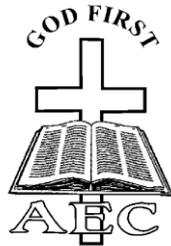


# AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Annual General Conference 2012



- Presidential  
Jubilee Report -

*'God First!'*  
*1962 - 2012*

**YEAR 2013 - VERSE:**

“In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you  
and crown your efforts with success.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (GNV)

## **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.*

### **APPRECIATION –**

On behalf of the entire clergy, may I say to this AGCC as well as Jubilee honoured guests:

*"Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth." Psalm 103:2, 10 -11 (NLT).*

2012 has been exciting in many ways in the history of our church. There are so many things that happened as we watched our Jubilee Year unfold. Some of the things will not be mentioned here, due to lack of time and space. Initially I had thought and planned that instead of going through this report, I would put in your hands a pamphlet entitled, "AEC Southern Africa – A 50-year Review." Given the opportunity, perhaps that work will follow. The goodness of God is demonstrated in the leadership that He gave the AEC since 1962.

**Revd EJ Mfeka** (1962 – 1978)  
**Revd LT Magewu** (1979 – 1999)  
**Revd Dr CPM Gumede** (2000 – 2006)  
**Revd P Mntambo** (2007 – 2012)

We have planted 123 local churches; ordained 222 pastors; we have four Regions (Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Swaziland).

We have structures for Men, Women, Youth and Children in place; we have had Bible students in a number of Bible institutions; we count among our members numerous professional people, including business people, doctors, professors, lawyers, builders, quantity surveyors, dressmakers, town planners, teachers, nurses, designers, engineers, magistrates, agriculturists, social workers, chefs and cooks, physiotherapists, psychiatrists, auditors, IT experts, musicians etc.

If after 50 years we cannot easily find venues to hold our conferences, it is clear that in 2062 we will hardly be able to get stadiums to hold our conferences. Training our leaders to excel in their leadership roles wherever God has put them will help us. Our church structures might need a major revamp before 2062.

We should never compromise our leadership training but faithfully adhere to the immutable and indelible word of God. Our pastors and lay people should be anchored in the Word of God and know how to properly divide the Word of Truth to the ever-compromising global society we live in and the governments that constantly change.

Reading our Women's report, I was so encouraged to discover that in their meetings and conferences the subject of holiness was dealt with as well as the theme. Same thing in our Men's Fellowship, the theme sounded loud and clear. I hope in all local churches the same happened. You are a very encouraging family. The Lord bless us all!

My appreciation goes to all who made their vehicles available to transport me within South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi and Rwanda. LT Ndlovu, J Bodibe, MTE Mtetwa, NN Mdluli, TM Dlamini, L Ndekha, F Nkurunzuza, Wilberforce, Fausp and many others. The Lord gave us safe trips and warm fellowship.

May I say **thank you** to my prayer partners, everybody that I met in 2012, as individuals or as a group, encouragers, young and matured as well as my editorial team. I am ever indebted to Esikhaleni AEC for their support and encouragement. They were willing to step in for the sake of AEC as a whole in different situations so as to maintain our image to the outsiders above the waters. 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 2011 CONFERENCE –**

As we were given the opportunity to serve the Lord and you as a new Board, I repeat the words, as uttered by John: *"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less."* John 3:30. This term of our leadership will be more testing and refining as we witness the world becoming more complicated to live in. Our humble request to all of you is to focus on Him and make Him the priority of your existence.

Unplanned as it was, one word impacted our fellowship in Tswane North College. That word was 'vele!' which became 'veele!' as we reflected on some good and great things that the Lord has done for the church since 1962 when we were born and given autonomy from the South Africa General Mission at Estcourt, Ntabamhlophe. Our reflections were centred on our walk with God and our positive response which produced the fruit of the spirit which is **j o y**. Hence, we echoed the song of the pilgrims of old: *'The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!'* Psalm 126:3. Pastor Mbatha, Revd Mnisi and Revd Msomi steered the great ship packed with pilgrims: More than a hundred people could not enter during the services due to lack of space.

Gauteng Region did many things in their unique way. The name tags identified us clearly while we attended to the different aspects of the conference; the food was of top quality and satisfied even those with bigger appetites. The kitchen crew, which involved active leaders, were indeed filled with joy. I can still visualize Revd J Dube with his size XXX apron!

#### ✦ **GRIEVED BUT NOT CRUSHED TO DUST –**

Though we are filled with continuing joy, 2012 has not passed without tears of sorrow, as we have lost some of our beloved ones. Yet, we will cherish such scars in our lives, for many years to come – because they are reminders of our beloved departed.

**Mrs Virginia Dlamini (LaZondo)**, the wife of our former Deputy President Revd TM Dlamini, went to be with the Lord on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 in Swaziland. Her memorial service reminded us that the Lord is good, even in such sad moments. We are grateful to all concerned for support and prayers from within the church for upholding the Dlamini family, who will miss her more than all of us. Unfortunately, Revd Dlamini again lost his son Sibusiso on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, and his funeral took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012. When one member of the body suffers, we all suffer. Thank you to all who stood with the Dlaminis during those trying times. Let us continue to be united through prayer for this family.

**Mrs Malambule**, the mother of Revd NN Malambule of Mtubatuba, went to be with the Lord on 22 June and her funeral took place on Thursday 28 June 2012. I could not attend her funeral as I was on my way to the Eastern Cape for their Regional Church Conference. May the memories of the good times supersede the bad times, as the Lord comforts the family and relatives at large.

**Revd Oupa Rumo** – little did we know that when we ordained this young pastor here in 2007 that he was not going to relive that experience here today together with his father who was also with us. The Lord saw it fit to call him home on 13 August 2012. We are grateful for your support to the bereaved family. The church has lost both Rumo pastors as the father went to be with the Lord last year June. Let us uplift MaHlayisi and the family to the Lord. He is able!

**Mrs Tryphine Ngubane** – the mother of our Professor S Ngubane was called home and her funeral took place on 25 August 2012. We are thankful to all those who stood with the children during their great loss. Let us continue to pray for the

Ngubane family in these straitened times of great loss as well as for the church where she used to fellowship in KwaNgwanase - KZN.

Yes, these have gone ahead and we will follow them, may we be wise and learn to count our days as we walk in holiness.

✦ **ARRIVALS:**

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 those who were baptized during this year. We also rejoice with the heavens as we welcome those who have been born again during 2012. May they live to celebrate the centenary in 2062. It sounds as if this is a long way off, but among us today we have many who were alive in 1962 and a number of people that were born 50 years ago (or even longer).

✦ **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 belong to different executive committees, boards, councils, fraternities, sororities and other decision-making forums. While we thank God for these opportunities, we are aware of the great responsibilities that they have to bear. Hence, as a church, let it be far from us to forget to pray for these key people.

Some of our members have graduated from a variety of institutions of learning during the year. Also, some of our young people have finished High School education and the future challenges them to continue their learning and/or to prepare for future employment. Let us continue to pray for these new developments in the lives of our membership.

**HERE AND THERE**

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After the Tshwane Conference, I took a detour via Swaziland with the aim of refreshing myself for a day and to reflect on the conference. That is when I started writing this report, on 23 December 2011. Even though I did not inform many people, I was amazed at the Oshoek border gate to be joined by the Swaziland delegation – and the halls echoed with “veele!” They took my passport, my car details and processed my papers without me having to go through different queues. I am so grateful to God for the big family of AEC. Let us grow and invade all the key positions and be a blessing to humanity as we serve.

**FEBRUARY 03 – 05 BOARD MEETING – IHAWU B&B – DURBAN - KZN**

We were grateful to attend this first meeting of the new Board which was tasked to lead the church for next five years. All members were present, including the outgoing members for the hand-over session. We were humbled to have Rev TM Dlamini attending, as he lost his wife only the previous month. Apparently, the Soshanguve conference was still fresh in our hearts, and the unfolding of this Jubilee year to all of us seemed undeserved.

We prayed for strength to meet and share the challenges that we faced in all regions. The previous conference was evaluated as usual and we pledged to let the theme verse ring in all our programmes and activities throughout the year as we celebrate God's doing within the church since 1962. Indeed, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. We were also glad to use these beautiful facilities owned by one of our AEC members – something that we could not dream of fifty years ago.

#### **MARCH 2-3; AUG 3-4 & 1-4 NOV – SIM-SA COUNCIL MEETING –CAPE TOWN**

We are grateful to God who allowed me to attend all three meetings, as planned, in Cape Town. These are meetings that deal with many issues that the Mission is engaged with in many countries where their presence is felt. We are happy to note that the Director of SIM-SA, Revd S Ngubane, is very supportive to AEC in many ways. Our small group that meets in Khayelitsha enjoys his visits, when he finds time. It is in his heart to see us establish AEC in Cape Town. I also had an opportunity to visit them on the first Sunday of November. For our information the incoming International Director of SIM from 1 June 2013 comes from Nigeria in the name of Dr Joshua Bogunjoko.

#### **April 12 2012 – AEC & SIM-SA Meeting – King Shaka International**

The long overdue meeting finally took place at the Durban airport so as to accommodate the different representatives coming from afar. The AEC Board representatives met with SIM-SA leadership to discuss our Memorandum of Understanding as we work together in other projects. We were all grateful to see this meeting take place in a cordial spirit, with each organization willing to contribute to the discussion.

The final document was going to be presented to our different boards and finalized at this conference. We begin the next lap with many new relationships and better ways of networking. The challenge to all of us is to upgrade and improve the way we do things. Our leadership skills should be on the global level. The future is challenging and exciting to those who will be visionary leaders.

#### **April 28 – KZN Men's Fellowship Retreat – Pennington – KZN**

I was privileged to visit the Men during their conference on a special day of celebrating the 50 years of walking with God. Mr B Nomandla, the Chairperson, requested Rev WTA Xaba to recall the main points of history in 50 minutes. He went back to 1898, and skilfully led us through the corridors of faith. He shared the zeal and the calling of men and women of God who had a passion for souls. We were all amazed to see the leading of the Lord in the lives of the committed servants. The first segment was the SAGM era and then 1962 to date. He highlighted the characteristics and distinctiveness of our four AEC Presidents who have led the church during the past 50 years.

I thanked the men for their thoughtfulness and the direction in their plans – for bearing in mind the theme of the church and then synchronizing it with their vision. The former committee members were honoured with certificates and memorabilia. I was expecting a lot of meat, as it was men celebrating – but instead they had a symbolic cake that we all enjoyed! Indeed, the Lord has done great things for us by bringing zealous men to AEC. In times such as these, we are indeed filled with joy and thankfulness.

### **May 3 - 6 – Skogheim Workers’ Seminar – Port Shepstone**

Indeed, the attendance at the seminar was superb and the programme was educational and informative. People were ever talking, laughing and sharing their walk with God across our Regional boundaries. The beginning and the growth of AEC is something to note. The Lord has indeed done great things for us and we are filled with joy. Nobody could have ever have thought in 1962 that we would today be the most privileged group of people to celebrate 50 years of His loving kindness and direction in preserving this family of believers. The FAITH theme was a great challenge to link the past, the present and the future. Rev B Tsela gave us the challenge of hope and victory as we moved through the next five decades with the church. Ukhozi FM visited us one evening and recorded Rev B Tsela and others, and AEC went on air to be heard by many people.

### **MAY 6 – MZUMTHWA AEC – KZN**

After Skogheim it was so fitting to visit this area where the Lord has his beautiful people who are led by Revd S Gavu, with his wife, MaNgcobo. We have so many leaders scattered all over Southern Africa who are doing a great job. There was excitement when we arrived accompanied by Revd & Mrs MX Dladla, the KZN Regional Chairman, and the Durban Circuit Vice-Chairperson, Revd A Mashiyane with his wife. I felt so undeserving to be afforded such an entourage. Many things blessed my heart. One of them was to see the church building which was built by the mother of our KZN Regional Chairman and to realise the potential that is there on that hill. Mrs Gavu thought that I was going to grade my visits and allocate a certain percentage. To her disappointment I told her that I never do such things as my main aim is to meet the people that I will never see in our conferences and appreciate their prayers and support to our pastors and their families. The fellowship and feasting that followed was unbelievable. Thank you Mzumthwa!

### **SEPTEMBER 3 – MADONSA AEC - SWAZILAND**

It was an extraordinarily uplifting experience to briefly visit Madonsa on Monday evening just to see where this church is located, as I first met them when they were given local church status with their Pastor Z Mthethwa and LaNyoni, his wife, in 2011 at the Regional Church Conference. I was accompanied by Mr N Mdluli, the Regional Secretary, and Mr MTE Mtetwa, the Regional Treasurer. Incidentally, they were starting their special services for the week with Revd KP Hlela as their speaker. Revd & Mrs B Tsela also attended and the evening faces in the tent were just sparkling like morning dew on green grass. We were not dressed up for service as we had been in different areas since the morning.

We were so blessed to fellowship briefly with the group and greet them. We felt like staying longer but we couldn't as we were to stop over at another place before retiring. Indeed, *the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.* May our good Lord nurture all those new local churches that He has enabled us to launch. May our good Lord add beautiful people for His own glory, to solidify our vision and goals as Africa Evangelical Church.

### **October 20 – Swaziland**

After the Rwandan trip I had to do a quick pastoral stopover in Swaziland due to the fact that I was on my way to Rwanda when Revd TM Dlamini lost his son, and I was also alerted that Mrs Mtetwa was involved in a gruesome accident. While I

was preparing to go, I was informed that Mr B Zwane and his wife LaNkambule had planned to dedicate their house, which had previously been burnt down. I was honoured to join a thanksgiving occasion which really brought together happy people. The Zwanes thought of us as honoured guests on that day, but looking at the occasion – they were the most honoured hosts of the day.

I was to meet two families on the same day. However, I ended up meeting three families at different venues. Since Revd Dlamini was going to be preaching at Zwane's residence, we met later with the Dlaminis and it was a privilege for me to meet his daughters Nomvuselelo, Jabulile and Kwanele. I missed Menzi the boy, who was not around. I am happy to say that I made new friends in meeting these young people. We are in touch several times a week and it is a challenge for me to keep track with all my friends.

In the evening on the same day, I visited the Mtetwas at Zombodze. Accompanying me was our former President, Rev CPM Gumede, who was with me throughout the day. We were happy that we went there at the correct time and prayed with the family. May we love one another, especially when life treats us cruelly!

### **OCTOBER 21 – LOBAMBA LOMDZALA AEC**

This was an extraordinary Sunday, as the plan was to visit three local churches and Lobamba Lomdzala was the first one. Mr N Mdluli and MTE Mtetwa sacrificed their day and responsibilities in their local churches to spend the day with me. As they are also members of the Regional leadership, I was honoured to see them in action. When we arrived at our first church, Pastor M Dlamini, his wife LaNsibande and his leadership were in high spirits as they welcomed us. Their programme included singing groups and the senior lady's address, and the pastor added an encouragement as we observed God's gifts to the church.

Pray for this local church, as they have to build a bigger building as the present one cannot accommodate the growing numbers. They are ideally situated within a vibrant community. We were so happy to be so inspired during our first stop-over, after which we drove to Sigombeni.

### **OCTOBER 21 – SIGOMBENI AEC**

We negotiated many side-roads and main roads until I saw a small road marker for Esigombeni AEC. We finally arrived on the hilltop and elders met us outside as the pastor, Revd M Dlamini, was already reaching the closing of his message. While we were trying to reorientate our minds, the pastor ended off the sermon. I felt that we were intruders, but this feeling was soon dispelled when we were graciously introduced. I greeted the brethren and appreciated their beautiful big building.

The brethren were very generous with their time and also their gifts. Although I didn't time our stay, we did not stay as long at Esigombeni as we did at the first stop, as time was against us. We had to drive to the last stop. But when we left, the pastor joined us and left the church. Hmm! I couldn't understand how he could be so brave as to desert the brethren like that. But in the car, it dawned on me that he is a member of the Regional Committee. I didn't know whether they were planning to have another meeting somewhere else.

### **OCTOBER 21 – MBELEBELeni AEC**

We arrived late in the afternoon at Mbelebeleni AEC and found the service still in session, with the Circuit Head leading the communion service at around 14h30. When I later asked the people about the time they had arrived at the church, they said 'about 9h00.' The exciting thing that was happening that day was that they had had a baptismal service earlier in the day, which concluded with Communion.

I am not sure whether Pastor P Ngwenya and his wife, LaMamba, were surprised to see the three members of the Executive entering their service with me, and so late in the afternoon. Also, there was Pastor M Nene as well as the circuit head. It was a very special day for this local church to have a number of leaders in their midst. After that session, the Pastoral leadership gave me the opportunity to greet the happy Saints. I applauded their patience and endurance on the day. This is another vibrant church which the Lord is raising up. Yes, we are filled with joy. The day ended up very late and yet I had a good feeling of fulfilment.

### **December 1 – Mseleni AEC Circuit**

When Nkanga circuit in the Eastern Cape in March 2009 gave birth through agreement of a new Zibungu Circuit it was a sign of growth and vision. Mseleni did the same thing on this date they agreed to divide the circuit into two. I was requested to officiate that great occasion. Revd MX Dladla the KZN Chairperson was also present. These are now Mseleni and KwaNgwanase Circuits. The amazing thing was that each circuit has ten local churches, and the KZN Region has graduated to ten Circuits on this 50<sup>th</sup> year.

The brethren were really full of joy mixed with uncertainties when they looked into their unknown future after working together for more than a century. May other large circuits consider organizing their areas into manageable areas. This happens smoothly if it is not imposed by outside leadership. But if it comes from within, truly everybody takes ownership for the advancement of the gospel. We congratulate Mseleni as well KZN Region for the work well done! We pray that the good Lord bless the work as it grows and matures.

### **MODERN SIGNAGE AND DIRECTIONS**

May I repeat my request to local church leaders in all our regions, please have the name of the church written visibly on site and/or provide clear directions to the site. This will promote our visibility in the different communities where we are placed. I thought that this request would be carried out, but it appears that many have either forgotten it as a project or that they are happy not to have the signs. Next year when I visit our AEC local churches, I will make notes about signage and present my findings at this conference.

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

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## **REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

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### **1. EASTERN CAPE – 28 JUNE – 1 JULY 2012**

It was gold everywhere decorating the stage and Miss Nwabisa Somtseu decided to go a little further by her attire and decor in that around her waist and neck

was gold, her shoes and hair in gold and when I wanted to see her gold tooth, she was too shy to open her mouth in public. What a lady! But it was the mood of celebration and Revd H Ntongana who was there in 1962 shared a capsule of history with numerous archaic photos of the early years of the mission as well as the birth of the autonomous AEC in 1962. Mr Mtsotso added a beautiful testimony of the impact of Missionary work in his life which gave him Christ, education as well his teaching profession.

In the afternoon there was a special programme where Miss Elizabeth Nkambule who came from Swaziland and worked for nine years in the Transkei within Sunday School and youth saw the fruit of her labour as some young adults joined that service to thank the Lord for those difficult years of ministry within the Transkei which yielded good fruit that still stand. The Swazi Gospel Singers graced the service and indeed it was a joyous celebration with Mrs KM Mamane doing her creative drama of “Sasikhona”.

Well done Eastern Cape, you have grown in many ways, the Chairperson gave me his report after delivery with the statistics. May our good Lord help you as you desire to excel in all things.

## **2. KWAZULU-NATAL – 4 – 8 JULY 2012**

KZN Regional Conference took place at Dlangezwa High School near University of Zululand. I joined them on Friday and Saturday. It was healing to see happy beautiful people. Indeed, the church has grown and it is a demanding responsibility to be elected in any portfolio within the church structures as we have many needs within the church. Revd MX Dladla, the Region’s Chairperson afforded me opportunity to greet the Saints and it was so fitting for them to reflect fifty years ago the same week when the autonomy was given to the church. We noted few people who were witnesses of the 1962 dynamics inter alia Mrs FN Magewu, Mrs Nomandla, Mrs P Bhengu, Revd WTA Xaba, Revd J Ngubane who were present.

I was encouraged when I was invited to come and greet the special young adult group that met separately for the first time during the conference. The excitement and expectation was very high. I was glad that they could not wait for the formation of the proper structure because it has been long overdue. It is in that light that the Board felt that this group should be properly channelled during this conference, and interim committee be tasked to draw the guidelines and present them to the Board by July if possible so that come next conference they could be officially be adopted. We encourage all the Regions to facilitate such meetings and interaction for this very resourceful group. It is indeed our Jubilee year; we celebrate and thank God for giving us this time.

## **3. GAUTENG – SUNDAY – 22 JULY 2012**

This Region had one session of celebration this year and they met in one Protea South Hall in Soweto. The spirit of happy people also graced the occasion and I was privileged to be part of that memorable meeting. It was in that meeting that they openly said they will be donating with the rice that we have been eating at this conference. We thank God for such thoughtful gestures that we are encouraging to be creative as well as proactive in executing the things that the

Lord would like us to accomplish. May we support one another as Local Churches, as Circuits and as Regions. There were acapella music groups from the years gone bye, there was poetry from the inspired young Mpumi Mabaso and another good presentation from Ledwaba. We are a family! We are a great team!

#### **4. SWAZILAND – 1 – 2 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Swaziland decided to engage Revd G Mnisi during their Regional conference this year and the attendance was very good and people were very happy demonstrating our year verse. I was encouraged to see the well-planned celebratory programme on Saturday. Many people were appreciated in different categories and there was a big fruit cake that adorned three tables which we all enjoyed. Gold ribbon reminded us all about our Golden Jubilee, indeed fifty years of God's faithfulness to His church.

I must congratulate Swaziland for the excelled execution of their business session in time this year as in the past they used to go to the late hours in the evening and thus miss services. May I encourage all of us **to work hard in managing the time** that God gives us. In all our services let us be wise in using this rare commodity.

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#### **OUR HORIZONTAL INVOLVEMENT**

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**UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE** – [www.ubi-ac.za](http://www.ubi-ac.za) We thank God for allowing the following students to take time as fulltime students in 2012. We had one graduating this year from Mseleni Circuit in the name of Prince Ntuli. Mrs Elsie Mosehla, who was a second-year student had to leave because of her sick health but the other eight students did finish the year. These are: Five second years - Linen Ntlantsana; Bhekezakhe Zuma; Isaiah Ngobese; Lerato Nkosi and Nkosikhona Mavuso. The three first years are: Nkosinathi Mfeka; Sicelo Ndlovu and Zabane Nxumalo.

We managed again to have the highest number of students as a denomination. The school is requesting the churches to pay the student's fee in time. Also the same request comes from SIM-SA because in order for SIM-SA to help the student, they have to pay first and then the subsidy is released thereafter. Another request is that with the high bank charges when we pay in cash, we are requested to use money transfer systems and engage the technology to save money. We are grateful to God for Miss Jackie Bolger who assists our students at UBI to meet the requirements and appropriate papers that must be submitted from time to time.

We are also happy to report that two of our pastors registered for B.Th at UBI which is offered by the Baptist Theological College though the difficult thing they always encounter is the availability of appropriate books to complete their assignments. The challenge before us as we face another fifty years is **to correctly divide the word of truth** not err. That is why we must dig deep into the word. The more we do that the deeper will be the knowledge that will be evident within our AEC members.

We are thankful to God for the high esteem that the UBI leadership takes AEC. We are really honoured that we also use Dr G Mnisi freely in our churches and conferences. We pray God's blessing on him and his wife as they lead that institution at this time.

**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. The SiSwati translation was active on cell phones toward the end of August 2012. By login [www.m.bibles.co.za](http://www.m.bibles.co.za) and follow the instructions you will end up having the Bible of your language choice. The IsiNdebele Bible was launched last month at KwaMhlanga thus completing all South African official languages with complete Bibles.

The IsiZulu new translation is progressing well, and the finished product might be available in approximately three years' time.

Thank you for your contributions for the past year which was below what we contributed the previous year. Many people do forget to send their offering before the end of November for the year. Let us not forget our commitments.

#### **HIV & AIDS –**

We praise God for all who are involved in HIV&AIDS programmes and those who are working on the Today for Tomorrow manuals. Some translations were completed to IsiXhosa and IsiZulu. The first batches of Zulu manuals were printed this month. We salute all those who gave towards the production of these manuals. We look ahead to the healthy tomorrow of our children. But it is still disturbing that we still get teenage pregnancies even in our churches.

We are also thankful to God as a church that our involvement is commendable. We have people in the church whose passion is to help those who are suffering. Mrs ET Mndzebele attended a number of seminars and meetings just because the church is involved with many other organizations in the fight against the HIV & AIDS. We pray that our small contribution might yield great returns in future.

**AEC – Malawi visit (August 18-25)** – Through the encouragement of the SIM-SA Director, Revd S Ngubane, I managed to visit AEC-Malawi in Blantyre with the General Secretary Revd VW Ndinisa. We are grateful to all those who prayed as well as enabled us to pay for the General Secretary's airfare especially Gauteng, as mine was paid for by SIM-SA.

We were met at the Chileka Airport by the General Secretary Abusa L Ndekha and Abusa A Alufazema the pastor of Chilomoni AEC, where they had pastors' seminar which ended up being the conference towards the end of the week with more church representatives joining us. It was 'Muli bwanji and Ndili bwino kaya inu? Zikomo' greetings in Chichewa language.

The main aim was to connect with the AEC-Malawi and see how far we are, and vice versa. It was an honour for us to minister to the brothers and sisters and see some of their churches and the difficult conditions the leadership is going through. Revd Ndinisa when looking back he said, "We pitched the standard very

high and it might be difficult for those who will follow us to match when they visit AEC-Malawi.” The Lord indeed has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

**Rwanda – Kigali visit (October 5 - 15)** – This was my extra ordinary opportunity to link with Revd Francois Nkurunziza and his wife Therese who led Community of Bethel Churches since 2000. The whole connection was of the Lord through our web page. A certain family within AEC when they heard that I was going to take this trip wanted to plant the seed in Rwanda. Because of their obedience to the Holy Spirit, they paid for my ticket to Kigali and back, which truly endorsed His will in my life to go there. Rwandan leadership prayerfully walked the road of faith until we met and bonded for life. This was a ministry invitation which I enjoyed sharing the word of God with my brothers and sisters in Christ. The Lord was with us throughout my stay and ministry there.

While I was still full of Chichewa language from Malawi, I was forced to wipe it off and adjust to Kinyarwanda. “Mwaramutse – good morning and marakoze – thank you, Imana ibahe umugisha – may God bless you” caught up with me. I was inspired to see their vision as they rebuild Rwanda. I trust that in the near future we will share other angle of their ministry as they have businesses which support their membership and develop their vision. Some of the business incentives are:

“Internet Cafes; Paving; Photo Studios; Raising Cattle & Goats; Guest Houses; Welding; Nehemiah Construction Company; Networking; Computer maintenance; Selling Computers in wholesale; Video coverage for outdoor services; Selling Electricity and Social educative centre.”

I will be sharing in depth with those who are business minded and perhaps eventually see something emerging within AEC in few years. The Lord gave me favour with my Rwandan community of believers. In tears, I was begged to adopt them, and the pastor’s heart with his wife bonded with me. It could be worth it for me to see them every year or at least every two years. But the agreement was that Pastor Nkurunziza visits me first, also his son is studying Audio Engineering in Cape Town. I am not sure how are we going to arrange his visit in time as we must have somebody to interpret for him as he speaks Kinyarwanda and French. He has the heart for global missions, uplifting of those who had nothing before and great passion for souls.

#### ✦ **CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY - OCTOBER 14 2012**

We are happy to report that 37 AEC leaders spent their day in Jerusalem as a way of celebrating our Golden Jubilee. They left on the 11<sup>th</sup> October and came back on the 20<sup>th</sup>. For your record and their memorabilia, I am happy to include their names herewith:

Chonco, TB	Makhubu, LS	Ncwane, MA
Dladla, MX	Makhubu, VS	Nkwanyana, NG
Dlamini, AC	Malambule, NN	Ntongana, TG
Dube, JM	Maseko, EF	Nxumalo, AB
Gumede, HJ	Maseko, NB	Tembe, MJ
Gumede, MB	Mfeka, JG	Thwala, TP
Gumede, S	Maseko, SR	Tsela, BE

Gumede, TS	Mkhonta, SR	Tsela, TP
Gumede, NNG	Matsenjwa, AS	Zikhali, BV
Hlatshwayo, NG	Matsenjwa, SZ	Zondo, MA
Makamu, JH	Mhlanga, DM	Zondo, TK
Kunju, MS	Mlangeni, NG	
Makhanya, JC	Mlangeni, SM	

Yes, *the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy*. We are grateful to churches, families and individuals who sacrificed their resources to see these brethren go on this trip. Indeed we all wanted to go, but for this year God allowed this group to go. We thank God for such an honour. Our bond is growing, our love increasing, as is our care for one another within our AEC family. There is a request already for another group to go next year, we will first evaluate this trip and you will hear later on the preferred plans. But let us not be too excited about this opportunity. We also salute all local churches that did something for their leaders. May our good Lord richly bless you and meet all your needs. **13 October 2013** will be our next **Clergy Appreciation Day**.

**Vision for our Conference Centre** – At the time of writing this report I did not have the full report from those who were tasked last year to do feasibility study. Mr M Ngcobo volunteered to drive that task team and I saw some earlier ideas of the outlay of what might be suitable for our centre. When looking at the outlay I could not contain myself in toying with the idea of an AEC Village because of the vastness of the area needed. This project, brethren will need millions of rand that I don't think we can accomplish through our giving pattern. This will be accomplished in years and it requires a united vision of faith.

We have not done well in Missions, in supporting one another, in encouraging one another, in mentoring, in keeping records, in doing things, we are limited in creativity, we fail to stand out as evangelicals, we are very rich in many ways but we behave like poor people.

2013 is the year of elections in our local churches, circuits and regions, let us do it with joy knowing that the one we serve is there to help us. When elected improve your skills, do everything well.

Remember that **excellence honours God and inspires people**. May our good Lord bless all those who have served with distinction and equip all those who will be coming in with their skills and gifts for the edification of His church.

Finally, brethren, *“In everything you do, **put God first**, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”* We don't know the future, but God knows and He is in control.

Those who will be successful are those who will put Him **first** in everything they do. Our church was founded by men and women of God who said, **“God First, Go Forward,”** but backwards, never. I pray that the next fifty years will be the greatest years in the history of the Africa Evangelical Church.

We know how cruel and rough the last days are; we have the full revelation of how people will be in the last days; we know how short our time is on earth. With

all these resources that God has given us to move forward with Him, let us be faithful in obeying His word.

Yes, *the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!* Let us make Him first in all our desires. May I wish you a prosperous, Happy New Year: 2013! May we be healthy, happy, successful, helpful, visionary and be continually connected to Him as we make Him **first** in our life!

I thank God for the privilege to be nothing but a servant.

Humbly presented by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Mntambo', written in a cursive style.

**Rev P Mntambo**, PRESIDENT  
AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
29 DECEMBER 2012

**AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND – KWAZULU-NATAL  
RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT  
29 DECEMBER 2012**

Mr President; Board members; Regional Executive members; church Leaders and their wives, the Congregation, visitors from other Denominations, visitors from SIM, visitors from Mid-Africa (AEC) and abroad.

I greet you in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” *Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well*”. Mr President, you have mentioned and appreciated the growth of the church with 123 local churches and 222 Pastors. The church has developed various structures (Men, Women, Youth and Children). You have projected that in 100 years to come (Centenary) we will need a stadium.

We are revived by the “*Mangaung Conference*” results as it affects us indirectly. *Satan even boasted to Jesus Christ about his control and authority over the earth’s governments (Luke 4: 5-6).*

**“REST IN PEACE” (DEPARTURES)**

Mrs Virginia Dlamini, Mrs Malambule, Rev Oupa Rumo, Mrs Tryphine Ngubane are with Lord side and are being comforted. We are pleased that all these family members were visited by you.

**“ARRIVALS”**

We have the arrivals of new babies for 2012 (Jubilee). These are babies who will celebrate the Centenary in 2062.” *Inkunzi isematholeni*”. You have congratulated those passed their examinations, others in new positions, but let us pray for them because of lack of employment in our country. *Others from ‘Free State to United States (get married)’*”.

**VISITS AND MEETINGS**

“*A Leader leads*”. As a manager you have to manage by walking around and get the first information. By going to these places, you have mentioned, you were monitoring and evaluating the “*Work of the Lord*”. Our Regions are faced with many challenges and need to mentored. We have to change the challenges to opportunities. “*Challenges are what make life interesting, overcoming them is what makes life meaningful*”. We found that your diary is always congested every month with activities of the Church, that is appreciated.

**REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

You have congratulated the work of the Eastern Cape that has grown in many ways. The Eastern Cape modelled what to done during the AGCC Jubilee. It is rich with history especially from the Missionaries and Chiefs. The KwaZulu-Natal is full of “*Senior Citizens*” who knew handover of Church from 1962 by Missionaries and were part of the Church before 1962. We has to keep people like (Mrs Magewu, Mrs Nomandla, Rev Xaba and Rev Ngubane to our archives and as resource persons.

We have to nurture the talent we have from Church as we have such groups in Gauteng. We wish Swaziland to bring such Gold ribbon cake that symbolised Golden Jubilee.

#### **UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE-UBI**

We appreciate the work done by Union Bible Institute for producing the graduates. It is encouraging to hear that AEC has highest number of students in this institution. It is a good gesture to hear that SIM-SA is having a helping hand in Union Bible Institute students. We say to Dr G Mnisi-bravo.

#### **BIBLE SOCIETY**

The Regions are committed in supporting the Bible Society. We are pleased to hear that part and parcel in production of Bibles in all our official languages.

#### **HIV AND AIDS**

The Church has produced manuals Today for Tomorrow for HIV AND AIDS which is used by all Regions. We are grateful to hear that IsiXhosa and IsiZulu translations are complete. We hope and pray that our small contribution and endeavours might yield great returns in future.

#### **MID AFRICA VISITS-MALAWI**

Lord had said that *"I will put My law in their minds, (Jeremiah 31:33)*. We are pleased that you were warmly welcomed together with General Secretary. We hope that was not first and the last visit to land.

#### **RWANDA**

For Rwanda visit was a good exposure to the community of Bethel Churches. We hope you will Google and see other Churches that have an interest in working us. Good to hear that your vocabulary was increased *"Marakoze" (Thank you)*.

#### **CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY**

*"Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy. "The joy in this regard is to afford to go Jerusalem with 37 Leaders that was a giant step. Paul said," And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God ... "(Rom 8:28)*. We read from Isaiah 19:23-25 of nations that were formerly enemies. *AEC: Be strong and be of good courage, (Deut.31:6)*.

#### **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY**

- ❖ Church Conference Centre
- ❖ Young Adult Church groups
- ❖ Shortage of Pastors in EC
- ❖ Spreading of AEC in Africa

May God Bless us

**MR MICHAEL GCINGCA** – Lukhanyisweni – Eastern Cape