

Sept-Nov 2018 PT Ministry Activity Briefing
Reformation 2018

As September began, we shared with you as our ministry partners, what we anticipated from that time till the end of October, asking you to pray with us during the busy time. We are glad to report that God opened doors for ministry and immensely supplied the strength to follow through with Gospel work.



We held, or were involved in about 42 planned ministry activities since September, and all of them went very well. Through these activities, we were able to reach about 6,800 people in different settings with the Gospel of Christ. We held training seminars, preached in churches, universities, home groups, breakfasts, dinners and public lectures.

This year (2018), we commemorated the Protestant Reformation by considering how understanding doctrine is vital to anyone who claims to be 'Christian', and how authentic preaching is thus essential to such a claim today, as well as future Reformation. Our theme for 2018 was "Our Reformation Heritage and Preaching"

For four years now, we commemorate the Protestant Reformation by helping people to look back to history to inform our present, to look to God for his mind through His Word, to look around for his purpose through their own lives, and to look up to Him in prayer, while steering strategic efforts as informed Christians to bring reform under God's Word.



We now realize that knowing more about the past, we gain insight into the practices and problems of Christianity in the present.



For 2018, the consideration of the preached Word and Reformation instilled greater appreciation to the inseparable link between preaching and any Reformation or spiritual renewal.



Reformation Commemoration Breakfast 2018 Participants in Mbarara

Christians were reminded that if doctrine is the structural integrity of the Christian faith, then preaching remains its expression, at least in propositional form. The Church's need for ongoing reform is what compels us to examine how the Church proclaims and responds to sound doctrine in our day.



Professional workers' Reformation Dinner at Oxford Hotel in Mbarara

In the workplace, the gist of our engagement was how the Bible, brought back to the pulpit by Reformation, redefined work for us. We taught that God's purposes for work and vocation are marked by a heavenward work ethic, which connects our own work to God's accomplished work in Christ.

The call was to recognize all legitimate work is an extension of God's work and Christians are to be ever seeking to connect their work to God's enduring work. Market-place workers were encouraged to learn that the underlying ethic is one which emphasizes hard work, frugality and diligence as a constant display of one's faith in a God who works all things.

We urged professional workers in the market place at every turn, towards building today's remedial foundation by embracing a Reformation-like confrontation of the rampant biblical illiteracy, because just like us, they too acknowledge that biblical preaching has generally and gradually lost its primacy in the church.



Dr. Dennis Kilama teaches University Students during the Reformation Conference at the PT Centre

Mr. Boaz Atuheire teaches Students about the Protestant Reformation at the Uganda Christian University, Mbale Campus Eastern Uganda.



WOMEN'S REFORMATION SEMINAR

The women met in fellowship envisioning Biblical Womanhood along a God-entranced vision of gender as God's design for a reformed woman, for a reformed home, church and society. The rallying call was that we ought to commemorate Reformation in a rigorous self-critique and constant re-evaluation of femininity and masculinity on biblical grounds for thriving families, churches and a blossoming society to God's glory and our joy.



Mrs. Grace Twongyeirwe teaches, during the Women's Reformation Seminar 2018



To apply this Reformation heritage today is a legacy to equip ourselves as knowledgeable proclaimers and defenders of Biblical truth, to stand under God's authoritative and sufficient word, to marvel at the grace of God, the wisdom to cultivate our faith, to trust in Christ alone and to seek the glory of God alone.



Mrs. Aryantu Otiti teaches, during the Women's Reformation Seminar 2018

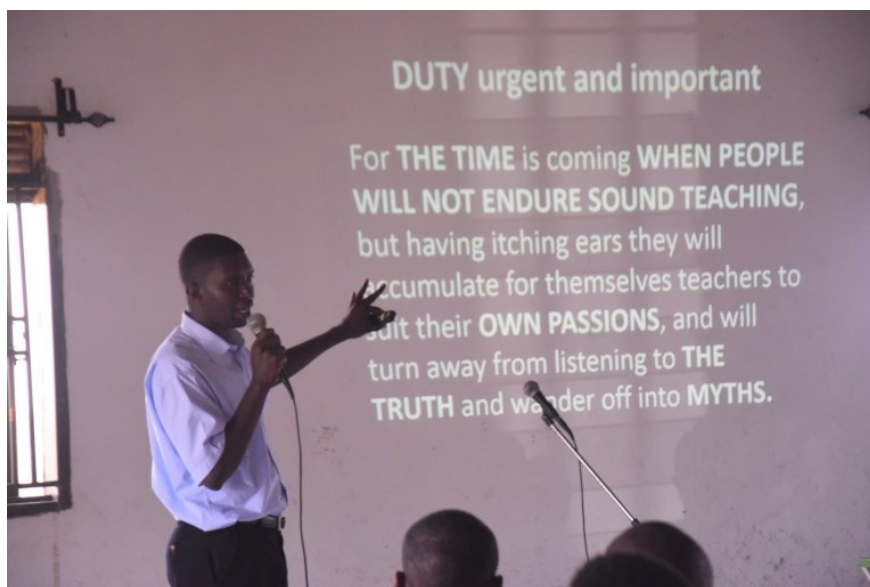
As the Women met to commemorate the Reformation, relevant lessons were gleaned for today's gender dynamics. Women were confronted with riveting statistics and trends that are a result of women's engagement. The presentations called women to reform towards Biblical womanhood, by confronting stereotypes and cultural or traditional stances that are unbiblical.



Women demonstrated encouragement to be equipped in knowledge as to answer deep theological questions as they arise wherever they are placed. The resounding chorus was to model the Word of God through God-honoring attitude and action, built on understanding the power of their Christian confession and faith in the world that they live in. Since Reformation gave us the first steps and direction towards biblical understanding of gender; we should always reform thus.

THE STUDENTS' REFORMATION CONFERENCE

Over 60 students gathered from different universities within Uganda at the PT Centre - Kagala Hill, Bukerere under the theme RIGHT BELIEF IS RIGHT LIVING (Psalm 119:11).



This is the event that flagged off the Reformation Commemoration activities. The objective was to help students learn from history and be well equipped for Christian witness and mission in their various environments.

Mr. Grace Noowe teaching at the 2018 Student's Reformation Conference at PT Institute Bukerere

Building on the existing relationships and ministry networks that PT enjoys among Universities, partnering churches, and other institutions, this year's Reformation programs were carried out with an emphasis that "it cannot be Christianity if it lacks the preaching of sound doctrine".



The conference also served as a good opportunity to mobilise and lay foundation for the season through teaching sessions on different topics from the text of 2 Timothy 3 - 4, Group Bible studies, as well as Games and Sports.

The students responded with encouragement and a felt challenge to study the Word, to nurture the needed healthy skepticism about unbiblical trends and doctrine in their walk of faith. Lunch hour fellowships, community hours, chapel services and evening fellowships became routine during these months as students shared about their common misconceptions of Christian tradition, and a resolve to unlearn deception and learn the truth.

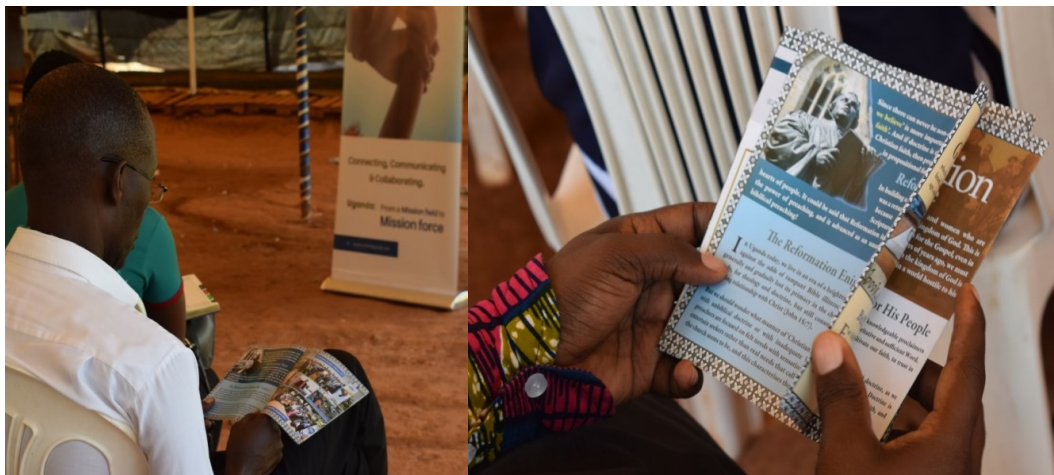


*Pastor **Patrick Byekwaso** (in checkered shirt) posing with students after teaching students at Uganda Institute of Information and Technology Nakawa*

The institutions include Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Ndejje University, Uganda Christian University Mukono, Mbale & Kampala Campuses, as well as Uganda Institute of Information and Technology



Mr. Silver Nizeyimana (Students' Ministry Coordinator) teaching at one of the Universities



Participants scheme through the Reformation 2018 brochure to grasp the theme

Among churches, professional workers' gatherings, institutions of lower and higher learning, the resounding charge was that God's Word is the only true standard by which we ought to live and the one upon which we should account for life now, and life everlasting.

REFORMATION 2018 COMMEMORATION AMONG CHURCH CONGREGATIONS

The challenge was also extended congregations to assess the kind of preaching that they receive.



They were reminded that the Word has been placed graciously in our hands to grow in faith and practice.

The resolution in some churches was to work towards expository preaching and expository exultation so that the mind of God is brought to bear on people's hearts.

Our program activities engaged congregations at Lugogo Baptist Church, All Saints Church Cathedral - Kampala, Berea Baptist Church, St. James Chapel - Nakawa, Uganda Christian University – Mukono Campus, Kampala Campus, St. Kakumba Chapel Kyambogo and others.



The resounding charge across the churches remained the urgency to respond to the call of preaching the word and handling the pulpit with divine care, under the authority of the Bible. It decried that the authority of today's "man of God" has overtaken that of "the Word of God".



REFORMATION 2018 SYMPOSIA

Public lectures at Universities and Symposia are a common feature in the annual commemoration of the Protestant Reformation. People from various religious and cultural backgrounds get to hear and appreciate the historical facts and how these shaped the world then, with effects felt in the world we live in today. We take time to show the underlying theological and doctrinal reasons in order to bridge history to our present world.



At the Makerere University Business School we discussed “The spiritual challenge to education in Uganda”, and the bridging synopsis was around the purpose for education as being the search for knowledge, understanding and wisdom – which render education a spiritual undertaking.

The academicians shared how they were positively challenged by the engagement of surveying how education is a process that builds one’s lifelong journey in perception, comprehension and conceptualization in their cultural context as a framework for reflection and personal engagement.



A panel of presenters respond to questions raised by participants during the theological symposium held at Lugogo Baptist Church.

In order to lay a foundation for a healthy Church, a symposium was held in partnership with Lugogo Baptist Church, calling the public to examine the “Marks of Healthy Church”.

Participants included ministry workers, Pastors, professionals and students from other churches coming together.

REFORMATION COMMEMORATION BREAKFAST

As a crowning event to the commemoration programs, over 200 people came together and reflected on the 16th Century Reformation in light of Gospel transformation and challenges faced by the church in fulfilling her mandate in the world.



With the trending headlines and Uganda's statistics, came a call to hold the Bible on one hand and the News Paper in another so as to bring God's Word into God's world. Listeners were reminded once again that since there can never be no-doctrinal Christianity, *"what we believe"* is initial rather than *"the sincerity of our faith"*.



The commemoration breakfast, also served to host the commissioning of 82 individuals who successfully completed the 15-week Perspectives Course - a Missions mobilization course in Uganda facilitated by the PT Institute under the encouragement of ACEMU (A Consortium of Evangelical Missions in Uganda).

Bishop Joel Obetia, who was the Chief Guest, hands a certificate of completion to Mr. Martin S. Manano, the Director of Living Word Uganda. Martin handled the course together with his wife, among other couples.



REFORMATION 2018 GALLERY

Dr. Amos Twinamatsiko brings a keynote address at the Reformation Commemoration Breakfast in Mbarara, western Uganda. Dr. Twinamasiko is an opthalamist and professor at Mbarara Univerity of Science and Technology (MUST).



Mr. Grace Noowe moderates a Reformation activity in Mbarara. Grace serves with Divine Care Ministries as the Human Resource Manager.



Dr. Julius Twongyeirwe makes a presentation during the Reformation Symposium at Lugogo Baptist Church.



Engaging Students and Pastors during the Reformation Commemoration in Mbale



Some students publicly placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ at Ndejje University in Luwero, during Reformation Commemoration



Dr. Twongyeirwe engages participants during the Reformation Commemoration Breakfast in Mbarara



Dr. Twongyeirwe preaching the Gospel as part of the Reformation Commemoration, on Revival Radio in Mbarara, Western Uganda



In small groups as well as question and answer sessions, students sought to grasp a human link from generation to generation, in light of God's purposes and plans as they unfold in Ezra's time or the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.



Dr. Twongyeirwe preaches during the Reformation Commemoration at St. Kakumba Chapel, Kyambogo University

We affirmed the confidence in Christ, with which we can take bold stances for the gospel, even in the most difficult environments. Just like the Reformers of years ago, we must orient ourselves to heaven, convinced that our citizenship in the Kingdom of God is foundational to a faithful proclamation of His Word in a hostile world, in obedience to Christ who pledged to build his church.