in Pastoral Disciplines. I must confess, I am a dozer when ever I sit for more than 20 minutes especially after meals, But Pastor Joel never gave me that chance. *“This is the best kept secret”* said one of the senior pastors to me after the conference. He went to say that he had just been exposed to a high level interaction on such issues as on how a “Man of God” should look after him or herself and family then ministry.

Most of us love to preach topically on isolated issues that affect our people in our communities, but sitting under the feet of Dr. Phil Roberts has changed our thinking and approach. *“It is always getting better”*, I thought so. His massive experience in preaching was contagious. I must say it needs a discipline mind to build a sermon from a portion of Scripture. One pastor confided in me saying *“how can one recite such a portion of scripture and teach it so well without all the time referring to the verses?”* without thinking my answer was “just listen to Pastor Joel Carwile, you need to be disciplined” but deep down my heart I was also left with great amazement at the way he helped us in building sermons.

The one week Pastors Conference was significant for us in the region as it brought like-minded leaders who could talk and be encouraged in these very real issues. Especially encouraging was the way in which our lecturers could connect and share from their hearts, their visions and dreams, including their challenges and hurts.

From where do I find myself right now, I see these conferences in our region continuing to get momentum as more and more leaders with a passion for leadership Development join hands and move forward together. For me it just dawned in my mind and brought a great sense of Kingdom-mindedness and a willingness to lay aside personal agendas for the sake of not only expanding the Kingdom of God, but also producing a new generation of Leadership who can take the church in our region at the next level of excellence.

As these conferences are held in Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, I urge all of us leaders who have had the privilege to be blessed from the teachings to meet, pray, fellowship and dream together, I have no doubt as we dream together, we will see a new move in our region for greater cooperation and this will result in greater accomplishments.

Pray for Norman and Gabi Scheafer as they give leadership at OBC and pray also for OBC as a church as they partner with us in this very important ministry of encouraging the leaders in our region through the joys and tears of ministry. To our partners and lectures we say thank you for your servant leadership. You truly live your teachings.

Our regards, Boston and Mary