



# TAUS RETREAT NEWS LETTER # 1

TANZANIA ADVENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (TAUS) ANNUAL RETREAT



**When:** July 12-16, 2017

**Where:** Wisconsin Academy, N2355 Duborg Rd, Columbus, WI 53925

**Who Must Attend:** You and me – without you we won't have a vibrant TAUS or meaningful Retreat this year

**Theme:** Growing in Faith-Building Trust that Last

## AN OVERVIEW OF FOCUSED AREAS

Greetings to you all. Our 2017 Annual Retreat is almost here. We will be meeting at Wisconsin Academy in less than 10 weeks from now. In Wisconsin, we are going to spend time sharing, learning, and praying together. Everything we plan to do in Wisconsin, will focus on the role of faith and trust in our lives.

Our retreat theme this year is "Growing in Faith and Building Trust that Last". Theologically, both "Faith" and "Trust" comes from the same word. For instance, the word faith comes from a Latin word *fidere*, which means to trust, believe, or have faith. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for faith is *emuwn* which means to trust, or have faith.

In the New Testament the Greek word for faith is *pistis*, which means to trust, believe, have faith or rely upon. Faith has been defined as an “unquestioning belief” in God, religion, an idea, a person or organization. Faith generally means having a strong conviction, deep trust, reliance upon, or loyalty to something.

All our retreat presentations will be focusing on four important areas of our lives and how they are impacted by the ways in which we exercise our Faith and Trust in God. Our most important goal will be learning and discovering how we can develop trusting relationship and living faith in those areas. Below is an overview of each focus area.

### **I. Growing in Faith and Building Trust that Last in Spiritual Life**

How important is Faith? It takes faith to even believe in Christ; it takes faith to believe that what God says is always right and true; and it takes faith to trust and walk in that each and every day. However, if your faith doesn't continue to grow in your relationship with Christ, you won't have the faith to see God's Kingdom come not only in your life, but in the lives of those around you.

During this year's Retreat we intend to allow the word of God to reveal to us how Jesus loved and always responded to anyone that had faith. He loved it. He loved it when men and women from all walks of life placed their full trust in Him. (Mat 8:5-13; Mat 15:21-28; Mark 5:21-24; Luke 19:1-10).

Jesus said our faith could be compared to a mustard seed. What's interesting is that a mustard seed is the smallest of most seeds. But it also is a seed. A seed is worth more when it continues to grow. You water and feed the seed of your faith by giving it nourishment. We get nourishment by reading Gods Word; worshipping; praying. All those things feed the seed of faith in your life. (Matthew 17:20). Come to 2017 TAUS Retreat in Columbus, Wisconsin to find how your faith can take root and grow in these last days!

### **II. Panel Discussion on Building Trust that Last in our Interpersonal and Family Relationships**

Why is trust one of the most written and researched topics? Simply put, because many of us have been betrayed. Most of us agree that trust is an essential foundation on which to build a relationship. Despite the great things we say about being honest—that it's "the best policy" or that "the truth shall set us free"—research tells us that we aren't so great at it.

By definition, trust is the ingredient that allows people to have faith that what is being said can be relied upon. Call it “making good on promise,” Or “walking the talk”, or “doing what you say you will do”. When you come through, you have started to build trust. During this session the panelists and facilitator will explore the role of “Faith” in “Building Trust that Last” in our personal, marital and family relationships. The panelists and facilitator will also share some researched insights into building trust. As a participant, you will have the opportunity to evaluating your own trustworthiness by aligning the **3C's** with your behavior. Finally, your appetite for building trust in your relationship will be challenged by introducing to you the **3 W's**, and the steps you need to take to build trust.

### **III. Building Trust that Last in our Professional Development and Entrepreneurial Spirit**

As Christians, God has given us talents to use while we wait for Jesus's return. In Luke 19:13 the bible says “occupy till I come. During this session, we will explore the role of faith in entrepreneurship and professional development, how to cultivate entrepreneurial spirit, and develop the skills and needed discipline to succeed in our careers and/or businesses. The presenter will pay special attention to the challenges we face as Immigrants and as Seventh-day Adventists, existing career and business opportunities, how to develop a mindset that embraces critical questioning, innovation, service and continuous improvement. Come to this session prepared to be challenged to allow your natural gifting and inclinations to develop and mature. During this session, the presenter will also lead the discussion aimed at helping TAUS members to learn how to maximize their potential, become good manager of their time and resources, and how to use our gifts and God given skills for His glory.

#### IV. Building Trust that Last through our Mission and Identity as TAUS

As Seventh-day Adventist first and Tanzanians second, our TAUS activities are guided by the world wide Seventh-day Adventist Church Mission, which is “to call all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels’ messages (Revelation 14:6-12), and to prepare the world for Christ’s soon return. The Seventh-day Adventist Church sees itself as the remnant Church of end-time Bible prophecy. Members of the Church, individually and collectively, understand their special role as ambassadors of God’s kingdom and messengers of the soon return of Jesus Christ.”

Since TAUS has chosen Tanzania Union Conferences and Tanzanian community here in the USA to be its primary mission field, TAUS members and associates should consider themselves enlisted as co-workers with God in His mission of reclaiming “our mission world” from the power and presence of evil, as part of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.

During this session, the presenter will challenge us to examine our conviction that we live in the last days described in Bible prophecy and the return of Jesus Christ is imminent, explore avenues and methods which TAUS members can creatively use to advance God’s kingdom, fulfil our mission, and live up to our calling and identity. The presenter will also attempt to challenge and encourage each one of us to live a life full of purpose and align our gifts and resources with God given mission and identity. This session will encourage full participation and discussions aimed at building a firm foundation for TAUS mission, and strengthening our organizational structure and capacity to stay engaged in mission till Jesus comes.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS PROFILE



#### **Pr. David Mmbaga, BA, MA. Guest Speaker, Focus Area I**

Pr. David Mmbaga is currently a senior Pastor of Dodoma District of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, East Central Conference, where he pastors one church of 1700 plus members and four companies. In recent years he pastored in Tegeta and Manzese Districts in Dar es salaam, before he was transferred to Dodoma.

Pr. Mmbaga is a prominent preacher of the gospel and specialist in counseling, teaching, and family matters education. He has over 11 years of experience in pastoral ministry, preaching, and evangelism in Tanzania and abroad. His most recent and memorable evangelistic meeting was USHINDI HATIMAYE, a televangelism meeting which was aired by Morning

Star and Star Religion Televisions. During this televised evangelistic meeting about 20,000 people were baptized.

He holds Bachelor degree in Theology from Bugema University, and Master Degree in Counseling Psychology from Texila American University, Guyana South America. Pastor Mmbaga is married to Florence Hongo and together they have been blessed with two children, Junior and Daniel.



### Pr. Pako Edson Mokgwane, BA, MA. – Youth Presenter, Focus Area I & II

Pako Mokgwane is currently the Associate Youth Director of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Pako Mokgwane** is the first born child of Thulaganyo and Masego Mokgwane and has two siblings, Boikgapo and Ogaufi and his wife, Ayakha. Pako is a Pastor's Kid. Traveling from place to place improved his social skills because he was able to interact with different kinds of people. He is inspired by the lyrics of the hymn "We Speak of the Realms." It awakens the reality of the Maranatha motif—Jesus is coming again!

Pako draws strength from 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Pako is passionate about Youth Evangelism through the various forms of media. Media and physical opportunities prompt each young person do their part to expedite the coming of the Lord, contributing to total member involvement. He is very sociable and outgoing.

Pako is a product of Adventist Education, from Primary School to Graduate School. He completed both his Bachelor's Degree (Andrews University, 2004) and his Master's Degree (Adventist University of Africa, 2015) in Theology. Pastor Pako first served several capacities at the Northern Botswana Conference and then as the Youth, Stewardship, and Communications Director for the Botswana Union. In 2015, Pastor Pako was called to the to join the General Conference Youth Ministries Department, as Associate Youth Director.

### Pr. Geoffrey Mbwana– Presenter, Focus Area IV

Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana is a General Vice President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church, Silver Spring, MD USA. Geoffrey Gabriel Mbwana was first elected as a general vice president for the Seventh-day Adventist world church in 2010, and re-elected again for the same position in 2015. Born on October 20, 1955 in Tanzania, Mbwana spent time in high school and college working as a literature evangelist in India and Sweden. Mbwana graduated from Spicer Memorial College in 1982 with bachelor's degrees in religion and psychology. He earned a master's degree in education from Andrews University in 1984 and completed a master's in educational psychology at Poona University in 1986. He is married to Nakku Mbwana and they have two daughters: Orupa and Upendo. Mbwana's previous church work includes serving as president for the North-East Tanzania Conference, the Tanzania Union Mission, and for the East-Central Africa Division. He speaks three



languages - Kiswahili, English and his mother tongue Kipare.



**Mr. Maduhu (Mtanganzaji)– Morning Star Radio & TV.**

Mr. Maduhu is Morning Star Radio Personality/Station Programmer with many years of experience encompassing digital production, studio and live broadcasts, and commercial voice-overs. Expert in consistently entertaining large audiences with tireless enthusiasm.

He is a talented Radio Producer, bringing countless long-standing relationships in the seventh day Adventist church radio and TV broadcasting industry.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

First, I would like to thank the Retreat Organizing Committee (ROC) under the leadership of Midwest Chapter Chair Mr. Lucas Mwita na his able Secretary Calvin Obedi for sharing the highlights of their visit at Wisconsin Academy early in March 2017. All pictures used in this news letter was taken by Retreat Organizing committee members from Midwest chapter.

Second, I would like to thank our TAUS National Executive officers (Mike Mwasumbi, Shukuru Magoma, and Noah Manongi) for their steady leadership and dedication to serve TAUS. To all our national and chapters leaders, and subcommittee members, your commitment and efforts to serve our constituencies and addressing specific needs both at the national and local level, has been phenomena. Your work and hard labor is not in vain. God is blessing you service and devotion, and TAUS is moving forward.

Third, I would like to thank everyone, whoever you are (Tanzanians, families, and friends). You are the TAUS, and you are the reason for the existence of this organization. Together, we are the TAUS! Let's continue to move forward in Love and in Unity. Jesus is coming soon. I hope to see you at the retreat, God willing!

May God richly bless you all!

Prepared by

Pr. Caleb J. Migombo, TAUS Chaplain & Project Director

LET'S MEET AT THIS PLACE WEDNESDAY NIGHT (JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> -15, 2017) TO SATURDAY EVENING!

Wisconsin Academy, N2355 Duborg Rd, Columbus, WI 53925



Photograph courtesy of Mr. Calvin Obedi



*Musickano wa Doms*



Photograph courtesy of Mr. Calvin Obedi



*Dormitories Receptions*

Yule jamaa unayemuona pale juu ametangulia kuandaa makao ya Wisconsin, anakukaribisha ili nawe upate kuwapo hapo. Ukifika tu tafadhali mtafute mufahamiane. Utafurahi kukutana naye.





The menu is ready... come with enough appetite. Kama huna appetite mimi ninayo ya ziada, nitakuazima!

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Calvin Obedi



photograph courtesy of Mr. Calvin Obedi



*Mapokezi kabla ya kuingia kanisani*



*Akaluni*

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Calvin Obedi



“Wapelezi” waliotumwa na TAUS! Ukianagalia nyuso zao utapata majibu ya habari walizorudisha!



Hiki ni kikosi kazi kisichokuwa na mzaha inapotokea shughuli inayohusu TAUS. Lazima Uende Wisconsin Mwaka huu ukakutane na hii team pamoja na wenzao wanaofanya kazi nyuma ya pazia kufanisha mkutano wa TAUS.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Calvin Obedi