

GENERAL REPORT OF THE RCCTY SEMINAR STUDY DAYS: MUTUAL SUCCESS AND SATISFACTION.

To mark the end of the 2014 – 2015 academic years, the Research centre and continual Training Yaoundé organized a seminar from the 03rd to the 07th of July 2015 based on the book of Job.

THE SEMINAR

The Union of Evangelical Churches of Cameroon based at Nylon Bastos was the area that hosted the seminar of 4th July 2015. This seminar was open to the general public of Yaoundé, with the theme “Christian families faced with trauma and post – trauma stress”.

The seminar had an attendance crowd comprising of students in theology, researchers, both church leaders and their faithfuls all estimated to about 500 people. The public present in this ceremony demonstrated their engagement and determination to go out based on the theme, with the acquired tools permitting them from now on to act against the trauma challenges. The crowd was comprised of men, women and youths.

It was at exactly 8:45 am that the Reverend HADAMA Christophe, the principal administrator of HIID as moderator began the seminar. This was followed by a session of opening prayer by Dr. PHENOM ASLO, the academic director of FACTEC Cameroon. This was culminated by a collective chorus of a hymn by the attending crowd.

After a period of greetings and compliments to the respective crowd, the Rev. HADAMA Christophe then introduced the first of the 2 orators: the Dr. Egbert BRINK.

In his speech to the crowd, he explained the plan of his teaching. He then took some time to patiently and carefully elaborate on the actual context and the choice of theme’s problematic.

As concerns the context, BRINK demonstrated out that, many Christian families suffer from crises and divisions due to rape, violence against women and several other multiple abuses. In regards to the problematic, he explained that his aim was to heal internal wounds of diverse kinds of which Christians are a victim of and of which is often neglected in the church.

After the etymological and scientific definition of the key words of the thematic, BRINK entered fully into the content of the block material before a very silent and attentive audience.

His didactic, scientific and theological approach enabled students and researchers as well others in the hall to follow the teaching with great interest to all the realities and experiences revealed during his presentation.

More Light was directed on the deep understanding of post – traumatic syndrome which has as consequence, internal wounds. BRINK articulated his teaching on 3 different characteristics of people suffering from such a syndrome:

- 1) Indiscreet Behavior: This is the phenomenon whereby the victim relives the experience repeatedly in an overwhelming manner.
- 2) The Event: According to the orator, it is the effort carried out by the victim in order to absolutely avoid hearing or seeing similar events which led to the actual condition.
- 3) Hyper stimulation: It is the fact of impeding a patient to be able to concentrate in whatever way on something demanding his focus or attention seriously. Consequently, the person becomes victim of insomnia, worry and irritability.

BRINK, elaborated on what he called mental dissociation. A very important stage of his teaching. He explained that mental dissociation is the phenomenon of creating emptiness in the mind, when one remembers an event which traumatized him or her.

He marked out a very important point as concerns the pastoral approach being also very necessary in the research for solutions. He demonstrated how trauma touches on all sensitive relations of life.

- Firstly, with one's self
- Followed by, with God and
- Finally, with other people.

This powerful and interesting exchange with Dr BRINK, full of truths and experiences resulted into an interaction between him and the audience which learned a lot not only from his teaching but equally on his reach experiences of which he shared with the public.

The second speaker of the seminar, the Dr. Salomon NDEUMEN, retouched the same thematic, but from a different angle from that of BRINK. He rather spoke on the post – stress trauma typologies on different spheres such as physical, psychological, spiritual etc.

He described the various causes of trauma such as;

- Historical causes: The slave trade, wars and the fight of independence.
- Endogenous causes (linked to families, declining in anger, unforgiveness, negligence and ill-treatment.

He even went further to speak about the physical senses which are responsible for trauma: The eyes, nose, ears, tongue and the skin.

- Exogenous causes: Accidents, catastrophes, aggressions and tortures.

In continuation, he illustrated by 4 figures based on psychic elements, the function of trauma in an individual patient. The consequences observed: alcoholism, smoking, lesbianism, prostitution.

As concerns the question on how to handle trauma, Dr. Salomon NDEUMEN found therapeutic solutions:

- Pharmaceutical therapy, that is, by medical drugs.
- Psychological therapy (cognitive) – psychoanalysis.
- Group therapy (of which he calls, African assistance during damage).
- Spiritual therapy, by prayer and songs.

Dr. Salomon NDEUMEN closed his teaching with a series of practical advice.

- Treat the pain from the roots
- Know how to diagnose
- Avoid minimizing analyzing the situation
- Create a dialogue with yourself and with others
- A wise word given to the seminar participants by Dr. Salomon was that, “words cause pains and words equally solve pains.

The powerful and dynamic seminar came to a close at 1 pm with applause from the audience as a sign of their satisfaction. Dr. Dieudonne DJOUBAIROU, administrator of RCCTY took over the speech to thank everyone on behalf of the RCCTY team, and of the HIID rector. A meal was then offered to the orators as well as some special invitees of the RCCTY team.

In the actual state what is left is for the participants to capitalize what they received in order to help themselves and others.

DAY OF STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JOB.

It is necessary to lay emphases here that the seminar of 04th July was preceded by a first day of Bible study in theology at the RCCTY head quarters at Oyom – Abang on the 3rd of July 2015. This study was carried out until the 07th of July 2015 at the same location. The study days were animated by Dr. Egbert BRINK.

The student public was made up of a variety of students in theology, pastors, researchers etc. The theme of study was carried out on the book of Job with its theology and practical implications.

Dr. Egbert BRINK explained the wisdom in this book of which the content was not well known by the majority.

Thus, hence forth as a lesson, one would not talk of the sufferings of Job, but of GOD in the sufferings of JOB. In the study of the book of Job, Dr. BRINK brought out 4 fundamental elements which characterize it in relation to man:

1. Trusting in God
2. Humility or modesty
3. Turning away from evil
4. Knowing God in all ways.

He precisely pointed out that the chapters 1, 2, 3, of the book of Job speak of wisdom, integrity and righteousness.

This trilogical concept that follows is generally observed in the whole book of Job, but with the distinctive mutations in function to the centre of interest.

Dr. BLINK did not fail to speak about the challenge of Satan to whom; Job has no authentic faith, but an interesting faith, nurtured by the riches according to God.

In this study, one discovers Job who shows up to be very righteous until wishing to totally destroy the righteousness of God, his foolish wife asks him to curse God and die and finally the friends of Job who demonstrated their wisdom according to the pattern of men, until constituting in advocating for God.

Following this abundant theological study of the book of Job, several lessons are to be retained:

1. First of all, Job is a man of integrity, but a victim of suffering permitted by God. This opens up for the meditation and reflection on the suffering of the righteous.
2. Hence the human resolution implemented here, the foolish attitude of his wife who demanded of her husband to curse God and die.
3. And also the wisdom man demonstrates in times of trouble imprinted according to the human pattern. It is what justifies the reaction of Job's friends whom in the beginning showed forth to be wise and careful; but in end, they in their wisdom constitute an advocate for God against Job.
4. Another lesson is that in moments of suffering, we should continue to trust in the Lord, and doing all to avoid him as an adversary: Which was the case of Job who was searching to find out the reason of his painful – suffering.
5. The Christian in his suffering should avoid portraying himself righteous to the point of erasing the righteousness of God. Him the righteous God and the wise.
6. In his suffering, the Christian should find a mediator between him and God, as great as God is who is in heaven - "Jesus Christ".

The Christological and soteorological lessons on the study of the book of Job led the orator to conclude that Job is an image of Jesus Christ, revealed to the wise, the prophets, priests and kings. Jesus Christ is the wisdom and the righteousness of God and is the answer to the problems of the righteous sufferings of the righteous.

Even though Satan continues to persecute us in the earth, we have an advocate to defend us: Jesus Christ the excellent advocate.

The study days of the book of Job, had an average attendance of 25 people per each of the three days, rounded up on Tuesday 07th July 2015 at 12: 18 pm. for the students of the intermediary level. The second part of the program continued in the afternoon at 4:30 pm with the doctorate students.

DOTORATE SEMINAR

The seminar with the doctorate students began the same Tuesday 07th July 2015, at 2pm. They constituted an attendance of 10. 7 in International development and 3 in theology, coming from the towns of Yaoundé, Douala and from the nation of Chad residing respectively in those regions.

Under the directives of Dr Egbert BLINK, this seminar lasted for 2 hours 30 minutes, having as theme: “The holistic approach in God’s image”. This theme was earlier summarized and printed and handed over to the students. His teaching can be summarized according to him as follows:

“There is no single sphere whereby Jesus – Christ does not say: this is mine” (Abraham Kuyper). Implying that: The Lordship of Christ occupies *all* our existence as creational reality! What are the implications of this faith expression for the Christian today, who wants to be part of the society in all domains of life in Africa, how can one follow the Christ, with his Christian identity, and bringing to captive every thought to obedience in Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5) ?

From the fundamental position of man in the *image of God*, these questions were treated and elaborated in all the spheres of existence.

- In our personal relationship with God,
- In our relationship with others (heteronymous identity),
- In the relationship with ourselves (collectivity and personal responsibility),
- In the relationship with nature and our environment.

Conclusion: Being a disciple of Christ, the perfect image of God, is attained without a holistic approach.

One of the striking facts of this seminar was the joined nomination of a delegate of the doctorate students in the town of Yaoundé, in the person of Madame ENOW Jane Mbacham, 2nd

year doctorate student in International Development. She has to serve as the intermediary between all these students and the administration of HIID centre.

On the closing remarks of the seminar activities as announced by the administrator of RCCTY, Dr. Dieudonne DJOUBAIROU, a family picture of every one was taken.

Dr. BLINK and the principal administrator, joined the RCCTY administrator, for a final report. The RCCTY team will then have to be separated with Dr. BLINK on a final good-bye on Wednesday who will respectively return to his country.

At the end of the day's work, the satisfaction of one another was met.

The following points have been enumerated following the reaction of the public as concerns this seminar

- 1) "I was positively affected by the teachings. This last seminar has brought a plus to my Christian walk. All these teachings came at a very pertinent time because it has permitted me to understand that the difficulties I encounter can cause me to realize the Sovereignty of God and to know myself".

Arline NDJEUMEN, student in baccalaureat theology at RCCTY.

- 2) "I was particularly blessed by the theme of the seminar – trauma because for 4 years, I have been experiencing such a situation. I have a paralyzed child and this has traumatized me. This teaching has greatly helped me and will do same for my husband and my family"

Louis Robert ETHA, undergraduate student at RCCTY.

- 3) "It is really a joyful subject for us as servants of God and students to have received this seminar here. We were very surprised by the mobilization and attendance of many Christians. The teaching has brought a relief to our numerous crises we are facing and experiencing. There is suffering but there is the Sovereign God. As concerns the study, it is a great discovery. We have seen in Job a type of Christ. For long we have seen the suffering of Job. But I have discovered that it is rather God suffering in the suffering of Job. It is not a suffering that is put to execution, but it is rather the wisdom of God".

Vincent Hecheke, pastor at L'UEEC, Bastos Nylon.

- 4) "My impression is first of all gratitude and satisfaction in relation to the advanced understanding of the book of Job, which is a book difficult to understand, but the orator has just helped us to apprehend this wisdom. Thank you".

Emile, student pastor at FACTEC.

- 5) “I thank God for the possibility he granted to me to be able to attend this seminar. It indeed came at the right time. It is a good lesson for each and every one of us comparatively to what we are living today and to the suffering job experienced. To me in particular, I am very happy to have received this teaching. It has greatly comforted me. I am proud of this teaching. May the Lord help us to walk as we ought to”

OURBANOUS B. Ali, student pastor at FACTEC.

Looking forward to the next editions for a holistic training of quality at the Higher Institute of International Development (HIID).

For the secretariat.

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