

Nombuso Phiri



I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I want to start by saying a great Thank You, to you Rev. Reagans and Allen Temple. I thank you for the love and kindness you keep extending to our church WW Brown Memorial Baptist Church.

I had a wonderful experience and a great time with everyone. During my 1st week in Oakland I got to spend time in Allen Temple. I was introduced to some of the ministries that take place in the church and hope my church can adopt those kind of ministries in the future.

I learned that ministry work is not only teachings of the spirit but it can also be teachings of wellbeing, good health, and personal developments of people and family matters.

As I was walking through the corridors of Allen Temple I was very touched to see pictures of our late President Nelson Mandela. And was also moved to realize that he is also recognised as one of the heroes in celebration of Black history.

On Saturday when we had the Global Mission Conference I learned how much you value the knowledge of your ancestors and your history, understanding where you come from is very important. From a South African perspective young people grow up being taught about their ancestors and yet young people in South Africa grow up to be more modern and forgetting our tradition, our ancestors. We sometimes forget the importance of our history. Sometimes because we are young we don't take life seriously.

The 2nd week was an honour for me to attend the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference. We learned about strengthening churches, empowering leaders and transforming our communities. I gained good knowledge and gained some sense of empowerment and encouragement to take back home to help uplift my church and my community.

To us South Africans, America seems like a perfect place that has no struggles, but in the Proctor Conference I learned that America also has its own struggles ("Black Lives Matters") and battles to be won. It reminds me of our Apartheid era and how important it is to fight for equality, because equality equals to freedom.

My visit to the USA was very educational and wonderful. I feel humbled and thankful for the time I have spent with the people of Allen Temple in Oakland. Their grace and Ubuntu was wonderfully overwhelming. I was very far away from home and yet I felt very much at home. I told my Pastor, Rev. Pudule, and my church how wonderfully I was treated with tender love and care. They noticed I gained a bit of weight and they knew I was well fed and well taken care of.

Thank you for giving my Skills Transfer Project an opportunity to grow by donating the laptops. I presented the laptops at church and they were very happy and sang songs of praise nonstop that Sunday.

On behalf of my church we are very grateful for the opportunities and the love you keep bringing to us here in WW Brown.

"Siyabonga kakhulu, inkosi ize ini busise inicgine inandisele".

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