

Tidbits From the Batibo Festival of Hope- Day 1

The advance delegation arrived Batibo just before 10am on Saturday January 3rd. The aim was for them to dot the i's and cut the t's on the preparation for the Batibo expedition of FoH. The rest of our team made it to Batibo on Saturday night.

Early Sunday morning, we separated into groups to do some finishing touches. This day was also set aside for church visitations. The team that visited the Apostolic Church was given an opportunity to preach and make some announcements while the others were given the opportunity to give announcements.

At 17:00 the crusade venue was a beehive, one could see the different committees making last minute touches; the choir was rehearsing their songs, the HOIM technician with local technicians were busy with cables to give a smooth start of event.

The opening prayer was said at 18:00 by the coordinator of the day. Next was praise and worship by the praise team and a special song by the choir. Brother Julius then brought a message from 1 Pet. 3:18 centered on the substitutionary work of Christ on the cross.

We had 631 persons in attendance and 106 filled the decision cards upon speaking with a counselor. The evening ended officially at 21:34, after a time of prayer for the sick.



Tidbits from the Batibo Festival of Hope- Day 2

We woke up this day full of strength and vigor, encouraged by God's grace and faithfulness, to face the day's demands. This day also marked the beginning of the medical outreach which includes free consultations and free medication, thanks to the generosity of our partners. The entire team including physicians, nurses and paramedics mobilized to ensure that the Lord is glorified.

We consulted, gave spiritual counsel to 150 persons and gave them drugs. This gave them an opportunity to accept



Jesus into their life or request for prayers. This activity began as early as 06:00 with the distribution of numbers; the consultations began at 08:00 and ended at 15:19.



Between 15:19 and 18:00, we all took our launch and rested.

The evening meeting began at 18:00 prompt with an opening prayer. The praise team led the praise and worship, while the choir gave a special song, in addition to solos from several brethren. The word of God took centre stage at 20:12 and went on till 20:42. Preached again from 1 Pet.3:18, Brother Julius emphasized the impact of Christ's suffering on the cross on humankind.

In all, there were over a 850 persons at the service and the day ended with 118 persons filling the decision cards for the first time. Our team retired just before 10:00pm, with several in the crowd lingering around the community field, and sharing testimonies of the transformation brought by



the Lord Jesus into their lives.

Tidbits from the Batibo Festival of Hope- Day 3

Thank God for another day to live and serve Him here at the crusade village in Batibo, North West Region. With relatively nothing new on our agenda, we embraced the day with hope, expecting the Lord to manifest Himself in our routine schedule – personal devotion, medical consultation, break/rest, evening evangelistic crusade, dinner and rest.

The doctors and paramedics all answered present at their consultation posts. Consultation was on a first-come first-serve basis. 156 persons passed through the consultation posts that have been put in place and 36 persons surrendered their lives to Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour



during the time of counseling.



After lunch and rest, our next assignment was the evening evangelistic meeting. A film titled "walking with Jesus" was the first item after the opening prayers. Br Julius came up with the word after a moment of praise, worship and a special number from the choir. The message was drawn from 1 Peter 3:18 and centered on the sufficiency of the work of Jesus on the cross.



In all we had 980 persons in attendance with 161 persons saying yes to Jesus. We rejoice in our Lord's faithfulness in drawing many to Himself, and we thank you for standing in the gap, and your ceaseless encouragement. The daily discipleship classes for the converts have also been

going on smoothly. The sessions hold from 5:00pm and last till the start of the evening meetings.

Tidbits from the Batibo Festival of Hope- Day 4

As in the other days, day 4 opened with the free medical outreach: 198 persons were consulted and drugs given free of charge. 46 persons surrendered to Christ during the counseling. The day was also characterized by the meeting with the dignitaries in Batibo



The conference hall of the Central Tourism Hotel, Batibo, this day, Wednesday 7th January 2015, registered an encounter with a difference: A lunch offered to the heads of government services and leaders in Batibo. Coordinated by Benjamin Mua, the honored guests included the Batibo DO (County President), the State Counsel (District Attorney), the Mayor and his assistant, the Batibo Brigade Commander (Sherriff) and the Commissioner for public security, as well as an intelligence officer. While the dignitaries ate, Julius shared the gospel message, presenting Jesus as the unequalled model, mentor, teacher, and Saviour. He brought out the uniqueness of the man Jesus; his birth, life, ministry, teachings etc. Today, he said, we all need Him no matter our position or status in society. The question remains, do you know Him? If not this is an invitation to have an encounter with Him. After a time of prayer, each dignitary was presented with a Bible to help them in their onward search and walk with Christ.



The evening crusade began with praise and worship. With 1038 in attendance, Benjamin Mua brought a moving message from Rom 1:16. Sam Monono then led 36 persons to affirm their faith in Christ.

This was followed by a teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit by Br. Julius and the evening concluded with a time of prayer for several hundreds who committed themselves to a life of obedience and service to the Lord Jesus.



Tidbits from the Batibo Festival of Hope- Day 5

The number, 5, is considered by many as the number of grace. Day 5 of the Batibo Festival of Hope marks the end of the free medical outreach and the nightly meetings and opens the door to a new challenge, following up the souls won to Christ during our stay in Batibo. While wrapping up the first phase of the festival, the day announced intensive activities.

Six am met us at the Apostolic Church which had hosted not only seven of our team members but equally served as power house for our stomachs. How wonderful, we found the moments of appreciation and prayer for the kitchen staff, the local administrative and state authorities. This lasted one hour but it was an hour so passionate, as we exchanged love and warmth with these women who have fought it hard with smoke to see that food was ready on time.

At the medical corner, we registered more patients than the previous days, every one seeking not to lose the last opportunity. Dr Alphonse Tchami and Dr Mandeka Enana, together with the six nurses on duty were able to attend to 189 patients, 28 of whom surrendered their lives to Christ during the counseling session.



Visits to the Mayor of Batibo, the Divisional Officer, The Brigade Commander, and the District Medical Officer also featured on the schedule. The purpose of these visits was clear: show appreciation and encouragement for efforts made to serve the community, and praying for salvation and divine enablement in the fulfillment of their tasks. Greg and Yannick both shared the joy of 1-1 evangelism as they went preaching the gospel along the streets of Batibo, before visiting the Green City Orphanage. The 26 children housed in this Christian home were able to smile again, as they received much needed food supplies, clothing and gospel material.



The last nightly meeting began with a film projection and an introductory lesson to the New Life in Christ for New Believers, by Br Lawrence. Follow up meetings will hold daily at 4pm and 6 pm at two locations in Batibo and will last for several weeks.

On this closing night, 1190 persons were in attendance, and 17 first time decisions were recorded. The end of this momentum event has just paved the way for an even greater assignment, seeing the souls grow to maturity in Christ. Lawrence then remains in Batibo to see to this, alongside the trained counselors.

