

Eastern Cape Region hosted our 2016 Annual General Conference in Umthatha. (December 26-30)

Even though this is an Annual Event, there is always that feeling of great expectation among the Membership of the Africa Evangelical Church. The Policy of having these services hosted by each of the four regions makes it more interesting in that the Membership looks forward to something new each year from the Organizers for that year. 2016 was no exception. There were direction signs from the town to the venue. The Eastern Cape stood tall to the challenge. The 11th hour venue change almost made them lose balance but they became a powerful force and worked endlessly to acquire the alternate venue. We thank God for the leadership of Rev TG Ntongana and his team.

Due to previous experiences of the lack of Accommodation when such Conference takes place, their logistics were perfect. Arrivals started pouring in as early as Sunday 25th December 2016 (yes, on Christmas Day) when the Conference was slated to commence in the evening of the next day! This did not disrupt the Hosting Team's plans. They handled it through effective communication systems by the Team. Buses, cars, taxis (Kombis, Quantums and mini buses) and some flew in from other airport to Umthatha and East London.

The first evening saw the same Rev TG Ntongana deliver a moving welcome Sermon which had an interesting Xhosa word **"ukumnqula uThixo"** that rang in everyone's mind and would not leave the tongue of those who stood up to say something on the Podium.

As if set on fire by the Host's Chairperson, all Speakers ably introduced by the President, inclusive of the Theme Verse, on Tuesday, 27th out-did themselves and left everyone yearning for more. The Year Verse Song composed and well presented by the Swazi Gospel Singers coupled with renditions from CM Simelane with his guitar singing Country Gospel Music; the Ezulwini AEC Praise & Worship Team, and all Regional Praise Teams added fresh aroma to the Conference every day.

mso-fareast-language: EN-ZA;">The Lord's presence was manifest in the entire Program of Activities of the Conference as Report from the different Structures' Meetings sang praises of everything that went on there. The Children's Ministry, the Youth, the Young Adults, the Women, the Men all were grateful to God for His presence in their meetings. It being an election year and knowing what normally takes place at such Meetings one would have expected the worst, but that was not to be. AEC is a praying church. Many people prayed for the Conference. The President's Report which, as always, was wide ranging, with everyone interested in hearing what was the next President was going to say, spiced with the giggles as he threw jokes here and there appreciating some people and thus keeping all and sundry awake, crowned it all.

One can only thank the Lord for the AEC as a Denomination that has a Leadership and Membership that is working in unity in diversity of language, race, culture and gender, with an agreed evangelical doctrine of salvation whose body life is experienced by all members so that it disciples and reproduces itself in holiness of living. Indeed, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty. Zechariah 4:6.

KwaZulu-Natal Region successfully hosted our 2015 Annual General Conference in Pietermaritzburg. (16 - 20 December 2015) **The BeALERT theme rang in the passages and hallways of that school. Members came from Eastern Cape, inclusive of Cape Town, Gauteng inclusive of Limpopo, from KwaZulu-Natal and from Swaziland. Buses and all kinds of cars just adorned the school. We praise God for His care and guidance through out the few days of fellowship and Bible teaching.** There were children, young people, young adults, men, women and a good number of our frail adults were there. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement you have been. Yes **BeALERT** 24/7. Our sharpness should be in every thing we do, hear, see, think, eat, give, receive etc. Please note that the 2016 conference dates have been moved to 26 - 30 December 2016 in the Eastern Cape. This is due to the availability of the venue to be

used. </p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;"> DECLARATION♦of COMMITMENT:</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">We ended the Conference with this Commitment led by Revd Dr G Mnisi:</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">I,(your name)(your name)....., today resolve and promise God to distance / continue to distance myself from anything that would defile my life as a Christian or bring dishonor to God's Name. I further commit myself to live / continue to live my life in this world in a manner that will bring honour and glory to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. All this I pledge to do with the help of God the Holy Spirit who controls my life.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Signature:

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FONT-FAMILY: 'Tahoma','sans-serif'; FONT-SIZE: 10pt; mso-fareast-font-family: 'Times New Roman'; mso-fareast-language: EN-ZA">Many of you will have read this page about the Annual General Church Conference (AGCC◆12) to be hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Region and were eagerly waiting to see what would unfold, particularly because there was to be the Jubilee Celebrations as well during this Conference. It is also true that the anxiety was at a higher degree to those of you who ended up not joining the Celebrations, wanting to know as to what transpired hence this abridged write-up meant for you Frequent Visitor of this

Site.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto;

mso-outline-level: 2;">The interest was so high that some Conference Delegates arrived as early as 07:00am, on the opening day, Wednesday 26th December 2012, when the Welcome Service was scheduled to commence 12 Hrs later! Registration went on smoothly. </p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height:

150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Revd WTA Xaba, the immediate past General Secretary led the Conference on the path leading to 1962. The stage was set alight by KwaZulu-Natal in the evening of Thursday, 27th, dancing the evening away! One spectator remarked: ◆the Blood of Jesus Christ did a wonderful job changing these volatile people!◆, judging from the passion they had in their dance and traditional weapons carried as part of the Zulu Dance. Gauteng took to the stage in the morning of Friday 28th with a mixed spice of Sotho, Shangan, Nguni and Venda cultural celebrations followed by the Eastern Cape with Xhosa and Mpondo, etc joyous praises to God on that same day in the evening.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height:

150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Even though the Celebrations were spread over the Conference period, the 28th was almost D-Day because it saw Special Guests & Associates of the AEC, like Bishop Dr S.V. Zulu; Revd Dr M.G. Mnisi and SIM-SA Director, Revd S. Ngubane gracing the proceedings of the day which were inclusive of the cutting of the Jubilee Cake and tasting a piece thereof! Mrs D. Mbanjwa missed out and was also missed because of a family commitment that ended up making it impossible for her to honour the invitation. Time was also taken to recognize some individuals for the part they played in the 50 years of the autonomy of the Church on this day. </p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify;

line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">We were honoured to have people who were there in 1962, as well as having people who served under the three or four presidents. The next day saw the <span style="LINE-HEIGHT: 150%; FONT-FAMILY:

'Tahoma','sans-serif'; FONT-SIZE: 10pt; mso-fareast-font-family: 'Times New Roman';

mso-fareast-language: EN-ZA">Swaziland Region put icing on the Cake with their peculiar & spectacular dances with music that must have been from another planet rendered by the Junior Church, Ezulwini AEC Praise Team, 35 year-old Swazi Gospel Singers and others!</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">The morning devotions led by Revd TG Ntongana on the Year Verse (Proverbs 3:5-6) were on fire. Revd AM Zondo with his vibrant interpreter, Revd XM Dladla, kept every one yelling for more as they dissected the Word as led by the Holy Spirit in Biblical Charge. Due to the Celebrations in the evenings, time management became problematic to the Programme Directors of each day but that did not dampen the spirit in Revd BE Tsela who kept the adamant Congregants glued on their seats with his big & loud voice which was spitting the TRUTH such that one thought of giving himself to Christ for the second time!</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Teething problems in the Consumer Science Dept were sorted out quickly and the service was back to normal. Business Meetings of the different Structures went on very well and so did the Services for the Men♦s Fellowship, Women♦s Fellowship, Youth & Junior Church. Mr L Ndlovu of eSikhaleni did what he is well known for - served the Pastors & Delegates Meeting with ♦Inhloko♦!</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">The President officiated in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, ♦MOU♦ between AEC and SIM-SA and ably presented his report for the period under reference which included his many travels that took him not only to all the Regions but also to Malawi, with the assistance of SIM-SA. He was accompanied by the General Secretary who was sponsored by the Regions. Through this Web page, he got an invitation to Rwanda and honoured it. Read more about these in his report that was presented to the Conference. Four Pastors were ordained and Revd Dr CPM Gumede conducted the Ordination Charge on the last day.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Also spicing the celebrations was listening to a Choir of 37 Pastors and leaders of the Africa Evangelical Church who were able to travel to Israel who sang in Hebrew and were conducted by one of the Senior Pastors, Revd AM Ncwane. They also presented a report on the Pilgrimage. The entire unfolding of the Jubilee celebrations demonstrated the unity of the church we have enjoyed in our history.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt;

mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Initially we thought that within our four days together we would field no less than fifty individuals on stage doing a variety of things, but we ended up enjoying perhaps more than 400 hundred people doing things that expressed our thankful hearts to God. Individuals prepared and executed their assignments in full. We say thank you to God for the membership of the church and we say thank you to the different leadership structures we have in the church.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto; mso-outline-level: 2;">Indeed the Lord has done great things for us ... We look forward to the Eastern Cape for our next Annual General Conference hosting.</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto;"><em style="mso-bidi-font-style: normal">◆thus far with God and we are filled with joy indeed!</p> <p class="MsoNormal" style="text-align: justify; line-height: 150%; margin: 0cm 0cm 10pt; mso-margin-top-alt: auto; mso-margin-bottom-alt: auto;"><em style="mso-bidi-font-style: normal">{AG}Gallery{/AG}</p>