

Report on HOIM Women's Conference in Cameroon

July 3rd & 4th, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Greetings!!

I wrote to you on June 21st about HOIM's plans to hold a Women's Conference in Buea, Cameroon on July 3rd and 4th, 2013. I am pleased to report now that through your prayers and giving, and by the grace of God, the conference was a success and we are excited about the prospect of putting together more women's events for the body of believers in Cameroon.

I arrived in Cameroon on Sunday, June 30th and was able to spend the following day, Monday, July 1st, resting. Tuesday was spent going over my notes for the two Bible Studies that had been planned for the Women's Conference, and just resting before the Lord. Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to the conference, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday were spent with my family. I left Cameroon on Monday, July 8th and have now returned safely to my home base in Ossining, New York - praise God.

As some of you already know, I had been praying for several months about whether the Lord would have me go back to Cameroon to minister to the women this July. (You will remember that we held our first women's conference last July.) Earlier this year, I pretty much came to the conclusion – for several very valid reasons – that I would *not* be going to Cameroon this July. However as this July drew closer and closer, the Lord made Himself very clear through the testimony of His word and through various circumstances that I was to go, and in His mercy, He provided the means for me to go and also made it very clear to me what I was to take to His women from His word.

Because we wanted the conference to be *intimate* in nature - a time for the women to go deeper with the Lord and with each other - we limited participation to the first 50 women who signed up, even though our previous experience has indicated that there is a great hunger amongst the women for these kinds of events. (More about where the Lord might be leading us on that front in a little while.)

The week before I left for Cameroon, I was struck by a great sense of panic as I found myself unable to fully map out the two Bible Studies that I felt the Lord had given me for the women in a way that I thought would ensure that they would be well presented. As you prayed for me, the Lord made it clear to my heart that He did not desire for the two studies to be as polished in my mind as I would have liked them to be. His purpose in this was to make sure that I would know for a fact that *He* was speaking to His women, and that I was just the vessel, and that the Word He was giving them was not going to bear fruit because of my efforts, but because of *His* love and mercy. The longer I walk with the Lord, the greater the certainty with which I can say this: He is Faithful.

It rained every day I was in Cameroon. I do not remember ever experiencing this much rain while I was growing up there. Regardless, the women braved the rain and came out on both days of the conference, and in all honesty I cannot tell you who was more blessed – me or them. We had 50 women participate each day, and we fed the women a snack at some point in the evening. The conference ran from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm on both days and our time together was broken up into worship and prayer at the start, the first part of the Bible Study presented by yours truly, a break for food and fellowship, the second part of the Bible Study again presented by me, and then an open forum period during which the women shared with the whole group what God was teaching them personally, either through the study or through their earlier times spent with Him. I have this to say: these women have stolen my heart. Their love for God and their hunger to know Him more is a sweet, sweet thing to behold. I will share with you some of the comments they made later on in this report.

I should also point out that several of the ladies who attended this conference had also been present at the larger December 2012 Conference during which they had been promised Bibles donated by several of you. Those ladies were given their Bibles on Day 1 of the conference this July. The remaining Bibles are being reserved for the women to whom they were promised last December, who will be called and asked to come pick them up from the Hope Center where they are being held.

The first day of the conference was spent studying The Queen of Sheba. Although I had faithfully prepared my notes (a worker that need not be ashamed), I did not know where the study would lead us, what conclusions we would come to, or how specifically the Lord would open up this Word for His women. As I presented the study about this great woman from the Old Testament who was mentioned by our Lord Jesus during His ministry, the theme that bubbled to the surface was this: “One Greater than Solomon is Here.” This is of course what the Lord said to His contemporaries in Luke 11:31. What the Lord emphasized to all of us (me included) through this study was the paramount importance of pursuing Him. He, King Jesus, is far greater than King Solomon, whom a pagan queen pursued to the ends of the earth because she was hungry for his wisdom. We were all encouraged to take more seriously our pursuit of the Lord through the study of His word and prayer. The ladies also had other comments which I will share with you later.

Day 2 was a little bit more challenging because we were dealing with an obscure Old Testament figure who almost nobody had ever heard about, much less studied in any great detail. Jehoiada the Priest (pronounced Ye-ho-yah-dah) was a man of amazing integrity, godliness and strength, the power behind the throne during the reign of King Joash of Judah. His story is told in 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 23, but in order to get a clearer picture of the world in which he lived, we began our study of that world earlier in both books with the reign of King Jehoshaphat of Judah, whose propensity for compromise resulted in much tragedy for the generations that came after him.

The ladies found the abundance of Hebrew names being doled out to them challenging, to say the least, but they were real troopers and the Lord conveyed to them that which

was most important in the end. This most important point, the theme for our second day, was this: Yahweh Knows. This, in fact, is the meaning of Jehoiada's name. We were all encouraged to know that in a world where it seemed like everything, but *everything*, was falling apart, God preserved a servant of His, who at the right time rose up, showed his strength, and conquered the evil of his day. The women were further encouraged to know that nobody is too old to be used by God, and that all the Lord requires in order to make full use of us is our obedience. We were all encouraged to know, through the story of Jehoiada, that no matter how dark things get in our world, Yahweh Knows. He *Knows*.

Below please find some of the comments that we were able to record from some of the women in attendance, as well as a link to some pictures from both days of the event. It is the desire of my heart to minister to these and other Christian women in Cameroon through such conferences on a regular basis, this in fact being one of the goals of HOIM. Here in the US, we have an abundance of well-planned and well executed conferences for Christian women who have the need to get away from the demands of everyday life and spend time with the Lord, and with each other. I am not entirely sure what the landscape is like for these sorts of women's events in Cameroon, but if the Lord will permit us to do so, we plan to spend the next several months praying about holding similar events in the future, and doing some research about what exactly the need is, and what exactly the resources are that are available to us on the ground in Cameroon. Please join us in prayer for these things. Indeed, the harvest is so, so ready, but alas, the laborers are few.

May the Lord Himself reward you for partnering with Him in this, and in other areas of His vineyard. It is well.

In His Grip,

Ursula Ndolo Embola

Link to Pictures

<https://picasaweb.google.com/HopeOutreach/HOIMWomenSConferenceJuly2013?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCJLDhL6H-qHiMQ&feat=directlink>

Comments

- Ma Annette said she could not explain how she felt, because she had been reading her Bible all this time but her eyes had never seen what she saw through this study.
- Mummy Delphine said that what she found in the Queen of Sheba was love, and it was that same love that caused the Lord to rescue us from the gutters we were

in. She said that God commands us to love, so we have no choice. She appreciated God for the love that He was showing to the women, and she told the women that God was counting on them all. She also encouraged the women to continue holding the teachings and Bible Studies on a monthly basis.

- Sister Matilda Sakwe said Jehoiada the Priest gave His all to God and asked God to do with him as He pleased. She also advised the mothers in the group to train their children in a godly manner.
- Sister Providence said she learned that when surrounded by ungodly practices, we should not be carried away by the things that are being done. Rather, we should still set our hearts towards God.
- Enanga Marie appreciated the Bible studies that had been presented, and she pleaded that it could be better if the teacher would not only teach the women what was in the Bible, but teach them how to *study it for themselves* in the same way that she was studying it. She said the teacher mentioned the danger of compromise, and that this really rekindled her own personal thoughts on the subject, and she encouraged the women not to compromise when it comes to their faith.
- Sister Faith said she learned that no matter where you are or the house you are born into, when God decides to lift you up, nobody can ever by any means stop that from happening. She also said she learned that like the Queen of Sheba, we should not settle where we are, because there is more available to us if we can only develop a hunger and a thirst for what is greater than what we have. Sister Faith appreciated the teacher for her heart to serve, and prayed that God would grant her that which is her utmost desire.