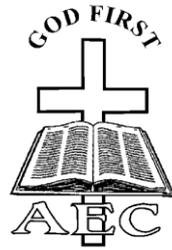


**AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

Annual General Conference 2010



- Presidential Report -

Sowing for the Good  
Harvest

**YEAR 2011 - VERSE:**

"The sower sows the word."  
Mark 4:14 (ESV)

## **OUR VISION STATEMENT:**

*"By faith we see the church in Southern Africa 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 disciplines and reproduces itself in holiness of living."*

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1. To plan specific activities and projects where we are working together, in mission and outreach programmes both locally and abroad. This would also include regular sharing of specific prayer requests among our different churches.*
- 2. To conduct periodic reviews (written or verbal) of the membership in order to find their understanding of the evangelical doctrine of salvation. Where there is lack of knowledge or understanding, the leadership in the church will address it.*
- 3. To conduct seminars for our church leaders on the biblical teaching of body life and how it should be operating in our churches.*
- 4. To conduct a course on evangelism and discipleship (verbal or written for all our members) and that each one be given or should find a disciple to minister to (2 Timothy 2:2).*
- 5. To hold seminars on holiness of life and that a system in our churches be adopted to help the membership to be accountable to each other with relevant programmes, i.e., brother/brother, sister/sister programme.*

## **UMBONO MGOMO WEBANDLA LE-AEC:**

*"Ngokukholwa sibona ibandla laseMzansi Africa lisebenzisana ebunyeni phezu kokuba lehlukene ngezilimi, ngobuzwe, ngendlela yokuphila nangobulili; labo abavumelene ngesifundiso mayelana nensindiso, futhi-ke abaveza ukuba mzimba munye ngempilo ephilwa yiwo onke amalungu alo ukuze liphumelele ukwenza abafundi nokuzandisa ngokuya liqhubekela ekuphileni impilo engcwele."*

### **IMIGOMO:**

- 1. Ukuhlela izinto ezithile eziphawulekayo esinokuzenza ndawonye emsebenzini wokuqhuba ivangeli nokufinyelela ezindaweni ezintsha khona lapha kwelakithi nakwamanye amazwe. Lokhu-ke kuyabandakanya ukwazisana ngezinto eziphathekayo eziyizicelo zomkhuleko emabandleni ethu ahlukeneyo, lokho kwenziwe njalo ngezikhathi ezimisiweyo.*
- 2. Ukuhlela izivivinyo eziyakwenziwa ngezikhathi ezithile ngamalungu amabandla (zibhalwe phansi noma kuxoxwe ngomlomo) ukuze kubonakale ukuthi basiqonda kangakanani isifundiso sokusindiswa esiphilayo ngokwevangeli. Lapho*

*kutholakala khona ukuthi kukhona ukungazi noma ukungaqondi ngokufaneleyo abaholi bayakuyimela ngezinyawo leyondaba.*

3. *Ukulela izikhungo zokufundisa abaholi bamabandla ethu mayelana nokufundiswa yiBhayibheli mayelana nempilo yoMzimba (oyiBandla) nokuthi imelwe iphilwe kanjani emabandleni ethu.*
4. *Ukufundisa izifundo ngokuhambisa ivangeli ngokwenza abafundi (kubhalwe phansi noma kukhulunywe ngomlomo kunikezwa amalungu amabandla ethu) nokuthi lowo nalowo athole umfundi othile azakumelekelela (2 Thim. 2:2).*
5. *Ukulela izifundo mayelana nempilo yobungcwele; kube khona indlela eyenziwa ngamabandla ethu ukulekelela amalungu ukuba azi ukuthi awaziphileli-nje, kumelwe azidalule, eziveza ethembekile yilowo nalowo komunye ngezinhlelo ezithile ezifaneleyo ezenziwayo, okusho ukuthi owesilisa komunye wesilisa, nowesifazane komunye wesifazane.*

### **UMBONO NGEMGOMO WELIBANDLA LEAFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

*"Ngekukholwa sibona libandla entasi ne Africa lisebenta ngebunye ngetilimi letehlukene, nebuve, ngemihambo kanye nebulili, sibe sivumelene ngemfundziso yeLiVangeli lensindziso lokufakazelwa yimphilo lephilwa ngiwo onkhe emalunga ukuze lifundzise litibonakalise liphila ebungcweleni."*

#### **TINHLOSO:**

1. *Kulela imisebenti netikhankhanyo lapho sisebenta ndzawonye, etimishane kanye netinhlelo tekuphumela ngaphandle emagatjeni nasemaveni. Loku kungafaka ticelo temthandazo letibalulekile tiyofika emabandleni etfu lehlukene; loko kwentiwe ngetikhatsi letimisiwe.*
2. *Kutsi njalo ngesikhatsi kubekhona kuciniseka ngemalunga etfu elibandla kutsi bayiva kanjani imfundziso yelivangeli lensindziso (kubhalwe noma kukhulunywe). Lapho kungekho khona lwati; umholi welibandla akunakekele loko.*
3. *Kwenta tindlela tekufundzisa baholi belibandla ngemfundziso yeliBhayibheli kulemphilo nekutsi kufanele tisebente kanjani emabandleni etfu.*
4. *Kufundzisa ngesifundvo sekuvangela kanye nekuenta baholi kuwo onkhe emalunga etfu nekutsi lilunga ngalinye linikwe litfuba lekuenta lomunye abe ngumlandzeli noma umfundzi (II Thimothewu 2:2).*
5. *Kubamba timfundziso ngemphilo yebungcwele nekutsi emabandleni etfu kutfolakale indlela yekusita emalunga kutsi anakekelane ngetinhlelo letifanele; umfowetfu anakekele umfowetfu, dzadzewetfu anakekele dzadzewetfu.*

## ➤ APPRECIATION –

It is always gratifying to know, feel and work with many people within the body of Christ towards fulfil our task of **Protecting, Nurturing, Educating and Guiding** the most precious possession of God – the church. I praise God for the Board, the outgoing committees at denominational, regional and circuit levels, the pastoral leadership, the general membership, individuals i.e., young and matured, prayer partners even from other denominations, who have been a great encouragement to me.

I have been humbled by the undeserved respect that I have been afforded in many places where I visited. I have sensed the body life as God reminded me about different people from time to time who are in the Africa Evangelical Church. I have grown to love people irrespective of age, class, status etc. I have met many people and heard strange names of people. I have seen happy people wherever I went even at the funerals that I attended. Indeed, Christians are happy people!

Mr LT Ndlovu from eSikhawini made himself available again to travel with me in most of my short visits, sacrificing his time to help me focus on some of the crucial things that duty called during this year. I deeply appreciate his commitment to serve, for the sake of the cross. My local church again went all the way in support, encouragement, resourcing and suggesting to uplift the image of the AEC. My editorial team for their ever-ready support, time, skill and encouragement when deadlines came and were ignored. I cannot stop thanking God for the gifts shared for the sake of our Saviour and His Church!

## **THE 2009 CONFERENCE**

As we gather in this place, let us reflect on the 2009 Umthatha Conference. We all agree that the Lord was good to us as we packed the Walter Sisulu University to its capacity. All regions excelled in their attendance. The Lord wanted us to respond to this question which may be information seeking or challenging, ‘Will you go!’

We recall the choicest Eastern Cape youth who welcomed us in a special way during the evening of 16 December. Their performance may be described as traditional, stylish or colourful. May I say to the Eastern Cape youth ‘Bravo’ once more. I cannot repeat the words I uttered during their regional conference. But you are our delight and our joy as the church. Your creativity is amazing and it is reawakening in a way. Then the speakers came with their packages. We witnessed a sign of growth as we gave liberally without digging, but truly the persuasive little voice was and still is, “Will you go!”

I suppose we managed to go in many ways this year. Some shared Christ for the first time, others gave as never before. Some have prayed for the salvation of others continuously and others have helped the discouraged, the hungry and the desolate. Let us continue doing what Christ told us to do – that is obedience!

As we begin another decade, the stunning statement comes from our Lord, “The Sower Sows the Word.” This sower has one special eternal quality and genuine seed, called the word. The logos - *log'-os* something *said*; the Divine *Expression* (that is, *Christ*): - account, cause, communication, tidings, treatise, utterance, word, work. This is the summary of who we are, scatterers, why that title, what we scatter.

## **UPDATE**

### **➤ GRIEVED BUT NOT CRUSHED –**

2010 is no excuse to many other years in past. Some of our loved ones took their flights to glory. Likewise, our condolences go to the families, relatives, friends and the church at large.

May I thank all the saints who became the agents of comfort to the bereaved in all our regions. Some took time to assist in those homes and situations, sacrificing their resources and time. You stood in silence with dignity and in tears of sorrow alongside those who were bereaved.

Revd Elphas M Nxumalo of Mbazwane went to glory in the early hours of 13 December 2009 just before we could organize ourselves for Mthatha conference. Mseleni circuit was disturbed, some did go to the conference and others went to the conference for two days and then drove back to attend the funeral which was held on 19 December 2009. I managed to visit the family for few minutes on Sunday, 3 January 2010 to express our sympathy and encouragement to the widow, MaMbatha.

While we were trying to comfort Mbazwane brethren, on the morning of 17 December we heard that Revd Timothy M Gambushe, from Durban Circuit had gone to be with Lord. His funeral took place at Nkwambase and was graced by a full board delegation from Swaziland and former AEC Treasurer Mr MTE Mtetwa, delegation from Mtubatuba and East Rand. Revd A Matsenjwa brought the message for the day. Revd A Mashiyane, the Durban circuit chairperson, was so thankful when he saw such support from afar. We continue to pray for the widow, MaMkhwanazi and the family that they may realize that He promised neither to leave nor forsake them.

The spring brought sorrow to the Eastern Cape region, within the Maqutywa family and the church at large as Revd JS Maqutywa went to be with the Lord at the beginning of the new day of 13 September, 2010. The funeral took place at his home on 24 September we thank God for your support in prayer, words of comfort and being there with the Maqutywa family during that time of sorrow. Continue to pray for the ever-active Mrs EN Maqutywa (uMaRadebe). We lost a gentleman and a half. Those who worked with him will reminisce great times they had with him. I am one of those who will miss him and his creative approach in doing things.

During the same week, on 12 September, Revd RM Gumede of Mtubatuba lost his brother in a tragic head-on car collision where he was burnt beyond recognition. His car was only identified by the engine and chassis numbers. Pray for the Gumede family as they come to terms with such tragedy.

Revd Thompson S Mgevu, from Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape, went to be with Lord on 30 October. It is so sad that this servant of the Lord who has not been well for years has missed witnessing his son take the mantle of leadership. He suffered immensely during the last weeks on earth. May the Ngcoya family and friends emulate the great walk of faith and repentance he left for us. His funeral took place at his home on 13 November 2010. Thank you for standing alongside the bereaved

family and assuring them of the wonderful time of homecoming of all the saints from ages past when the trumpet sounds.

Revd EM Dube lost his father on 15 November and on 20 November I felt honoured to stand with Revd J Bodibe and EM Dube as the remains of his father were lowered in his grave at Mandeni, KZN. We thank God for all who supported this family on the day from different churches and walks of life. Pray for the widow that God will enable her to lead that big family with dignity and thankful heart.

➤ **ARRIVALS:**

I know that every year we are duty bound to welcome different people to the AEC family. The babies who were born in 2010. What a year! We welcome them before they accept the Lord Jesus Christ in years to come.

We also welcome all those who will celebrate their anniversaries looking back to 2010 - brides and grooms come in and exercise your gifts within the church.

We likewise welcome all those who accepted the Lord this year and decided to be members of the AEC in different areas of our land. Tell others about what happened to you and in that way, you will be spreading the good news – which is your task.

May I congratulate all those who in 2010 got the first smart phone, email facility and also those who were welcomed to the ocean of other technological communication gadgets and facilities. I pray that you use that door effectively for the glory of God.

➤ **SOARING HIGHER:**

We are proud of our 2010 graduates in many fields of learning. We pray that you will get employment in areas where you will be able to meet the needs of our people. As a church we would like to see you getting good jobs that will give you good money, good time to worship and uplift your local churches. You must give according to your status, job and or salary. That is biblical. To all those who were promoted to managerial positions, give like a manager. Those who are directors, give like a director. Remember that you are now a different person. Whatever you do, do it professionally and with distinction. Help us to see that you are somebody else. In all those great opportunities don't forget to acknowledge Him who does extraordinary things through ordinary people.

**HERE AND THERE**

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**Year Opener –**

➤ **JANUARY 3 – MBAZWANE REVD EM NXUMALO'S HOME - - KZN**

It became a possibility for me to dash to Mbazwane after church service to see Mrs Nxumalo, the widow, since the funeral of Revd Nxumalo happened during our Annual General Conference. She was appreciative of that gesture to the church and thanked God for the time she had with her husband and in the ministry. She also appreciated the support demonstrated by the brethren during the last days of her husband's stay in hospital. Pray for MaMbatha as she goes through this challenging lane.

➤ **JANUARY 29 – 30 BOARD MEETING – CONCORD – DURBAN - KZN**

The Board met as planned at Concord Christian Guesthouse. It was unfortunate that Revd J Shoba was unable to attend as he had just lost his father. Revd AM Matsenjwa had discovered that his son needed urgent medical attention, hence he could not make it either.

The deliberations and evaluation of the Mthatha conference went well and new initiatives were discussed. Some of the things that have been unveiled during this year were discussed and prayed for during this meeting. We realized that as we lead the church, we all have challenges in our lives. These include single parenthood, widowhood, job seeking, ageing, financial constraints, young adulthood, the Children's ministry and many other needs. We took time to pray for you in your spiritual journey as you serve Him. Yes, we took time to pray for you.

**FEBRUARY 6 – KWAMSHAYA AEC OFFICIAL OPENING – KZN**

The weather was above 35 degrees Celsius but it did not disturb the excitement of dedicating a new worship building at KwaMshaya (place of hope) AEC where Revd & Mrs KP Hlela are presently serving. They had their own drum majorettes, ushers, servers, IT technicians etc and the invited guests were welcomed with a spirit of praise and thanksgiving. During the programme, Revd J Dube who is Revd KP Hlela's predecessor was honoured by this local church for the work which was accomplished during his time.

**FEBRUARY 21 – DEDA AEC LOCAL CHURCH- SWAZILAND**

The landmark of this visit will long be remembered by all the saints who were there. This visit became so difficult for me to relate in words. The inspiration was kindled by the retired Revd & Mrs PM Simelane who lived their calling which resulted in a preaching point being established. This preaching point has in turn graduated to a local church meeting in a farmers' stall hall.

I thought I was the only guest of the day before arriving there, but when I was ushered in, lo and behold my predecessor president Revd Dr CPM Gumede was there. The current deputy president Revd TM Dlamini was also in attendance together with, the Regional Chairman babe Matsenjwa who came with his regional leadership entourage which included the circuit chairman Revd RS Maseko with his circuit leadership, the Swazi Gospel Singers, the Nkiliji choristers, the Member of Parliament and the local chief who was introduced as 'Madlinyoka'. It was a day not to be forgotten.

We were shown the proposed site for the church just across the road where we prayed for the wisdom, the finance, the progress and the vision to be realized on that land within the shortest possible time. We were all overjoyed with the Simelanes to be alive on that day.

**MARCH 27 – LEBOWAKGOMO AEC OFFICIAL OPENING - LIMPOPO – GAUTENG**

The Lord was gracious to Revd K Riba's ministry by helping him and his Limpopo leadership to dedicate their second AEC building in Limpopo on 27 March 2010. They got a donation through SIM Korean Missionary Kyan Hwang Oh of South Korea from an old Korean widow who saw fit to invest in Limpopo in that manner and they were able to build a church building. I was happy to see that the gift could not do everything for them. The onus is on the Lebowakgomo membership to put the ceiling,

the floor tiles and develop the property further. Fencing and planting of trees on the beautiful property should follow. Yes, it is time to give it all for the glory of God.

### **MARCH 28 – TEMBA LOCAL CHURCH – PRETORIA**

The Lord allowed me to visit these lovely people on Sunday morning at Temba, where I met Revd O Rumo and his wife MaHlayisi. The saints were already in the building praising the Lord and we were led to our chairs on the side-front. When I saw Ntate Letoaba and Seleti and Mrs Dammie, Xaba, Masemola, Mokhasipe and others, my spirit was uplifted. I appreciated the discipline that I observed during the service, the happy people, the adults who are fully used in the maturing of the church who are not in our present structures of committees.

The vision of the church could be read, seen and felt when I saw their facilities and how they built them. They planned and then executed or delivered the end result. I noted a unique sitting arrangement that I have never seen anywhere in our churches, that is men sit at the centre and from the front row surrounded by children on their right and women on their left.

Pray for this unique church that they may grow and touch many lives in that area of many people and language groups.

### **APRIL 10 – OFFICIAL OPENING OF ESIKHALENI LOCAL CHURCH – KZN**

This was an extra ordinary event of the official dedication of this place of worship whose foundation was laid on 20 April 1984. The capsule of history revealed that their intension was to have this ceremony during the presidency of Revd LT Magewu but it did not happen. They worked hard during the presidency of my predecessor Revd Dr CPM Gumede but it did not happen. Hence, I call it extra ordinary for the Pastor President to dedicate the building where he pastors. It was due to the protocol that this ceremony became one of the highlights in my ministry.

The local church leadership invited their diasporas, who came from different places. The drizzling rain confirmed the heavenly approval. People were so excited and expecting the unknown. The presence of our senior leadership in the church in KZN, inter alia Revd & Mrs WTA Xaba, the Zondos, Gumedes from Mtuba, the KZN Chairman and his wife – the Dladlas, the Swazi Gospel Singers as guest musicians, the Deputy President Revd T Dlamini and Rev Dr CPM Gumede made one young person whisper, “it is like small heaven – these are really dignitaries”. The young people were like butterflies.

I am thankful to God for the honour that this local church gave me on the day. They knew that I was an invited guest and they treated me as such. They made plans, recommendations, decisions etc with me in the distance and the output was what was also in my heart. It is true that as you work with people, they grow to be likeminded. Praise the Lord for the tangible maturity that was witnessed on the day. Continue to pray for that church as they still have numerous building projects and the extension of the work.

### **➤ MAY 6 - 9 WORKERS' SEMINAR – SKOGHEIM CONFERENCE CENTRE.**

The Lord was gracious this year to the church for allowing 135 pastors and their spouses to put aside these days to be together. When we all arrived, people just warmly connected with one another. Those inter regional connections were amazing

to see, the Nkosibomvu from Zibungu connecting with Dlamini from Swaziland and Rumo connecting with Kunju, Mgevu connecting with Dlodlu and Chonco. There were classic jokes and laughter that we will never forget. Our theme was: *"We are His workmanship ... created in Christ Jesus for good works..."*. (Eph 2:10) The exposition by Revd WTA Xaba and the word of encouragement from Revd K Mavimbela were out of this world.

The Eastern Cape delegation were blessed in a unique way. One family decided to hire a Kombi and paid for the transport. The delegation had to pay only for accommodation and some were sponsored even for this expense. During their stay at Skogheim, they still could not believe it and they did not know who gave such a gift. The gratifying thing was that the sponsor is not even an AEC member. It is thrilling to see how we mature and be challenged in different ways. May the good Lord richly bless the giver and likewise the beneficiaries.

#### **A SOMBRE COMMENT:**

It is very disturbing that other workers could not attend because of other prior ministry assignments. That was not supposed to be so, I think it should be death or ill health that should hinder any leader from attending this only unique fellowship of pastors in a year.

Other leaders did not come because of financial constraints and or difficulty. May I request again as I did last year that the churches learn to do budget for all their activities. Plan and know how much you can give as a local church in a month, three months, half a year and a year. God will surprise you when you learn to manage your finances. One pastor said to me *"Mr President, the brethren surprised me, they gave me money to register with my wife, travel money and above that they said they are blessing us with another R1000."* That is why most of our offering at Skogheim is in R100 denominations and also some pastors change gifts among themselves because at home the church stands fully behind their leader. One pastor's wife visited a particular family in another region and came back refreshed, excited and thankful. Thank you to such maturing act of grace brethren within the church. May our good Lord richly bless you again as you plan to excel in 2011.

May 5 -8 2011 is already booked at Skogheim and the fees will be about **R1595** a couple and **R725** for single persons sharing. May I request the local churches to budget accordingly so as to afford their leaders to attend.

#### **MAY 23 MTUBATUBA – THE F M NOMANDLA RESIDENCE – KZN**

I was fortunate to grace the unique time of celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nomandlas at their home. To note fifty years of two people who came from different backgrounds, genders and families was humbling. We saw the goodness of the Lord in keeping His people and let them walk through their challenging journey gracefully. Pray for our senior citizens in all regions that they may be encouraged to hear good report of the progress of His work. I was reminded of the Psalmist when he says: They will bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him." (Psa 92:14-15).

## **MAY 29 – 30 EAST RAND CIRCUIT VISITS**

This was a long overdue visit to Ekurhuleni. We spent Saturday night at Bronkhorstspuit being catered for by Dr & Mrs Marule who are so active in Verina area. I was humbled to see a medical doctor busy with catering, sound system, coordination and many other things that these gifted friends have for the maturing of the church.

The next day, was a cool wet Sunday and people were happy and full of great anticipation. In a short debriefing, Past P Ziqubu summarized the history of the place which was a health centre run by the Marules and then became an AEC place of worship and the current building is about to be extended.

The service started with joyous jumping and may be disco dancing too and I could see that people enjoyed getting loose before the service emulating a certain leader there. God has given us happy and beautiful people in AEC, the Verina meeting was no exception. I was encouraged to see many middle-aged membership with the majority of ladies and young people like everywhere.

This circuit consists of very spread out-areas criss-crossing with West Rand, Pretoria, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KZN. I felt that the circuit is hungry for outreach and hence there was a tangible influx of new people as well as leadership being added. I was lavished with gifts and also Revd T Makhubo's wife (MaNxumalo) with her group made me wear a "Bafana Bafana" jersey in the service. Some ladies are brave up there to do things like that.

## **JULY 23 – 25 - BOARD & COMMITTEES MEETING CAMP JONATHAN - KZN**

It was an honour again to see all structural committees gather for our yearly planning and networking with one another. It was at this meeting that the programmes of this conference were conceived and deliberated upon and we are thankful to God to see such plans unfold.

These meetings are very important for the fact that our vision should be a united vision which should overflow to the entire leadership of the church. Many of the leaders who come to these meetings normally request a one day's leave since Friday should be a travelling day, with the first meeting at 18h00. May I say thank you to all members of the committees who have been faithfully coming for the last three years. Your contribution and presence have bonded well with all of us. Like the birds called sea gulls let us continue flying together to our destination.

## **JULY 25 - N730 UMLAZI STOP OVER - KZN**

After the Board meeting at Camp Jonathan, I had to be at N730 Umlazi for the dedication of their parsonage service. When I arrived there, I was amazed to see almost all Durban circuit leadership. People were very happy to see their dream of completing the parsonage for the pastor's family come true.

It was an historical event of seeing the dream of our first President Revd EJ Mfeka fulfilled. We were told that the plan was drawn and approved in 1973 – 1974 and after 29 years the vision was acted upon by one family who bought and delivered

blocks for building unknown to the pastor then. On 25 July 2010 when the world cup was over, they scored their goal by dedicating a beautiful residence for the pastor family. The local church worked very hard in seeing that project come into completion.

It was a joyous day of celebration with a full programme for the day. They couldn't shorten the programme because it spanned thirty-seven years of sharing a desired goal. We all learn from such period. It nearly took them forty years. Many people who were there in 1973 have gone to be with the Lord but the vision has been carried by another generation. We praise the Lord for such consistency of purpose. Pray for them as they take another step towards building a new church building which they desperately need because of growing numbers.

Thank you for your generosity, joy, commitment, and for your slogan: Unity, Love, Peace and Hope.

### **OCTOBER 24 – THENGANI LOCAL CHURCH – KZN**

Thengani has been in my heart for many years. I would have liked to see the place and visit Revd JH Gumede even before he lost his wife but many things clouded my way until 24 October became a reality. Even though I was told that they start their Sunday services at 09h00, it was however delayed until after 10h00. When I inquired about the delay, the explanation was that it was done purposely because I was there. Strange!

It was there where I met the grandmothers who have their own allocated place in the church, the children, youth, women and men who were just rejoicing in the Lord. The fellowship was warm and you could feel the pulse of a happy local church. To the pastor's surprise other preaching points came without an invitation. There were those who came from Manguzi, Malangabi and Gazini preaching points.

I appreciated seeing a Church property which is really kept in good condition. They also have trees planted appropriately with beautiful shade for the brethren to rest and share their lives with one another. I noticed that people with cars destroy that fellowship before or after services because they park their cars there and as a result the whole plan is disturbed. May I encourage those who have yards to plant trees in such a way that we can enjoy fellowship in small groups under those trees and not park our cars there. (I know this does not sink well to car owners – but really cars don't need fellowship). Bravo Thengani as you man our Northern border to Mozambique. You will be our gateway to Mozambique when the time comes.

Thank you for your love, respect, honour, generosity, commitment and faith that I saw. To the well managed committees that were presented, continue doing the great job with dignity.

### **REVISITING OUR STRUCTURES**

I feel there is a need to be creative in our different structures if we want to grow and mature. Our young people grouping should be redefined. Who is a young person? The board is seeing the need for better grouping of this vast untapped resource of people. Some people define young people by age, others by maturity. Some by

constitution, others by status. Some by education, others by their own family upbringing. As a church, time has come that we have to define this group according to our calling or need. I feel that we need to have a strong young adult group as our resource for leadership, gifts, skills, financial support, visionaries, creative minds, mentoring etc. Same thing applies to Men and Women. Let us start other groupings for the sake of meeting the needs of our growing church populace. We are getting a number of people who are not in the leadership but who could be utilized in many other areas of the church. Our young professionals also whose skills could be used for the glory of God in many areas of our communities. The starting point should be at our local church level. We should have an inventory of our capacity. That will help us to be a dynamic and unique church *'whose body life is experienced by all members'* as our vision statement states.

Let us go back and consider ways that the Lord will reveal to us to do more than what we are doing in all areas of our activities. Everyone should know how to scatter the WORD effectively. Allow me to shout: Be **Visible!** Be **Available!** Be **Resourceful!** Be **Creative!** Be **involved!**

### **MODERN SIGNAGE AND DIRECTIONS**

When going around our churches, I have observed that we don't have good inviting church directions. It could be the name of the church written in bold letters or in short good signage. Let it be the project of every local church to have a good sign outside, on the crossroads etc so that people will know who we are. Even in townships, let us have these big well written signs approved by municipalities. It will also help the navigation companies to have our name in their system. You will be amazed about the change that will be brought by a sign. The signs I am talking about are signs that you have to pay good money to have them made. Not a piece of timber and black paint written with a piece of wood or something. Please dear saints let us be visible.

As we are meeting here at Swaziland National High School, we are at **S26 29' 04.1" E31 18' 46.5"** on our globe. Nobody else occupies that space in the whole world but us. Check modern addresses of businesses, they have started giving people not street addresses but coordinates. These numbers don't need the street name, city or even country. But we deal with **Equator** and **Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)** In geometry, a **coordinate system** is a system which uses a set of numbers, or coordinates, to uniquely determine the position of a point or other geometric element. *Enough for that free education!*

### **AEC GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR 2012**

What is a Golden Jubilee Year? It is a 50th anniversary year since AEC was born. The Africa Evangelical Church was born in 1962 at Estcourt or Ntabamhlophe and given the autonomy from the South Africa General Mission. We look forward to 2012 as the AEC year of Jubilee. To us it will mean that we will be looking back with thankful hearts for the past 50 years of God's faithfulness to His church.

It would be advisable to start planning in 2011. May I request all Regional leadership to think of creative things that as a church we could do to celebrate in 2012. We would like to have AEC Golden Jubilee memorabilia, souvenir, memento or keepsake (*is an object a traveller brings home for the memories associated with it*). Souvenirs may include clothing such as T-shirts or hats, postcards, refrigerator magnets,

miniature figures, household items such as mugs and bowls, plates, egg timers, spoons, notepads, and paintings plus many. What about our musicians coming up with a song of Jubilee that we could all sing as one church choir. May I challenge your minds, your prayer inspiration, your creativity and bring to being what has never been thought of. **AEC 2012 Golden Jubilee Year.** We talked about a book about AEC, this is the year to launch one for the glory of God. Perhaps we should send a team to those countries that brought the gospel to us to say to them “*We’ve come to say thank you for bringing Jesus in Africa!*” Let us take the idea, go home unpack it in our local situation and share with the leadership. Once the board has finalized few things, we will give you one address to send such ideas of inspiration.

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## REGIONAL CONFERENCES

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### **1. KWAZULU-NATAL – 19 JUNE 2010**

This Region had their conference at Shayina High School close to Mozambique during the early stages of the Soccer World Cup 16 – 20 June, but that did not hinder their coming in great numbers. The Regional Chair reported a better attendance than the previous year. People were happy as always and others experienced their first walking in a very sandy area and the ladies with high heeled shoes learnt a new art of walking in that area. Dust and sand competed with polished shoes.

The conference dealt with issues that are threatening the church. Revd Mchunu touched on many things that are a threat e.g., divorce, lack of communication, technology etc. There was evidence of spiritual growth in the lives of many people who were there and happy young people who graced the conference.

I was so appreciative to see most of the pastors who attended this conference in their jovial mood with their leadership from their circuits. I am so grateful for the support and welcome I always receive in these regional conferences.

### **2. EASTERN CAPE – 26-27 JUNE 2010**

The Eastern Cape Region also met during the Soccer World Cup competition and that did not deter members from attending their regional conference held at Mthatha. I only joined them on Saturday as they were closing on Sunday morning.

As usual, whenever I go to Eastern Cape there are surprises. This year the young people were creative enough to think of June as youth month and at the same time think of the Father’s Day which was held on Sunday before. They requested a slot on Saturday morning for a special item in appreciation of the fathers. I was really impressed for their thoughtfulness. They sang, gave tokens of their love and commitment to fathers present. I just wondered where did they get the money to do that. To cap it all, they gave a big cake to them written: “Happy Father’s Day! We love you”. Indeed, love was so visible. I have a trio serving team there tagged: NSL.

Their speaker was Revd TM Dlamini (Deputy President) who gave a passionate teaching on sharing the gospel wherever we are, whomsoever we are, to whosoever the Holy Spirit leads as witnessed in the Book of Acts.

My coming at the end of the conference has some disadvantages as quite a number of people leave on Friday night to attend different funerals on the following day.

I am grateful to the leadership of this region for their love, courtesy, respect, honour that they always express. Revd Kunju, the outgoing chairman, has always produced good regional reports in writing. He always gave me a copy during the conference which helps me get the picture of the region as I share with prayer partners from time to time. May I say we praise God for the Kunjus. They came during difficult times, they led the region with dignity, wisdom, balance and order. As they assume the position of mentorship and referee, pray for the new leadership to lead the precious possession of God with wisdom of God, dignity, love and respect.

### **3. GAUTENG – SATURDAY – 31 JULY 2010**

It appears that most Saturdays are loaded with funerals. This was no exception for the Gauteng Region. When I visited them some of the West Rand brethren had to attend a funeral. They came late in the afternoon to the conference and most of them I did miss as I was there during the morning part up to lunch time. Their theme was carrying over of our year's verse and helping the church to answer the question "Will you go?". Past D Mbatha approached Jonah's story tactfully as he wanted to drive home the going part.

I was impressed to see a number of young people involved in handling registration, giving direction, serving and coordinating most of the logistics of the conference. Thanks to Maud, Bonolo, Fezile, Nozipho, Steven, Gontse, Menzi, Nhlanhla. May you continue experiencing the joy of serving others because of the great Master. The youth attendance was gratifying for the first time to me when I compare to previous visits. Let us have the skill of encouraging those people from our local churches who don't like to go to the conferences or meetings. We grow through interaction, we become experts in our fields after practice and engaging. Your coming to this conference adds something to your life which you might not see at the present moment but after some time you will be amazed with the resources that you will have as you scatter the seed.

Pray for this region which is in the most populous province of South Africa hosting more than 20% of the country's population and considered the economic hub of South Africa as such the challenge that is upon us is that our church should reflect these dynamics.

### **4. SWAZILAND – 28 - 29 AUGUST 2010**

The Lord has put us in different regions and each region has its own dynamics that one cannot explain. Swaziland packed Mbuluzi Mission once again for a week and I only joined them during the last two days. I was encouraged once again to see many children and young people attending the conference. The spirit was high and the brethren were full of great anticipation.

Their conference coincided with other important events in Swaziland i.e. the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) conference as well as the reed dance. Some of our people, due to their unique responsibilities, had to attend these festivities and assignments. I was privileged to spend time with our former AEC President Revd Dr CPM Gumede during different breaks and we also visited few AEC sites unannounced. These were Ezulwini, Hopehill, Mnyokane and

Nkaba AEC churches. I wanted to see their location, condition, distance and hidden vision of each mission station. Our Deputy President took us to the last two venues. At Mnyokane, to our surprise, we found that Pastor SR Mkhonta had dashed ahead of us with his wife LaDlamini. Upon our arrival, they were already waiting for us, having opened the property for us to view. It was challenging for me to see a well-kept church building and we could feel the future as we prayed for the members in the building.

I also witnessed the coming in of the new Regional Leadership with most of the people who were in the previous committee taking portfolios in the 2010 – 2013 term. I wish them good leadership, health and wisdom as they guide, educate, nurture and protect the flock. When you look at the pastoral personnel in Swaziland you can easily come to a conclusion that they have more than they need but there are areas where they long to have pastors. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send the workers to sow the seed of the word in those areas.

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### **OUR HORIZONTAL INVOLVEMENT**

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#### **UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE – [www.ubi-edu.co.za](http://www.ubi-edu.co.za)**

You may visit the UBI site on their web page. We are grateful to God for Dr G Mnisi's leadership and the contribution from different lecturers and students who have made it possible for this memorable year as they close another decade with success and joy. UBI is now fully accredited for both certificate and diploma courses in Theology by CHE & DHET and for all wanting to do B.Th., B.Th. Honours in 2011 or Masters please enquire following the web address.

Continue to stand with your students who are studying at UBI. Your commitment is to pray and promptly support them financially. Pay their fees in advance. Don't frustrate your students by delaying your payments. This is not only my plea but also that of the UBI, I am sure it is your Christian duty as well. We appreciate the few who choose to move alongside the students by prayer, giving airtime for their phones, sending them words of encouragement. Please let me know if you would like to be involved.

I was grateful to hear that some of our ladies attended a 'Standing Together: day of encouragement and refreshment' seminar for pastors' wives at UBI on 24 September 2010. The few that I interacted with said they benefitted a lot and had an opportunity to mix, learn, fellowship and engage with other women who are together with their husbands in the ministry.

Nicholas Jiyane, from Daveyton, was our only AEC student graduating this year. I must share with you that it was not easy financially for this young man to pull through, though he was SRC President during his senior year. It was encouraging to see the East Rand brethren coming on the graduation day. He was honoured with an award for maintaining highest marks and Christ like character during his stay there. We join all those close to Nicholas and say "Well done!"

#### **BIBLE SOCIETY – [www.biblesociety.co.za](http://www.biblesociety.co.za)**

I would like to applaud those regions who gave generously during this financial year so that Bible Society could carry on with their mission of providing affordable Bibles for everyone in their own language. May I announce that you can freely download a Bible translation of your choice from Bible society on your cell phone on

[m.bibles.co.za](http://m.bibles.co.za). In this way you take your Bible with you anywhere, anytime you can have your Bible. This is not to say we should not carry our Bibles to services. There are many benefits in a printed version or product. You can underline, compare, memorize or visualize the sections, cross reference etc. Our Bibles should be full of notes, lines, bookmarks, colours etc after a year.

### **HIV & AIDS –**

This has been a very busy year for this ministry with the new Today for Tomorrow Programme (T4T) which saw many people being trained in all our four regions. We are so grateful to Mrs ET Mndzebele for her commitment drive and passion for the programme. Her involvement with the support of the SIM contact person, Daniela van den Berg, has been outstanding. They have gone beyond limits raising money, initiating programmes and developing materials. Through their engagement, we have touched many people in various families, structures of other organisations and churches who have and will continue benefiting from these programmes. We pray that God raise people who will internalize this passion and unleash it for the benefit of the needy. Many people have taken part in training, translating the materials and interacting etc to put us where we are today.

### **What's happening elsewhere in South Africa and Swaziland?**

- \* Local church members, including AEC, continue using the materials for their outreach programmes, Bible Clubs and/or Sunday Schools. We thank God for everyone's commitment to the children.
- \* T Lepere from Positive Ray Reef is using the materials for her work in four local schools and will introduce it to her church after the Mbuluzi workshop.
- \* Zionist youth are being reached in Swaziland through an AEC member.
- \* AEC Mtubatuba had a workshop for approx. 20 trainees.
- \* The Eastern Cape & Gauteng Regions had their successful workshops.
- \* SIM projects e.g. Lulisandla Kumntwana and Mseleni Children's Home report successes from using the materials in their work with the children through After School Clubs, Bible studies and workshops.

### **◆ CONFERENCE CENTRE**

At the time of writing this report, I was still waiting for the reports from the regions on their studies they were supposed to do and report back to the Board.

The only encouragement I can say here is that the vision will ever be alive, therefore the best thing we can do is to be committed to it. It is strange that whenever we talk about this project we tend to forget about the cost. The land will always be available if we have money.

There is a suggestion that it could be wise to have two conference centres. One is Swaziland and another in South Africa. Though this sounds ideal but we must note that we are multiplying the cost by two. If we were financially committed to the vision, we could be having something in hand by now.

### **◆ 2010 ELECTION YEAR**

Thank you for your prayers and the leading of the Holy Spirit during election time in all structures as expected at the end of June 2010 from the local church structures (committees, Sunday school, youth, ladies and men inclusive) to circuit committees

and regional leadership. Our financial year ends at the end of June. I hope that we are getting used to our financial year July 1 to June 30. I hope that all treasurers understand this.

The present denominational leadership will change at the end of this AGCC of 2010 and those who were elected during all our Regional Conferences will be phased in and the handover will follow thereafter. May I salute all the outgoing members within all leadership structures, job well done. May I note two couples who have been pillars in their regions and the church at large who are among the outgoing members viz Revd & Mrs MS Kunju (Eastern Cape) and Revd and Mrs AS Matsenjwa (Swaziland). May I remind you that the Lord was good to you in difficult times, look back with thankful hearts and be resourceful when needed. You are blessed couples given to the church. We thank God for you and love you.

◆ **CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY - OCTOBER 10 2010**

May I say thank you to all brethren who remembered this day and for me, I planned to run away and be absent but the Lord just fenced me in to see and hear the growth and stability of the Saints. Many sent SMS, phone calls and emails. Again, thank you, and may the Lord bless us as we grow.

My brief survey showed me that a number of churches did the extra ordinary for their pastor family during 2010 October 10, Clergy Appreciation day. May all the accolades go to the praise of the Head of the Church Jesus Christ. I thank God for you, your love and understanding, the demonstration of maturity that you showed in your local churches. Some churches feel that they are under pressure to do something that is beyond their reach Take note that this is not pushing for churches to give gifts or money to your pastor family. It is simple a gesture of appreciation. It could be a word of encouragement, a specific prayer of thanksgiving, or a thankful SMS from the heart that reflects love. It could be an early phone call of good wishes etc.

I am reminded of a good wish from my loving daughter from one region who promised me a Private Jet Aircraft! Awu! With what resources can I maintain a Jet? A four wheeled car is a challenge itself and now thinking of wings a nose and a cockpit? That's not for me. I received a strange phone call in the afternoon from a Baptist Pastor in Soweto who visited an AEC branch on the day. He was very impressed with what he saw and heard. He requested my number from the pastor there and commended the AEC for the act of appreciation to their pastors. Remember the adage that Rev K Butcher gave us: "When all the accolades and praises come to you, treat them like perfume, SMELL IT DON'T SWALLOW IT."

Let us continue on our learning curve dear beloved, 9 **October 2011** will be our next **Clergy Appreciation Day**.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THESE NOTABLE DAYS OF APPRECIATION DURING 2011:**

<b>MOTHER'S DAY:</b>	08 May 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
<b>FATHER'S DAY:</b>	19 June 2011	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
<b>GRANDPARENTS DAY:</b>	11 September 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
<b>CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY:</b>	09 October 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday

Finally, *brethren, duty still calls for humility, obedience, trust and focus.* Let us enjoy that little push, that extra stretch and that full step of faith. We are called to do greater things than we ever can think. Truly there are no limits to the possibilities of a life wholly yielded to God. Let us go and share the good news in 2011.

The Master said "*The farmer sows the word.*" (Mark 4:14 NIV) many years ago. Our task is to scatter the seed of the word.

We may not all physically be able to go out and scatter, but we can scatter the word through prayer, you may scatter the word with your finances, you may encourage someone to go and scatter. It might not be where you happen to be, but where they are.

May I wish you a meaningful Christmas and a Happy New Year in all that you do in your journey with the Lord! Let us take care of ourselves, mind our children in this age of human trafficking, keep the basic rules of hygiene to escape many viruses, wash our hands, drink clean water, eat healthy food. Share our good discoveries with others. *Uyifihlelani into enhle!*

As we close this memorable year and decade, may I say it is my honour and rare opportunity to officially announce and launch the Africa Evangelical Church in the World Wide Web through our door called: [www.africec.org](http://www.africec.org). Happy surfing!

I thank God for the opportunity to be a scatterer of the word and for your support!

Humbly presented by



**Reed P Mntambo**, PRESIDENT  
AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
19 DECEMBER 2010

### **Prayer Pointers for the Year 2011:**

1. The Board and the entire leadership as they execute policies in different levels for the glory of God.
2. Being sensitive and obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
3. Elections of the Board members in all regions.
4. Our consistency in doing the work God has given us.
5. Faithfulness of all sowers in properly exegeting the Word.
6. Good health, safety, fulfilment and joy in our communities and families.
7. Tangible brotherly love that will draw men to Jesus.
8. Biblical and cheerful giving within our denomination.
9. Development of our web site.

10. Important Dates to note:

- ✓ 28 - 30 January 2011 [Board Meeting]
- ✓ 5 - 8 May [Workers' Seminar]
- ✓ 8 May [Mother's Day]
- ✓ 19 June [Father's Day]
- ✓ June- July [RCCs]
- ✓ 22 – 24 July Denominational Committees Mtng
- ✓ 22 - 28 August [Swaziland RCC]
- ✓ 11 September 2011 [Grandparents Day]
- ✓ 09 October 2011 [Clergy Appreciation Day]
- ✓ 16 - 20 December 2011 [AGCC] KZN hosting

**Africa Evangelical Church  
Annual General Church Conference  
2010 – Matsapha – Swaziland  
Response to President's report**

Honourable President, former President, Board members, Pastors, their wives and the Congregation, I greet you all in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am very much humbled to be asked to give reply on behalf of AEC.

I would like to congratulate the President for his inspiring and well-presented report, not forgetting to thank Esikhawini local church for their support and encouragement given to our President. We appreciate that you have been a **VISIBLE** President to us, you attended all our Regional Conferences and visited most of local churches. Your encouragement and observation are acknowledged.

Amongst the many things and important issues, the President spoke about, I would like to briefly touch on a few:

**STRENGTHS**

The president spoke at length about many successes of the AEC as an institution and individuals within the church. For example, the President spoke about few branches that were launched, Pastors who assisted during difficult times, church members who facilitated certain events and performed above their expected levels.

The great strides being made by UBI, now that it is fully accredited by CHE and the Dept of Higher Education and Training, as AEC members we have no reason not to study theology further. Being associated with UBI should make us highly appreciated and recognized.

Members who committed themselves in driving Today for tomorrow (T4T) programme, their involvement in HIV & AIDS is highly appreciated. We encourage local churches to take part on these programmes.

### **SETBACKS**

As always, the case in life, God created four seasons in a year. We as a church also had a season for sorrow, thank you Mr. President for being with our members when they lost their loved ones and when the church lost their leaders. The AEC family was bereaved by these losses, and our President was there during those moments.

### **CHALLENGES**

The President touched on the challenges faced by the church,

- The need to support our students who are studying at UBI, to support them financially and through prayer.
- The importance of supporting our leaders financially when they attend worker's Seminars.
- The need for the Regions to meet deadlines, as the Regions failed to submit studies conducted by branches regarding Conference Centre and some regions neglected to submit their statistics in time.
- Above all, the main challenge the president thrown to the church is that of accountability, the President challenged the church to be responsive to their communities and accountable to their actions.

### **THE CLARION CALL**

- The President has sounded a clarion call for all members to get up and spread the word of God by sowing it and scattering it.
- To start now to plan and budget properly for our activities. (Days of appreciation for 2011 has been noted)
- To revisit our structures, more especially the grouping of young people according to their calling or need.
- To make our churches visible by erecting professional signage.
- To start now to prepare for our Jubilee 2012, fifty years is a milestone.

### **MOVING WITH TIMES**

Designing of the WEB is a cherry on top, we thank the President and the Board for putting us on the Map. Who could have thought that AEC will be on World Wide Web? It is much appreciated to have leaders who can think out of the box. Bazalwane let us go Surfing. [www.africec.org](http://www.africec.org)

### **CONCLUSION**

I would like to put a challenge to all AEC local churches, to look at provision of Retirement annuity or packages for their Pastors, it is very sad to see a Pastor after serving for so many years at the church to retire with nothing at all. Medical aid can be a bonus if the church can afford. We can do this ma AEC amahle.

Bazalwane we survived recession, we thank God because it could have been worse, we survived negative remarks about 2010 world cup and it became a huge success. 2010 world cup united the nation and if church leaders can promote the spirit of forgiveness and respect in our churches, then even the negative people at the church

will feel embarrassed by their behaviour and beliefs and start to perceive and understand values of being a true Christian.

Let us continue loving, understanding and respecting one another and most of all to SCATTER the word.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership, guidance and spiritual fatherhood. We thank God for giving you to us.

May God Bless you.

**Ms Mpume Mkhize**

AEC Umlazi N730 – KZN

19 December 2010