



Day Two

We bring you greetings from East Congo Episcopal Area's first annual session! We welcome you to stories marking day two of a spirit-filled conferencing.

July 5, 2016



The annual session of the East Congo Annual Conference entered its second day on July 4, 2016. The day began with a soul nurturing devotion, which set the pitch for the day's business.

Drawn from Ezekiel 2: 1-10, the devotional leader spoke on the subject: "The Service of God is a Call for All".

Using the prophet Ezekiel's example, the servant of God explained how God used this man of God to deliver God's message to such a stubborn and rebellious nation. The devotion leader expanded "today, it is no longer Ezekiel; rather, it is you and I here at this annual conference".

The speaker urged delegates not to be stubborn to the call for God, like those of the nation of Israel, to a vision for the development of our Church in East Congo. Adding, he emphasized that we are each called to work together for the development and advancement of the work of the Lord in our episcopal area.

*TALK
FOR THE
DAY*

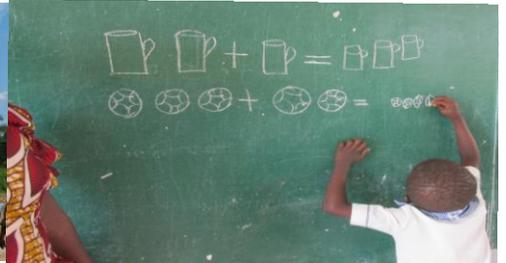
*THE
SERVICE
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FOR ALL*

*EZEKIEL
2:1-10*

In conclusion, the servant of God propounded that in order for us to walk this call we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and work according to the Holy Spirit who is at work with in us (Ezekiel 36: 27). For, it is with the power of the Holy Spirit we can be encouraged to work for the service of God and talk about God anywhere without fear, because the Holy Spirit always directs us in the right way for the glory of God throughout our annual conference.

Following the morning devotion came a time of teaching and learning, where delegates benefited from a lesson on the history of Methodism. The director of the department of Christian Education, the Rev. Ndjeka conducted this session. The purpose for this seminar was to provide members of our young Episcopal Area with basic teachings of John Wesley and how Methodism began. Such teaching was the first of its kind at annual sessions of this new Episcopal Region. (Continue to p2)

Sisters and brothers, what more can we say to these things? We, your sisters and brothers of East Congo Episcopal Area are gratified by your extravagant support which has enabled us reach this milestone in our walk with the Lord over the last four years. We want you to know that your support has an indelible impact on the lives of people and communities throughout the Region where the church East Congo is doing ministry. We are indeed grateful!



Delegates, at the end of the session, expressed gratitude for the initiative and requested that such teaching continues throughout the annual conference sessions and even beyond. Reverend Kombe, a clergy delegate, speaking for the attendees further called on the department to continue such training in all 3 annual conferences, districts and local churches across the Region throughout the church year, which begins after this annual conference. We give God the glory for the eagerness of the church in East Congo to learn and know their church.

The Papa Bishop, the Rev. Unda following the morning devotion and seminar then called the conference business session to order.

Reporting for the day were the Dean of the Bishop's Cabinet for the Superintendents, the Historian for the Region, Department of General Education and Ministries, Department of Christian Education, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and the Director of Women's Work.

The Dean of the Bishop's Cabinet presented an overview of the ministry activities of the Church in their respective districts. In summary, the Rev. Mahamudu reported of a significant



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increase of local pastors throughout this ecclesiastical year from 186 to 219; the creation of new local churches from 166 to 196; about 475 other facilities being built and or rehabilitated. The DS further reported that superintendents traveled some 10, 293 km across the East Congo Annual Conference this year to do evangelization. In conclusion, the DS Mahamudu expressed the superintendents' appreciation of the initiative of the Bishop and reported of achieving the vision of the Episcopal Area that says "Get up and Build", as many new local churches - in Samba, Kindu, Kibombo, Kalima, and other places are being built.

The reading of the history of Methodism in eastern Congo followed the report of the DS's. Beginning at 1922, the United Methodist Church arrived in Tunda by a missionary couple, the Rev. Ansil Lynn and his wife. The church has been and still is the beacon of hope to many, changing our community since its arrival in East Congo. We are in preparations to celebrate the centenary of the United Methodist Church's ministry in eastern Congo in 2022.

The reading of the history of Methodism in East Congo was followed by the report of the department of General Education and Ministries. The Director, Bro Omekongo reported of significant improvement in school programs across the conference. He reported of more Methodist schools being rehabilitated this year, adding that the provision of scholarships initiated by the Bishop has even allow the raise in the level of

student population in our schools this year. He further reported that through the efforts of the Bishop the minister of primary and secondary education of the

DR Congo has begun providing budgetary support to some of our schools, his concluded report.

The head of the Christian Education Department's report followed this report. He reported of having organized several trainings on Sunday school in several districts of the area. The report continued the same fashion, with the youth coordinator, Bro Andre Ngandu highlighting various activities undertaken by the youth, including seminars, musical evenings, and bricks making as their contribution to the building of the Region. The report of Women's Work concluded the session on reports for the day. Presenting for the women, Maman Nyande outlined various activities carried out by the women, to include



their orphanage program, which is giving hope to many orphans in our reach. She concluded with the acknowledgement of the Bishop's involvement with rehabilitation of the United Methodist Women Center in Kindu.

The day's session came to a close with prayer. To God be the glory, great things He has done!