

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR
OF THE WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
CLLR TLOTLANANG MOGOTLANE DURING THE
FAITH GOSPEL AFTER CHRIST CHURCH
WOMAN`S CONFERENCE HELD ON THE 29TH
OCTOBER 2011 AT 8H00 AT MOONG VILLAGE IN
LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

Programme Director,

Arch Bishop R.K.Kedikilwe,

The Leadership of the Faith Gospel After Christ Church,

The Congregation gathered here this morning,

All Delegates,

Thari ya Sechaba, Basadi,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Dumelang. Good Morning..!

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address you during this grand occasion. On behalf of the citizens of Waterberg, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to this vibrant District situated in the Western Limpopo Province of South Africa.

Programme Director, the people of Waterberg are justifiably proud to host you in this mountainous region of South Africa. The beauty of the landscape, the culture of the people, the abundance of wildlife and the ancient history make this area one of South Africa`s prime tourism and adventure destination.

Located just two hours drive from the giant metropolitan hub of South Africa`s industrial heartland of Tshwane and Johannesburg, and bordering Botswana on the West, the Waterberg offers numerous investment opportunities for business, tourism and recreational development.

With the increased cost of travel, the Waterberg is strategically placed to attract many visitors who seek to escape from the pressure of the cities to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this diverse wilderness destination. The people of Waterberg welcome you to this region with traditional warmth and friendliness. Make Waterberg a destination of choice and we look forward to your pleasurable return because we are on the go for growth.

Programme Director, I am impressed by the theme of this conference which reads: **“Women: A nation builder. A Mother to the Nation. Mosadi ke Thari ya Sechaba”**. This theme is close to my heart because I am a mother and a woman. For many years, mothers were known to be staying at home with kids while their husbands go to work to earn money for the home. In those days men were perceived as sole breadwinners of the family. No, not any more. Women have taken up the mantle. While certain men see no trouble in marrying working class ladies as wives, others see them as opponents in marriage. Most men feel emasculated if their wives are primary breadwinners and they are ask to take on more household chores and additional childcare responsibilities.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing. A woman is the builder and moulder of a nation`s destiny, though delicate and soft as a lily flower, she has a heart, stronger and bolder than that of a man, she is the supreme inspiration for man`s onward march. Today the educated women have come out of their inferiority complex and are shouldering all kinds of

responsibilities as Leaders, Managers, Pilots and Ministers. Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India rightly said: “ **Our women have a very great part to play in the process of our society as the mental and physical contact of women with life, is much lasting and comprehensive than that of men**”

Ladies and gentlemen, the original woman that God created had a glory. She was designed to make the man complete and to add the missing link to his life, not to compete with him. A lonely man is generally not a good man. Women were given a portion of God`s divine assignment for mankind. She was not originally made for decoration or a sex machine. Sin robbed her of the glory that she received from God, but through the salvation in Christ, God restores the lost glory. This restoration has helped to expose the many treasures that make the woman precious. Women become great debtors to their generation and indeed to their husbands, when they fail to discover what great treasures are embedded in their lives as wives and mothers.

Programme Director, another important treasure that is found in women that make them precious in the sight of their husbands, family members and the entire community is the ability to influence others positively. To have positive influence on others, a woman must be diligent and prudent. A diligent woman combines wisdom with hard work, and does not sit down at home just to consume the husband. She actively contributes to the family upkeep even financially. Apart from working very hard, she is thoughtful. Out of the profit she makes from her work or business, she buys a field and plants a vineyard, all

for the family and not for selfish interest (Proverb 31: 13-24).
Diligence and prudence in the life of a woman is a treasure.

Another quality a woman must possess to influence others positively is the attitude of prayer and God-fearing. Though a woman is said to be working, yet she does not take her relationship with God for granted. No matter how busy she is, she always maintains her link with the Lord, keeping watch over the affairs of her home. The fear of God in the heart of a woman is a treasure more than rubies. Also to have positive influence on others, the woman must be honourable. This means that she must occupy a position of honour, a leadership position-the glory of her husband (1 Corinthians 11:7). The life of every woman should be able to make her husband qualified to hold any leadership position amongst the people, otherwise something must be done fast.

Ladies and gentlemen, much as there were great and godly women, we cannot deny that there are women whose lives are a blot on the glory of the woman, whose lives negate the original purpose for the creation of the woman. There are women in generations past and present who have left legacies of love and care. God never intended a woman to be corrupt, cruel, zealous in false worship, arrogant and full of evil influence. God made you to be a crown of glory. All is not lost. Trough Eve, a woman, the devil rubbished what God had put in place, but through another woman, Mary, God`s plan for salvation was accomplished. Any woman can become an instrument of positive influence through determination. It is time for us to rise and shine, and make a mark.

Programme Director I am not here to give a political speech, but to officially open this gathering. Let me take this opportunity to wish you fruitful deliberations that will empower women in your congregation and the world over.

I THANK YOU.

