

Easter Bible Conference Report by Padiet Deng

1Co. 15:49 “And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven”.

Glory be to God in the highest for blessing the Easter Bible conference abundantly. Before the conference, we were worried about two things; the heat wave in the country and the irregular supply of electricity. Before the conference, the heat was so high that the government decided to shut down all schools for period of two weeks. The decision came after 15 children died of extreme heat, according to a report from the Ministry of Health. For two weeks, the temperature reached 43 to 45 degrees Celsius. But, God answered our prayer by sending rain on the first day of the conference and cooling down the weather throughout three days. In addition, the electricity became stable. Also, the spiritual environment was so encouraging that most of the attendants faithfully committed themselves to study, testimony writing, and sharing. God sent 45 adult participants to the conference, including 8 new students for the first time, namely :(Shifa, Michael, Emilia, Amona, Nora, Estate, Kon Daniel, and Alkiir). In addition, more than 20 children joined the Easter Sunday worship service. This year we celebrate the victory of Jesus' resurrection so joyfully because God blessed the dedication and commitment of the Choir team, group Bible study leaders, and the devotion of participants. For the first time, our shepherdesses volunteer to deliver Easter message. Thank God for using this conference graciously despite many challenges. The conference was conducted in the JUBA UBF bible house. This time our focus was to address our spiritual problems, such as spiritual laziness, lack of faith and commitment, selfishness, and so on. So to overcome such problems, we study the wrath of God based on Romans chapter one. Followed by the repentance of the prodigal son. And finally, the gospel, the power, and the glory of the resurrection, which was the theme of the conference,.

The first day, we were blessed and served by Sh. Phillip Angelo and Kimo house church. The opening message delivered by sh. Philip Angelo Matt 9:1–13 (Jesus Came to save Sinners). Main message one (The wrath Of God) by shepherdess Kimo Philip from the book of Romans 1:18–32

On the second day, main message two delivered by Dr. Teresa Caleb Luke 15:11–32 (From Death To Life), followed by testimony writing and sharing in the group There were five group Bible studies in total. Two for English language and three for Arabic language. Then sh. Taban Moses delivered the special message in English from the book of Mark 14: (Peter Denied Jesus)

Finally, on the third day, Easter Sunday, Sh. Padiet Deng delivers the message from the book of 1 Corinthians 15:1–58 (the Gospel, the Power, and the Glory of the Resurrection) in three main points:

1. The message of hope. When we look at our current situation, it looks like there is no hope at all for our young men. No job, no house church, and the future seems dark and gloomy. Many children and young people became street boys because of the harsh situation in South Sudan. Every day as we go to our Bible House, we see many young people lying along the street because they were displaced from their homes due to war. Sadly enough, their number is increasing every day. People are losing hope and meaning of life in South Sudan. Cases of suicide are increasing among young people. However, we prayed during this Easter to pass on the message of hope to our hearts and their hearts. Not to focus on worldly false hope, but to look forward to heavenly hope.

2. The message of unity: due to war and the lack of leadership in the country. We are not in good faith in unity. Tribalism and hatred are increasing every single day. To transform South Sudan into a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, we need unity through the power of Jesus' resurrection, which will enable us to unite and fight against the power of evil.

3. The message of peace: South Sudan is still suffering from insecurity and instability. There is no peace in the land. People can't move freely from state to state. People can't go to work looking after livestock, practicing agriculture, or farming because of fear of being killed. But through Jesus' resurrection, we can live in peace, no matter what. Currently, South Sudan is terribly affected by the ongoing war in the Republic of Sudan. There are a great number of refugees and displaced people who are in great need of food, clean water, health care, and shelter. Also, the biggest oil company, where Sh. Padiet Deng's work, has been affected too because the main export pipeline is shut down due to the ongoing war. South Sudan is relying on crude oil products as the main source of income for the country. Oil production contributes 97% of South Sudan's income. This situation will put South Sudan, contractor companies, and employees in a big crisis if the problem is not solved quickly. That indicates the worst scenario in South Sudan.

Prayer topic:

1. The power of Jesus's resurrection works mighty in our hearts and gives us the hope of eternal life
2. Keep praying to raise 100 1:1 Bible study and SWS through the power of resurrection

3. To pioneer 5 five state universities in God's time
4. 20 house church and Job for our young leaders and graduated students for self-supporting ministry
5. Sending missionaries to Sudan, Chad, and central Africa by 2041
6. Peace in the country to restore Malakal UBF