

**AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

Annual General Conference 2011



*- Presidential Report -*

*'thus far with  
God!'*

**YEAR 2012 - VERSE:**

"The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy."  
Psalm 126:3 (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. Ukuhlela 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. Ukuhlela 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. Kuhlela 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. Kufundzisana ngesifundvo sekuvangela kanye nekuenta baholi kuwo onkhe emalunga etfu nekutsi lilunga ngalinye linikwe litfuba lekuenta lomunye abe ngumlandzeli noma umfundzi. (2 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 –**

On behalf of the entire clergy, may I say to this AEC membership:

*“Thank you for your love, commitment, support, generosity, hospitality, catering in your homes, regional conferences and other meetings. You demonstrated your culture of giving and caring. I salute you and praise God for you.”*

2011 has been exceptional in many ways as the Lord gave me opportunity to rub shoulders with the elderly and the young, the maturing and the frail, the poor and the middle class, the joyful and the grieving, the confused and the directed, the far and the near, those within our borders and the distant contacts. All our four regional leadership were just superb in their skills. My editorial team and many prayer partners, may I say **thank you!**

Mr LT Ndlovu again and his family supported me in some of the errands and emergencies. We still argued over who should pay for bills for refreshment or fuel. Onetime we had a long debate as to whose car was supposed to be on the road to a certain destination as I wanted my car to serve us and he wanted his to be on the road. He won because I had to compromise as I looked at 48 hours ahead of us together.

I am also grateful to Esikhaleni AEC for their support and encouragement. The women, youth, children and men that the Lord has given us have become a unique family indeed. They were willing to step in for the sake of AEC as whole in different ways so as to keep our image palatable to the outsiders. Different people have offered their support and availability in time of need. Some have come with suggestions and some came with questions that compelled me to act. I am thankful to God for their warm hearts that is evidenced in their generosity in different situations. May our gracious Lord richly bless you all as we together shout:

*“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”* Psalm 126:3 (ESV).

## **THE 2010 CONFERENCE -**

Let us rewind our memories to the goodness of our God to His precious possession, the Church, during the 2010 Matsapha, Swaziland conference. Let us visit the huge colourful tent, our sliding and skiing as we went to the tent because mud and rain. Let us recall some of the things that happened there as we engaged on the words from our Master: “The sower sows the word.” Let us visualize Revd WTA Xaba as he lifted the book and reminded us to spread the word. Let us hear Pastor N Phiri as he explained the kind of the world we live in and the kind of people we should be. Let us listen to evening address as Rev KP Hlela shared the care of the Master! Indeed, we must say *‘the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!’*

Thank you, Swaziland region, we invaded you and you did your best in difficult conditions.

## **UPDATE**

### **✦ GRIEVED BUT NOT CRUSHED –**

2011 has gone to history with many of our beloved being called home before the greatest gathering of all the nations. We are indeed left with bruises, scars and life marks after His mighty visitation in our lives.

**Pastor SE Ntuli** of Chesterville was called home when we closed the conference on 20 December 2010 and his funeral took place on 24 December 2010 in Durban. Many people graced that service with thanksgiving and at the same time with sadness. It became clear that there were discussions going on in acquiring the church site, which the township leadership encouraged the church to pursue until it happens to be realised even though Ntuli has gone.

On 9 January 2011 we were greeted by sad news that **inkosi Nyangayezizwe Justice Nxumalo** of Mabasa near Mseleni was called home. Inkosi had just re-joined the church hardly two years prior to his upward call. The funeral was the largest I have ever attended and we were given a rare privilege by the family to draw the programme and also to preach in a gathering where a number of political leaders were present including Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi and others. Revd SE Dlamini, who was Inkosi Nxumalo's pastor informed the audience about the good times they had at the church with Inkosi and how he was committed to see the church membership grow. As AEC we are grateful to God who brings to His church a number of royalties to rub shoulders with us. Let us fully use those opportunities when they avail themselves.

**Revd MP Dladla** lost both his mother and father in 2011. Their funerals were held respectively on the 14 May 2011 at Dududu and four months later he lost his father who was buried at the same place on 8 October 2011. With so much fresh gaping wounds let us embrace such families with constant reminders that it will not be long, the God of all comfort has not changed.

**Revd Oom Piet Rumo** went to be with the Lord on 23 June after being in and out of hospital a number of times. Our hearts go to the family, friends, and the church as a whole. Pray for the young Rumo to continue with the baton in that family. On the same day the news came that Mrs Rose Majozi also went to be with the Lord and we always wonder how the Lord gives us strength to walk through these threatening corridors of sorrow from time to time. Revd Rumo's funeral took place on Saturday, June 2 and we are thankful to God for the support we saw from the church and friends on the day.

**Mrs Mamiki Mokoena** (the wife of Revd SE Mokoena) passed on to glory and Wattville celebrated her life and involvement in lives both young and old on 6 August 2011. We thank God for all those who stood next to the bereaved during those painful moments. It was heart warming to listen to different people speak about her involvement in the lives of many people. Pray for Revd Mokoena as he walks this lonely route as well as the church in this great loss.

On 12 August 2011 **Mrs MB Mntambo**, my mother, was called home and her funeral took place on 20 August. We don't have words to thank you all for standing with us in an exceptional way. The attendance of more than 50 clergy was very humbling to us and a big testimony to all of us. People came from Cape Town, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Swaziland and all over KwaZulu-Natal. Revd AM Zondo shared a comforting message and many people were touched and gave

their lives to Christ. Revd CPM Gumede stayed behind for the following day service with the Mtetwas and more people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. We truly praised the Lord even in the death of our loved one.

On 20 September 2011 was a challenging day in my life. In the morning it was reported that the long-retired Evangelist **J Makhanya** at Mseleni after struggling with severe cancer went to be with the Lord. Before sunset it was reported to me that one of our lady single-parent of two children, from our Esikhaleni local church went to be with the Lord after a prolonged stroke. After visiting the family and preplans for the funeral were discussed, before retiring, the further sad news came that **Mrs. SJ Dladla** the mother to Revd MX Dladla, our KZN regional chairperson also had gone to be with the Lord.

The week was hectic and I felt heavy at heart. I could not attend Makhanya's funeral which was held on Saturday 24 September as I had another funeral at our local church. Many pastors paid tribute by gracing Makhanya's funeral at Mseleni and the Deputy President Revd TM Dlamini preached accompanied by the former President Revd CPM Gumede from Swaziland.

On Sunday 25 September I had to attend **Mrs. SJ Dladla's** funeral at Umzumbé. This funeral was also graced by many church leaders, politicians, the local inkosi, community leaders and many other people. It was noted with thanksgiving to God that this humble woman built the church building as a gift to the church using money that she was given by her children from time to time, and that work was started by Revd AM Ncwane way back. The Dladlas committed themselves to follow their mother's trail of faith in trusting God for the future.

#### ✦ **ARRIVALS:**

As 2011 AGC we welcome all the babies who have been born this year, we embrace all the brides of the year, we compliment different people who have joined our local churches and some who were baptized during this year. We also rejoice with the heavens as we welcome those who have been born again during 2011. Let us remember these Four Components of the Pre-service actions that Nelson Searcy & Jennifer Henson (2007) in their book - *Fusion* recommend that our guests should be:

1. *Greeted:* Welcomed with a smile
2. *Directed:* Simply and politely shown to where they need to go
3. *Treated:* Shown respect and happily surprised with comfort food/drink
4. *Seated:* Led to comfortable, appropriate seats

It is our year of joy and thanksgiving. Let us share that warmth in all we do.

#### ✦ **SOARING HIGHER:**

During this year and in this conference, we thank the Lord for allowing some of our members to be promoted to senior positions in the places of their employment. Some of our members do belong to different executive committees, boards, councils, fraternals and other decision-making forums. While we thank God for those opportunities, we are aware of great responsibilities on them. Hence as a church, let it be far from us that we forget to pray for these key people.

Some of our members have graduated from a variety of fields of learning during the year, and also some of our young people have finished High School education

and the future is challenging for further learning and others for employment. Let us continue to pray for these new developments in the lives of our membership.

## HERE AND THERE

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### **FEBRUARY 11 - 13 BOARD MEETING – CONCORD – DURBAN - KZN**

We were grateful to attend this first meeting and during this time the Women's Committee also met for hand over to the new leaders who were elected in Swaziland. This meeting is mainly for planning and evaluation and probing into some matters that need follow-up and action. I would like to thank the Board members who came with fresh ideas and a heart to pray for the church as we pledged in Swaziland to sow the seed of the word to the nations.

### **FEBRUARY 13 – KWAMASHU AEC – KZN**

Due to the fact that the Board meeting met in Durban, it became easy for me to visit my home church at C1520 KwaMashu on Sunday morning. It was a great home coming for me. The regional Chairperson, Revd MX Dladla accompanied me and when we arrived, we felt the vibrancy of the fellowship, it could be felt while we parked our vehicles outside. We were detained for a while at the pastor's manse and then eventually we were taken to the church.

To my amazement more than ninety percent of people who were there were new to me, and I just wondered where have I been all these years for that generation of people who have been assimilated to that church? My pastor Revd Zondo was very happy and excited to welcome us. I was impressed to see new things that were not there when I was there, inter alia, the ceiling, the new annexure building, the play station for the children, the automated gate, the sound system etc. Truly I went home with a very warm and proud heart from the church where I grew up in my early days. It had many happy people that naturally you have to love and appreciate. KwaMashu brethren, you are just great and unique in your initiatives within the larger body of Africa Evangelical Church.

### **MARCH 4-5; JUNE 3-4 & 4-5 Nov – SIM COUNCIL MEETING – TOKAI CAPE TOWN**

With the talks still going on between AEC & SIM Southern Africa I managed to attend all three council meetings and to get the feel and heart beat of our founders who dedicated their life to winning the lost. One hymn writer puts it beautifully when he penned:

*Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan  
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man  
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span  
At Calvary!*

Attending these meetings has refreshed my zeal for Missions. I am grateful to God for the people he has called at this time to be Council members of SIM Southern Africa. Continue to pray for the Director Revd SJ Ngubane as he faces many new challenges as he engages with many people from different ethnic background who would like to be found in God's will. Let us remember that we are more than 7 billion people on earth. The needs are complex.

### **March 6 – Khayelitsha AEC branch – Cape Town**

It became a bonus for me to find my plane leaving later from Cape Town after the SIM-SA Council meeting, the Lord gave me opportunity to visit this new work in Khayelitsha. It all started in Swaziland when Revd AS Matsenjwa welcomed the conference and before he sat down, he tossed an inflated plastic world globe to the audience and instructed whosoever came in contact to pass it on and the sower's responsibility was emphasized that a young man Fikile Sigele from Lusikisiki felt the unction when he came back to Cape Town to be a faithful sower. The visit of the SIM-SA personnel in Swaziland also linked up beautifully with Cape Town as Fikile visited the SIM Director, Revd S Ngubane and the relationships were built.

Revd S Ngubane, SIM-SA director took me there and we saw the beginning of this work and the excitement that was there. Strange to us, the programme of the day appeared as if it was in a conference. The welcome from the few committed people was warm, and their hearts were so open. Our prayer is that this embryo that we witnessed should grow to be a large ministry as we owe Western Cape our appreciation for allowing the early missionaries to touch our Southern African tip which sparked the advancement of the gospel northwards. Let us invest our resources to this area that we have neglected for many years. If we had willing people we could plant numerous churches there within a short time through personal evangelism. People are thirsty and hungry for the Word of God that changes life. Yes, we are filled with joy!

### **JUNE 26 – ENDLONDLWENI AEC – KZN**

This church is under Mseleni circuit and towards Manguzi with Revd & Mrs LB Khumalo pastoring that group. Before entering the premises, my eyes were drawn to the capturing AEC sign at the gate and I said to myself "Yes Yes Yes!" We had few moments with the family and then we were escorted to the church building. When we entered, I was amazed to see drapery and all single chairs covered and bowed as if it was a wedding function. The programme was really fast paced and you could see life and joy from people who participated in the service. I was shown documents of church records that date back to the SAGM era.

After service we all greeted one another and then people had meals in groups under the trees, in the house and church building. People had time to fellowship. I was grateful to God for allowing me to see that old and still vibrant work under Mseleni Circuit.

### **JULY 24 – DURBAN CENTRAL BRANCH AEC – KZN**

Since the Board met in Durban until Sunday morning it was fitting for me to visit this dynamic down town branch of AEC and saw the beautiful facilities they are renting which are air conditioned and meeting upstairs. Revd MX Dladla who pastor's this church was so excited as well as all who were there, and there were more than 10 visitors on the day and most of them came from the educational institutions in the area. Indeed, let us saw the word.

This visualized the resurrecting of the Gillespie Street SAGM which became a Greek restaurant when the church moved in 1925 to 26 Somtseu Road SAGM property, which was down town until the its closure in November 1962 when

apartheid laws moved all the so called “non-whites” facilities (schools, hostels & soccer fields) from town to either KwaMashu or Umlazi townships. I really congratulate the Durban Circuit for pursuing this vision. Let us pray for this local church to continue to attract young and old and also other racial grouping to worship there. The facility they use is becoming small for the group and I don't know whether they will opt for two services or move to other facility in the near future. Thank you AEC Durban Central for your creativity I witnessed on the day.

#### **AUGUST 28 – MSELENI AEC – KZN**

It was another honour for me to visit Mseleni local church which is under the pastoral care of Rev MJ Tembe. It was encouraging and challenging to me to see many new faces, young and matured in the service. The invasion by men was heart warming and it was also encouraging to see those who came from four preaching points being part of one assembly.

My mind went back when I attended school there and also when I was involved in many youth meetings and camps. The faces of missionaries who contributed in my upbringing like the Stevens, the Morgans, the Browns, the du Plessis, Dr & Mrs Mann, Dr Talmage Wilson. The pastoral leadership of yester years haunted me when I thought of the Mbonambis, the Tembés and other circuit leaders who left their footprints in that community. How thankful should we be as we enjoy the fruits of their labours and prayers?

The building that used to be big is now a challenge to the local church. The entire landscape is a challenge when future growth and development could be taken into consideration.

I was privileged to meet Rev. EME Mbonambi's daughters in law who came to me like twins as well as Rev. EST Mbonambi's family. Praise God for many lay people who are involved in the leadership of that church as well as the circuit.

#### **OCTOBER 16 – JEPPEES REEF AEC – MPUMALANGA**

Where is this church? It is close to Matsamo Swaziland Northern border to South Africa. The Swazi language dominates the community since they are close to Swaziland. I am grateful to God that He allowed me to go there on a busy weekend. I did not want to involve Swaziland region en route to Jeppes Reef but protocol needed to be kept. I did inform the leadership of the region since I was going to sleep in Swaziland overnight. To my greatest surprise when I called within three kilometres away, the Deputy President Revd TM Dlamini was already there unknown to me and he came to meet us and he led us to the place. When we arrived Pastor MP Ziqubu and Revd ES Mokoena from East Rand were waiting for us as this work is under their leadership.

I was captivated by a big church site, the house that the church built for Rev P Buhlalu, the church building which he dedicated, the joy which was written on the faces of the Saints when we arrived. We were humbled by their un-ending loving accolades of welcome!

Mrs Maria Mhlanga-Ngubane painted the history of the work, acknowledging Ziqubu and Mokoena who laboured there in the past and some people who were saved during their ministry were present. It was a moving scenery. Ms JH

Makamu and her leadership were very happy and thankful to God to have us. We were invited for late lunch at Makam's residence with the local leadership of the church and where we had great fellowship. I was thankful to God who allowed me to visit that group who are so close to Swaziland border and no wonder siSwati is commonly spoken in the area. Pray for this group that they might grow and see their property being fully developed.

### **Workers' Seminar - May 05 – 08 – Skogheim – KZN**

May I thank all the local churches who made it possible for their leaders to attend this memorable seminar we had this year. The attendance was up and we even ran short of the couples' accommodation and other couples were separated to accommodate more per gender. We apologize for that. Our theme this year was "Doing Well". The focus was on the administrative side and also who we are. We were reminded that we adhere to certain evangelical truths.

**Identity Crisis** was another point that Rev Dr Hams touched on as he mentioned the solas we believe in which were summarized as follows:

- (a) *Sola Scriptura* (by scripture alone): The Evangelical is first and foremost a man or woman of the Book. The Bible alone is sufficient to the Evangelical. No subtraction or addition to the truth of the Word of God is permissible. *Sola Scriptura* means a conviction that God's objective truth was supremely revealed through His Word in the Old and New Testaments, and that the Bible must of necessity always take precedence over reason, tradition, ecclesiastical authority and individual experience.
- (b) *Sola Gratia* (by grace alone): *Sola Gratia* is the teaching that salvation comes by divine grace, not as something merited by the sinner. This means that salvation is a gift from God apart from any good works.
- (c) *Sola Fide* (by faith alone): *Sola Fide* is the teaching that justification is received by faith alone, without any mixture with good works. However, saving faith is always evidenced, but not determined, by good works. In other words, faith yields justification and good works, NOT faith and good works yield justification.
- (d) *Solo Christo* (by Christ alone): This is the teaching that Christ is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other.
- (e) *Soli Deo Gloria* (glory to God alone): This is the teaching that all glory is to be given to God alone as the sole giver of salvation, through the atonement made by the Lord Jesus on the cross and the gift of faith to receive that atonement, mediated by the Holy Spirit.
- (f) He added
  - Belief in the primacy of the preaching of the Word of God.
  - Obedience to the Great Commission.

These meetings have cemented fellowship between different leaders in different regions. A unique example was to see Revd & Mrs SM Phoseka from Mseleni circuit visit Revd & Mrs AS Matsenjwa family in Swaziland during Swaziland Regional Conference.

## **REVISITING OUR STRUCTURES**

How I long to table all reports from our structures i.e. Women, Men, Youth and Children. But it is obvious that we are not there yet. Let me congratulate the Women for the good job they always do. I had their report in time before this was printed. They shared with all excitement the maturing progress in a number of areas. Their Chairperson Dr ZM Mkhize visited all four regions; she also enjoyed all of them though this was her first mission. She shared the numerical growth as a whole, the increase of newlyweds and young mothers, the commitment in living the word. I appreciated the fact that they have used our year verse in most of their regional programmes. Fund raising and caring have topped their accomplishment for the year. Dear women, take note that you are not in the body of Christ to raise funds only, be creative in other untapped areas of need in our communities. Have a global vision. Be careful of the outside forces. Remember this great portion of scripture:

*“Brothers and sisters, because of God’s compassion toward us, I encourage you to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to God and pleasing to him. This kind of worship is appropriate for you. Don’t become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants – what is good, pleasing, and perfect.”* Romans 12:1-2.

## **MODERN SIGNAGE AND DIRECTIONS**

May I repeat my request to all local church leadership in all our regions, please have a name of the church written visibly on site and/or direction to the site. This will promote our visibility in different communities where we are placed.

May I thank those who have done that already and others are still planning to put up those signs. Let people see the sign Africa Evangelical Church on signposts.

## **AEC GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR 2012**

The Africa Evangelical Church was born in 1962 at Estcourt or Ntabamhlophe and given the autonomy from the South Africa General Mission. 2012 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church. Let us sing the song of ascent as pilgrims of old and say *it is like a dream that the Lord has been with us for 50 years. Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!* Indeed, we took our flight with the Lord from the gloomy and uncertain beginnings. Next year we will look back and literally count the historical blessings and victories in our spiritual journey. May I encourage you to write down those blessings in our local churches, have that historical data for the generations to come who will eventually celebrate a Centennial Anniversary in 2062. Some of you young people will be here. Don’t disappoint us after we leave you for our eternal home. Indeed, we are filled with joy! Let our joy be contagious wherever we go next year. Let us breathe joy. Let us sing joy. Let us preach joy. Let us share joy. Let us embrace joy. Why joy? Because the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!

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## **REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

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### **1. KWAZULU-NATAL – 19 JULY 2011**

KZN Regional Conference took place in beautiful facilities at Umlazi. People were comfortable and happy to invade the Umlazi Tech and I joined them briefly

because of other commitments. The conference was graced by happy people. The attendance was very good according to the Chairman's report and they had many new faces. There was order and systematic flow of the programme that I witnessed. I was encouraged to see vibrant growth.

In my assessment, in all regions time management is still something that we should drastically work on. Creativity is another art that we should develop in doing the usual things. Assimilation of new people also should be one of the programmes that we should monitor, develop and execute.

## **2. EASTERN CAPE – 15-17 JULY 2011**

The Lord was good to me in allowing me to attend this conference leaving my mother in a very weak state but in good hands. The Eastern Cape regional Executive worked very hard in acquiring another venue at the eleventh hour after being told that the venue they booked before was no more available. The attendance was good and vibrant at the new venue. Their programme was to the point.

The former Chairman of the Region Revd MS Kunju was excited to see the new leaders execute duties vested on them. Eastern Cape is growing and maturing in different areas. My heart jumps for joy as I reminisce the yester years that were really difficult years. We only mature in time after we have been tested in many ways. Congratulations Eastern Cape membership!

## **3. GAUTENG – SATURDAY – 31 JULY 2011**

Gauteng had a one-day meeting in Pretoria where they celebrated the decade as a region. I was also glad that the Lord allowed me to attend leaving my mother in a very weak state at home. The Region honoured the stalwarts in solidifying that region in the names of Mrs Bhengu, Mrs Sithole and Mrs Rumo. When good things happen at times you just think of those great men and women of God who are no more with us. They also launched and commissioned a Missions Committee during their meeting. Let us pray for that initiative to bear fruit. Yes, we are the product of Missions; let us portray that ethos in all our programmes.

## **4. SWAZILAND – 2 - 4 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Swaziland broke record in their Regional Conference from the first day. Mbuluzi was the venue and it was a blessing to fellowship with them on the last two days of the weeklong conference. The number of children and young people was commendable; it was a joy to see them enjoy the conference. Their speakers were solidifying the members to the Bible and the importance of loyalty to the local church. Madonsa AEC preaching point was graduated into a fully fledged local church. I was uplifted to see many new faces and the joy they expressed under the leadership of Revd & Mrs B Tsela who graduated them with their leaders Pastor & Mrs Zachariah Mthethwa. It appeared to me that Swaziland has many preaching points, building projects, outreach crusades with the aim of planting new churches than any other regions in AEC today. May I congratulate them it is their time! Swaziland is small in many ways, and yet the work there is growing very fast. We praise God for that commitment we are seeing in many leaders.

After the conference I had a privilege of fellowshiping with my past President of the AEC Revd Dr CPM Gumede, and also MT Mtetwa, who was kind enough to

take us to Nene family at Nkiliji with Mdluli the Regional Secretary as well as the Nkiliji local church Chairperson and that was the greatest time that I enjoyed in that part of the country.

## **OUR HORIZONTAL INVOLVEMENT**

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

2011 has been our greatest involvement year at UBI. At the beginning of the year we decided to leave our footprints in this centre of learning by taking one of the projects – “furnishing the students’ classrooms with new furniture.” We discovered that the furniture that was used in the classroom was more than 50 years old and it was the same furniture that was used when the institute opened way back 70 years ago. We did not involve many local churches, only eleven and a few individuals requested to be involved like the Macedonian churches of old. Our Jubilee year is open to all of us to give generously to UBI as local churches, to our Board account designated UBI such gifts will be transferred to UBI in a lump before October. The Institution celebrated 70 years of good service on the 14 October 2011. Looking back to the seven decades this centre for Bible study has been managed by six principals.

AEC graduated five students this year and we have many reasons to move close to the school through our prayers, financial support, visiting them if you happen to have time. We are grateful to SIM-SA for sponsoring some of our students every year. We pray that the Lord will continue to call His people to go and study His word as He has done for the past 70 years and to raise people who will support those students through paying of their fees in time, praying for them and showing care during such years of study. Yes, there is joy in knowing that we can have a part in this institution of learning. It is of note that this year marked 50 yrs since the first seven women graduates received their diplomas at UBI during the 1961 graduation ceremony. Yes, what joy!

The Lord has opened the way for UBI to offer the BTh degree from 2012 through the Baptist Theological College (BTC) while we wait for accreditation. Prospective students who have graduated from UBI with our three year Diploma can apply for admission into this programme. If admitted, such a person will need to do one year of study with us to get their B.Th. qualification. **NB:** The B.Th. programme that will be offered is a 480 credits degree – an equivalent of a B.Th. Honours degree. A person who has completed this degree can proceed to a Masters degree.

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

We are grateful to God for another year of producing and distributing the Bible in different formats. Many people have downloaded the Bible to their cell phones and the challenge we face as a church is to read this precious writing. It is in reading and living out what we read that will bring new life in all areas of our journey with the Lord.

The IsiZulu new translation is progressing well, and the finished product might be available after 2015. Those who read IsiZulu are requested to comment on the style of the new grammar and other things after reading a free 22-page booklet which is freely available from Bible Society. Also, the Ndebele Bible which

tentatively might be launched in 2012 should the project be completed needs our prayer support.

Thank you for your contributions for the past year which was more than R10,000 for the first time ever. Let us grow in the world of digitalized technology. Visit your website and see more Bible Society products.

**HIV & AIDS** – After the Today for Tomorrow launch in Swaziland, the year has seen many activities, travels and shortfalls. SIM Southern Africa helped us a great deal in launching this programme and also with follow up activities which Mrs ET Mndzebele took lead and many sacrifices that the team made. May you all know that as you touch the young lives today you are touching the future generation which you might not see. The financial need is still great in developing materials and managing the programme as a whole. We continue to appreciate the involvement of Mrs Daniela van den Berg of SIM-SA. She is a small lady with a big heart. We also thank God for the involvement of Revd CD Maphosa, Mrs M Ngubane (the wife of our SIM-SA director), Mrs K Mamane and many people who were involved within our regions. We appreciate the sacrifice made by some to be involved in the tedious translation work, proof reading, layout and the printing of some materials. Our appreciation goes to you all who touched the young ones for tomorrow.

Let us throw the stone of our involvement in this big still dam of needs and watch the ripples spread across the communities. The heavier the stone we drop the further the ripples will go. Invest with your resources to this good and ever-growing ministry.

**Our Global Involvement** – The seven billion populous world has discovered that humanity has been cruel to nature. The results of our crude behaviour have many implications. As a church, let us take part in planting trees on our church sites. Have a plan as to how are you going to do that. Many of us have small church sites we fully utilize when we have special services and thus compelled to pitch a tent. But in other areas where possible let us plant shade trees at least. These are good meeting and networking areas before or after service. Let the cars not deprive those fellowship moments under the trees. We will at the same time be contributing to making our world green. Birds will visit us and other creatures if we do that. Let us keep and preserve water, keep our air clean, manage our soil and eco systems inter alia forests, grassland, marine and wetlands. Some of us can have massive business incentives through recycling of plastics, papers, bottles, cans and old computers, printers, cell phones, irons, pots and pans etc. Let us do something wherever we happen to be even if it is limiting pollution. Happy green living!

#### ✦ **CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY - OCTOBER 9 2011**

It happened again! May I express a big thank you to all of those local churches who remembered this day and did something to appreciate their pastors' families. We must be grateful if we have leaders in our local churches that take care of most of our spiritual and other needs in our different communities.

Some leaders called me on the same evening and shared their joy with me over the phone, some even sent pictures of what happened and you just made their

year in whatever you said or did. Yes, we jointly say, the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy. Our bonding is growing, our love increasing and our care for one another riveting within our AEC family. Let us continue on our learning curve dear beloved, **14 October 2012** will be our next **Clergy Appreciation Day**.

**Vision for our Conference Centre** - It becomes impossible for me to report anything here as we still wait for report back from the regions after being tasked with certain things last year. In my past reports I did express my feeling about this major project. Let us work hard today for tomorrow's generation. We are grateful to God for the few who have done something about this vision since its inception. Don't give up!

#### ⚠ **WARNING**

Please take note of the many hoax and scams that are going around in our time. Don't be excited if somebody calls you and says you have won something or money, delete those emails that tell you that you have won millions of Dollars or Pounds or Euros. Most of those things are nothing but crime. To young people who like face book conversations be careful as you communicate with a person you don't know. Don't be caught in a world of fantasy you might end up destroyed.

With present technology people can trace and track you where you are at a particular time, or where you took the picture, you have uploaded on your face book. Take note of strange behaviours that you discover in you or your friends. The powers of darkness are out to swallow you through what you believe, with whom you associate, the jewellery you wear, the colours of your dresses you prefer, the interest you have for the unknown or celestial powers, even the food you crave for. I say this from my heart and from the prompting of the Lord, **BE CAREFUL!**

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 reflect and to be glad in such a way that the outside world will say: "What amazing things the Lord has done for them. *Then we will say, Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!*" (NLT).

Let us go and face the cruel world with gladness as we reflect on God's favour toward His church. Let the Jubilee Year reflect our pride and privilege of belonging to the community of the saints.

As we close this lap, may I, on behalf of the outgoing Board thank all of you for your love, encouragement, understanding, patience, generosity, visionary support, faithfulness, caring, help, and support. We, the outgoing Board will always treasure the good and the hard times, the tears we shed together matured and bonded us, the sleepless nights we spent together was because of the glorious possession of God – His church. Where I became impossible, may I say I am sorry, it happened because we wanted to achieve our goals. We wanted to present the church untarnished to the Great Shepherd.

Yes, the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy! May I wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous as well as joyful new year 2012!

I thank God for the privilege to be involved in His vineyard.

Humbly presented by



**Reed P Mntambo**, PRESIDENT  
AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
21 DECEMBER 2011

**After more than two thousand years of human poking and prodding into the Bible, the inspired Word has gotten scratched and a bit warped, but just like the Victrola dog, we still hear our "Master's voice." Let us obey that voice!**

**NOTABLE MISSIONARY QUOTES TO MOVE YOUR FAITH TO ACTION!**

*"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring."* - Jesus

*"He must increase, but I must decrease."* - John the Baptist

*"Here am I. Send me."* - Isaiah

*"Save others, snatching them out of the fire."* - Jude

*"And thus, I aspire to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named so that I would not build on another man's foundation."* - Paul

*"I delight to do Thy will, O my God..."* The Psalmist

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."* - Jim Elliot

*"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."* - William Carey

*"I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God; first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."* - J. Hudson Taylor

*"As soon as we cease to bleed, we cease to bless."* - Anonymous

*"Send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. Sever any tie, but the ties that bind me to your service and to your heart."* -David Livingstone

## **AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

### **RESPONSE TO THE AEC PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2011**

#### **SOSHANGUVE**

Mr President,  
Board members,  
Regional executive committees,  
Pastors and their wives,  
Nani nonkhe Bazalwane,

I greet you this morning in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May I kindly take this opportunity, Mr President, to express my appreciation on behalf of the Africa Evangelical Church in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KZN and Swaziland, for presenting to us, with such clarity, the President's annual report for 2011. The report was clear, user-friendly, and professionally presented to the entire membership of the church. The report has given us a sound foundation for reflecting back on the accomplishments and challenges we have encountered during the year under review.

We thank God for the positive outcomes, as well as the obstacles that stood across our path towards the realisation of our strategic objectives. We, as the church, pledge to align ourselves the vision that you, Mr President, hold in high esteem to fully realise and even surpass the goals that we have set for ourselves as a church irrespective of adverse socio-economic conditions that continue to engulf our entire operational environment.

The Africa Evangelical Church would like to take this opportunity to express its heartfelt condolences over the passing away of your dear mother during the course of the year. May the Almighty God continue to sustain you over the new chapter that He has graduated you into. We hold His promises true, that He is a father to the fatherless and a friend who sticks closer than a brother. It is inspiring, Mr President, to note that in-spite of your own predicament, you still found time to display and extend your unwavering support to bereaved members of the church who also suffered the same fate and lost their loved ones during the year.

#### **Union Bible Institute (UBI)**

We commend you, Mr President, for maintaining a strong and cordial cooperation with other institutions with which we share a common vision. These include among others, SIM Southern Africa (a successor organisation to the SAGM) and the Union Bible institute. In the same vein, we also note with appreciation the President's creative initiatives which were vividly demonstrated by his 'silent' fundraising campaigns, which culminated in the purchase of vital new furniture items for the Union Bible Institute (UBI). This is a milestone achievement for the AEC, whose credit is attributed exclusively to your creative and innovative capabilities, Mr President.

## **SKOGHEIM WORKERS' SEMINAR**

We thank you, Mr President, for maintaining the Skogheim forum for our Pastors. We believe that these seminars are bringing phenomenal benefits to the spiritual leaders in the church. We also note with admiration that these seminars also create a conducive atmosphere for pastors and their wives to socialise and interact in a non-structured setting in order to create better working relationships among themselves. We believe that these interactions will continue to rekindle, enhance and cement strong love relationships between wives and their husbands, and by extension, between pastors and their colleagues in the mission field.

## **SIGNPOSTS**

We acknowledge the wakeup call to enhance our visibility through the installation of signposts in neighbourhoods where our churches are located. This is an important practice which we have overlooked for a long time. It is time to act.

## **WEBSITE**

We would like to thank you, Mr President and your capable Board, for the launch of the Africa Evangelical Church website in 2010. We would like to assure you that during the year under review, the website has had frequent visitors and information seekers about our church. We believe that over time, the Website will become a household name in the AEC.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

It is gratifying to witness that the AEC is becoming increasingly aware of its social responsibility. We urge all regions of this institution, to demonstrate active involvement and participation in programmes aimed at stimulating positive responses and visible interventions to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The church has developed and approved a comprehensive programme of action, in keeping with these anticipated responses. We implore our Regional Executives Committees to take ownership of these initiatives and incorporate them in their annual work plans.

## **CONFERENCE CENTRE**

As the sun sets on our 50 years of existence, we are deeply concerned, as a church, about our inability to realise the greatest dream we have ever conceived as a church institution i.e. the building a conference centre for the Africa Evangelical Church. We are not apportioning blame to anyone, but to ourselves for failing to attain this noble goal over the past five decades of our existence. We would like to implore the church leadership to **invigorate the ongoing dialogue on this high priority project**. We only hope that during the second 50 years of our existence we will be preoccupied with the execution of the next phase of our mega projects after the successful completion and delivery of the Conference Centre Project.

## **REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

We commend the President for his continued regular visits and visibility in our regional church conferences. Your report, Mr President, reflects that you have visited all the four regions and attended all the conferences without fail. We believe, that these visitations accord you ample opportunity to know us better and to better identify yourself with some of the projects we undertake and the challenges we encounter thereof. Indeed, we admire your visible drive to maintain

close ties with the church membership at grass root level through your consistent presence at these Conferences– loku kuyasikhuthaza thina amalunga eBandla. Where opportunities have availed themselves, you have not failed to interface with us even in our local churches. These interactions are key ingredients to the creation of the much-needed sense of belonging among your flock. The handshakes and those light moments often lead to a resurgence of a patriotic spirit that activates peoples' true identity with the Africa Evangelical Church. My God bless you, in this regard.

### **Africa Evangelical Church Jubilee year 2012**

Last, but not least, we are elated to discover in your report, Mr President, that the church is dreaming of a big celebration, marking the 50 years of the church's existence. Yes, it is time to celebrate our 50 – year long journey from 1962 to 2012. Over this period, we have watched with jubilation and admiration, the evolutionary milestones that we have achieved from those humble beginnings 50 years ago. We also appreciate, the phenomenal role played by successive leaders of the church who (together with the entire membership) are the true architects of the current enviable destiny that we have attained. It is gratifying to note that the conference theme proclaims our vivid testimony that **'He has done great things for us'**. *VELE USENTELE TINTFO LETINKHULU SAJABULA.*

Mr President, we believe that the proposed anniversary celebration will be a milestone event that will give the Church an opportunity to learn from the past in order to model with greater ingenuity the path that still lies ahead. We believe that the word of God shall continue to be used as a compass that will define the route the Church will follow along the next phase of its development. We also believe that the AEC will stay on course and focus on the fulfilment of Christ's Great Commission and preach the Good News without any reservation or compromises irrespective of the challenges emanating from a social environment that is increasingly getting obsessed with liberal and carnal lifestyle. We are indeed looking forward with anticipation to the new horizon that will emerge in 2012. The church commends you, Mr President and the Board, for the foresight you have displayed in planning for this great celebration in the coming year.

As we rightfully appreciate your leadership role during the past year, let us continue to revere and give honour to the One who was, who is and Who is to come. We say - Ebenezer- Usiholile kwaze kwaba la.

May God bless us.

**Ndumiso M. Mdluli** - AEC Nkiliji  
Regional Secretary, Swaziland Region.  
21 December, 2011