

**"EXAMINING THE HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF THE YMG 1912-2012"
: Celebrating the Past by Navigating the Future**

Presentation to General 2012 YMG General Committee Meeting

by R Simangaliso Kumalo UKZN 11 February 2012

- The story of SM Makgatho
- The historical background of the YMG
- Gideon Baqwa & Charles Pamla
- The role of the mines
- 1912 The year of recognition John Mabona & Co with Rev Meara at Central
- The YMG AND Masculinity
- The YMG and life-giving purpose
- Conclusion

Introduction

- 1. Founded by G Baqwa.
- Elukholweni circuit at Ethembeni society.
- Superintendent minister was Charles Pamla, one of first three blacks to be Methodist ministers in 1867.
- Mzimkhulu district



Foundation

- Rev. Gideon Baqwa collected men for prayer
- They called this *Imbumba*
- Name came from the concept first pronounced by the Prophet *Ntsikana kaGaba*, that black people will need to organize themselves against European domination
- Emerged during the time of DDT Jabavu when he formed the first organization to represent the aspirations of black people

Imbumba yamanyama
Aims and objectives

- *To maintain the status of African men as leaders at home, church & society*
- A safe space for African men faced with European onslaught on their culture.
- A place of catharsis for the African men who were depressed by the socio-economic and political conditions that were against them.
- To bring unity amongst African men some of who were divided by tribal wars, religion and politics.
- To evangelize and preach the good news to all the African people
- To escape the trappings of ignorance, illiteracy etc
- To seek opportunities that came with the white man's religion and way of life

Aims & Objectives

- To achieve a position of social status in society, where people could only achieve this through the clan name they held or the blood that ran through their veins.
- The Christian religion promised all men success and dignity, no matter whom they were and where they came from.
- To mobilize Christian men to fight for the liberation of themselves and their country against oppression

Aims and Objectives

- Seeing that we are in Mamelodi, it is appropriate for us to remember the story of Sefako Mapogo Makgatho & use it as an example of the success of the YMG.
- Born at Ka Mphahle in Sekukuniland
- Educated at Daniel Mokone's School which later became Kilnerton
- He was the first teacher of Kilnerton
- Sent to Britain by the church to do a BA in Theology and Education.
- A lay preacher in the MCSA & most probably a member of the YMG
- The founder of the Transvaal Native National Congress
- Founder of the Transvaal Teacher's Union
- Founder of the first black newspaper in the Transvaal



- **Sefako Mapogo Makgatho 1861-1951**

Impact of YMG on African men



Church

Teacher at Kilnerton
 Society steward of the
 Marabastad
 Methodist
 Local Preacher



POLITICS

Founder of:
 Transvaal Native Congress
 Transvaal Teachers Union
 Batho/ Abantu Newspaper
 Deputy President of the
 SANNC 1912-16
 President of the SANNC

(1917-1921)



YMG

Believed in the self-worth of men

- Culturally trapped in Maxulinity
- Believed in the status of man

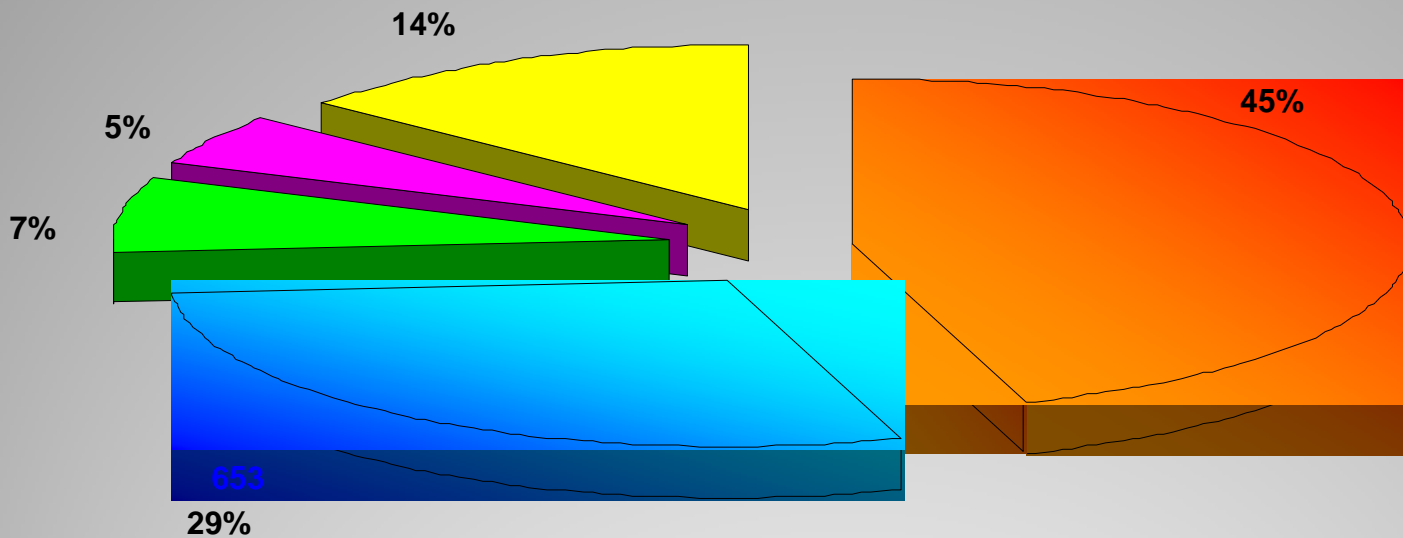




Pan-Africanism United National Church of Africa



Left the Wesleyan Church
 Protest of racial indifference
 Founder the United Nations
 Church

Became Leader
 Died in Pretoria East
 Moved to Mamelodi Cemetery
 in 1965

Lost and found in 2009
 Celebrated in 2012 by ANC
 Needs to be celebrated by us
 too



-  Evangelism
-  Social impact
-  Pastoral ministry

-  Financial contribution
-  Gender transformation

The Brentwood YMG as an Asset for M-CSA

- Most conservative movement in our church
- Promoted patriarchy
- Trapped in tradition and self-perpetuation
- Promoted theological simplicity at most naivety
- Perpetuated patriarchy and homophobic tendencies
- Silence on issues of human sexuality and culture
- Lack of political engagement
- Lack of economic engagement

Challenges Facing the YMG in 2012



Challenge for YMG in 2012: Faith & Masculinity.

- Masculinity refers to the male-dominant power model
- When the MCSA was the most racist church, the leadership was male
- When wwr started the leadership was male
- When wwr2 started the leadership was male
- Men have been on top of political power
- Power has been understood in terms of masculinity and destruction

Men, Faith & Masculinity

- Men have played good roles in bringing liberation from oppression and liberated their nations
- They received encouragement and teachings from their communities of faith, that they must work for giving life.
- However most have ended up by being oppressors of the people they liberated by not keeping the balance between faith and power, thus becoming dictators

Faith & Masculinity

- Issues around Faith and Masculinity
- Interface between faith and masculinity
- Historically it was built on the male superiority syndrome
- Men are leaders both in the home, church and society.

The Need for changing Focus from 2012 & beyond

- Serious insecurities of man in a changing world
- What is the implication of being male in a community that encourages equality, in leadership between man & women
- What is men's role in a society that does not see him as a political head
- In 1912 power was accrued in terms of status, gender etc now it is in terms of process and purpose

Focus changed continued....

- There are psychological upheavals that some men have faced because of gender equality pushing factors
- Some men have even handed the church over to women, without being pushed but have withdrawn.
- Sometimes even the liturgy appeals to women than men

Focus continued.....

- The solution for the problem of power and masculinity vs faith is found in the Jesus model of power
- You see the masculinity model dominates
- The Jesus model confronts the dominating model of power by service
- You see male power as we have it now comes from culture and patriarchy, the Jesus model claims power from creation, where all are created in the image of God so are equally endowed with civil liberties and the pursuit of happiness so said the American constitution.

Solution: The Jesus Model of Power

- Obery Hendrikcs suggests the following principles of the Jesus model of power
 1. Treat the people's needs as holy
 2. Give a voice to the voiceless
 3. Expose the workings of oppression
 4. Name the injustice that we see Believe in non- violence, so take blows without returning them.
 5. Walk the talk, or live the alternative idea

Jesus Model continued.....

- Celebrate being a man, because even Jesus celebrated that:
- E.g Say a word my daughter will be healed? Go your faith has healed your daughter
- Centurion say a word and my daughter shall be healed
- “Even in Israel I have not seen such faith”

Strategies for YMG 21st Century.....

- 1. Women are understood to be the giver's of life from time immemorial. Pope John 11 once said women are too close to the mystery of life
- 2. Protect life- men have always understood themselves as protectors of life, not destroyers of life.
- This movement will need to look at its role in the promotion of life in a fragile world

Strategies for YMG 21st Century.....

- 1. Participate in movements of transformation and life-giving in society
- Define what it is to be a christian man of the 21st century, who is at peace with his identity place at home, society and church
- Teach and live openly about issues of human sexuality and mentor younger African men about this.
- Support gender equality initiatives and movements

Strategies for future

**Women & Children Need
Protection from Men-YMG**

**YMG with orphans in
Mpophomeni**

**Preaching the gospel
in the streets of
Tumbleweed**

**We need to continue with this
work-YMG Campaigns**

In word & Deed

**Mentoring Young
Men**

YMG continued

Political Engagement

**Engaging the
Politicians Directly**

Directing Engagement with the State



Sharing Leadership & Ministry with Women

Protecting the purity of the Girl Child

**Methodist Church We Need to
Build Our Churches & Name them
after our Heroes**

- ***"Hambani Bazwalane Izwe Lelo Ngelenu"***

• ***Thank You***

CONCLUSION