

TUMEKUTANA NEW YEAR MESSAGE/ PRAYER LETTER

O give thanks to the Lord for God is good and God's mercies endure for ever!

Happy prosperous and fulfilling new year to you all!

By the grace of God, we have been ushered into the year 2017. Politically, economically, socially and spiritually, we do not know what this year holds for us but we are certain of God's promises to us in Jeremiah 29:11 where God says that God knows the plans God has for us. They are plans for our welfare and our good. They are plans leading to the good things we are hoping for and expecting. It is therefore our belief that God's perfect plan will accompany us and unfold through the year. For that reason, it shall be well with each one of us once we remain in Christ and Christ remains in us wherever we are.

We may not be able to see everything ahead of us but just as God promised Moses and the Israelites in Exodus 33:14, God's presence will accompany us into the unknown. Hebrews 13:5 assures us that God will never leave us nor forsake us. Let us therefore embark on the journey through this year with faith and total trust in God the finisher and accomplisher of our faith. We shall wake up each morning convinced by faith that it is well with our souls. Amen!

Having entered the year 2017, we need to recognize that we have just about 20 months to prepare for the next Tumekutana Conference which will be held in South Africa, God willing. Honestly, we have very little time already.

As the leadership of Tumekutana, we would like to encourage members and Women's Desks of our member churches to begin to intentionally put down strategies to raise some funds this year towards the conference. If each member church or desk could work towards raising at least \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars) by the close of May 2018, this would be very helpful in defraying some of the costs involved in organizing the conference. Breaking this down into months as from March, 2017, we could be looking at raising about \$150.00 a month for 14 months from all the women and women groups put together in your church. You could break this \$2,000.00 down and share it among your different categories of Women's groups so that each group is given an amount to raise by a stipulated time. Just make sure you get your Church leadership's consent and approval appropriately. Be very transparent in

taking this initiative and in rendering account so that there would be no suspicion of any fishy deals.

As women leaders in our African Presbyterian and Reformed churches, we need to take up this responsibility and play our part by working on this project seriously as we depend on our partners to help.

We will try to be in touch with you each month until May next year, after which, God willing, we will keep in touch with you more often as we draw closer to the conference.

Expect the dates, theme and specific venue for the conference to be out soon.

Please pray for us as leaders of Tumekutana for grace to effectively combine our duties with our regular jobs.

Please let us continue to bear up Nigeria, Cameroun, Congo, Kenya, Sudan, the Gambia and all other countries which are experiencing some form of conflict, terrorism, turmoil or unrest so that God's perfect peace would prevail.

Please pray for Tumekutana Sisters in all countries that God would bind us together in love and understanding despite the geographical distances between us; that God would enable us to be agents of peace and healing to the communities in which we find ourselves.

Please pray that God would lift up Tumekutana to a higher level in terms of being a formidable organization and fellowship through which Africans, and particularly, young women shall be totally liberated in the Lord so that its trickling effect would be evident in their everyday lives.

Thank you all for your support and love.

Once again, we wish you all the best in the year 2017.

May God richly bless us all.

Tumekutana Tena! Certainly, we will come together again!

Bridget Ben-Naimah (Rev. Dr. Mrs.)

(On behalf of the Executive)