

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Annual General Conference 2015



“Be Alert!”

YEAR 2016 - VERSE:

“Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong...”
(1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV)

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

"By faith we see the church 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.*

AEC CORE VALUES:

- 1. BIBLE** is our ultimate source of authority and its truth is essential for transformation of lives. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- 2. PEOPLE** matter. Genesis 4:9-12; 9:5-6.
- 3.** We value **HOLINESS** and that full devotion to Christ and relational health are to be norms of every believer." 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 12:1-2.
- 4. UNITY** We value that the church should operate as a loving unified community of servants that celebrates diversity in gifts, function and preference. 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (4-7); Ephesians 4:3-7; 11-13.
- 5. LEADERSHIP** is the critical value of Godly character, personal integrity, ministry skill and relational health in leadership at all levels of ministry. Philippians 2:19-23.
- 6. EXCELLENCE** honours God and inspires people. Genesis 39:4-15.
- 7. RELEVANCE** We value that the Church should be culturally relevant while holding to God's eternal truth. 1 Corinthians 9:20.
- 8. INNOVATION** We value that gifts of innovation should be encouraged in all that we do. Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58.

- 9. MISSION** We value the encouragement, development and exercise of each believer's ministry gifts and skills in fulfilling mission work." 1 Corinthians 14:29-33.
- 10. STEWARDSHIP** We value that every believer has God-given resources that should be used for eternal purposes. Ephesians 2:10.
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APPRECIATION –

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

This verse will ever ring in our melodies as we reflect on God's grace in our lives as Africa Evangelical Church. Personally, I thank the Lord for every experience that He has allowed us to go through. It is true that some of us will want to forget 2015 because of sad, bad or ugly experiences that were riveted in our frail minds. But we should appreciate the fact that the Lord has carried us thus far.

In my travels, I met many people again, and made new prayer partners. In all our regions I saw happy people. Some allowed me to use their vehicles, their homes, their time and their skills. Some gave me extraordinary gifts ranging from small things to unexpected gifts. Good memories will ever linger in my heart. Thank You!

THE 2014 CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS –

Filadelfia School in Soshanguve hosted us adequately in 2014 and Gauteng Region did their best. The mind that was in Christ became the desire of all who were there. We are grateful to God for the continued overflow of that desire in all our programmes in 2015. The unfolding of that scripture in our lives and behaviours has been exceptional. Also, the filtering down to our local churches and structures has matured many of us.

We appreciate the hard work which was done by the Gauteng leadership. The saying that goes around is "AEC has beautiful people" and indeed God has brought to us beautiful people. Let us continue to pursue the mind that was also in Christ Jesus until He is formed in our lifestyle. Looking back, I wonder how you practiced and lived your life to be like Christ in your leadership style in 2015. Have we changed our behaviours that push our egocentric conduct in doing what was our duty during the year?

We pride ourselves with children, youth, young adults, women and men who love the Lord and love one another. Let us conserve and treasure what God has given us.

‡ HEAVEN REJOICED IN RECEIVING THEM –

Frank S Nomandla - Mtubatuba went to be with the Lord on the 21 December 2014 and his funeral took place on 27 December 2014. This happened a day after the conference at Soshanguve. Truly it is a joy when His children are called home. It was sad to lose such good father and friend but God decided to do what is good.

We thank the Lord for the saints who came to comfort this lovely family. Pray for Mrs Nomandla as it becomes a challenge when one loses her partner after being together for 54 years. Pray for the children to remember the good and solid teachings of their father.

Mrs SM Mlipha from Swaziland went to glory from Pretoria hospital after her struggle with pain on 4 January. I had hoped to see her when she gets back but the Lord saw fit to take her. Her funeral was held on the 11 January. Mrs Mlipha worked for many years with children's ministry and was one of the people who wrote the guidelines for this ministry. How we all loved her and we left with that void. The family was grateful to God for all those who took time to be with them and proud of the fact that you still pray for them. Pray for Mr Mlipha as he misses his friend for 34 years in their united bond as well as the children.

Mrs Nene, Pastor M Nene's mother was buried on the 21 March 2015 in Vryheid and Babe Nene was so appreciative of prayers and support they received from brethren during that time of parting with his mother who lived more than a century. What a blessing but her body was frail, her eyesight blurred and her hearing aid almost switched off but she was a living gift to the family. Remember the family as they live in that void of the experienced and loving mother and grandmother to many.

Mr Reginald Zulu – Mseleni long serving Sunday School teacher at KwaMashu passed away on the 17 January after suffering crucial pain for a long time. The celebration of his life was held on the 24 January at Mseleni at his home. It was heart-warming to hear about the commitment of the man who loved God and his family as well as his relatives. His devotions to work with one employer for more than thirty years and his dedication to Sunday School children was extra ordinary. Let us pray for such legacy to continue in his family as well as the church at large.

Mr M Mdluli the Senator Mdluli's father passed away on the 14 February 2015 and his funeral took place at his home. I was privileged to attend that early muddy morning funeral in Swaziland. The Lord was good to the family. I was so grateful to see the abiding commitment of the brethren and the representation of High-Profile members of Parliament to say to the Mdlulis – 'nceseni!' May the future of Mdluli family continue to be a blessing in that community and far afield. May our good Lord be a blessing to all who come close to the bereaved in such times of sorrow and confusion.

Mrs Ndlovu – Mtubatuba – the mother of Mrs BR Malambule (MaDube) was buried at KwaMshaya on 16 May. It was amazing to hear how one life touched many young and matured individuals in different ways. The passing of a parent makes the remaining children to feel the void. But we are so grateful that the great Comforter comes and take His position in the life of the bereaved. Thank you to all those who rally around fellow brothers and sisters as they suddenly find themselves without their loved ones.

Mrs Malsinah Mathenjwa (kaMakhanya) the wife of Pastor WS Mathenjwa of Mseleni, KZN went to glory on the afternoon of the 12 July 2015 and her funeral took place on the 18th July 2015. The pain is no more, and she is also no more.

We welcome the vacuum in the Mathenjwa family and praying that the Lord dispels the longings sooner and feel them with His presence.

Mrs Thembi Zondo (kaMakhanya) the wife of Rev AM Zondo – Durban – KZN went to be with the Lord before sunset on the 24 August 2015 after struggling with stroke. Her funeral service took place on the 29 August 2015. We put our shoulders in prayer for Rev Zondo and his family and the church at large. It was difficult for me to be present at the funeral as it was both Swaziland and Gauteng Regional Conference period. The longing of Martha of old might be relevant and yet meaningless even today when she said to Jesus: "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died!" Joh 11:21. We say thank you to God for your support that came from all regions.

Mrs Buyi Ntuli (MaNgobese) the wife of Thembinkosi Ntuli – the son of Rev JM Ntuli (Dumisa) went to be with the Lord on the 23rd November and was buried on the 28 November 2015 – KwaDumisa. Stand in prayer for these families and the church. They need our encouragement and comfort. When our hearts are torn apart and confused, the Lord is always ready to help us understand in time.

Mr Abel Msweli (Mtubatuba) the son of the late Revd JM Msweli went to be with the Lord on the 26 November 2015 after burying his wife MaNdlela in August. His funeral took place on the 5 December 2015. It is hard on the family, the children who lost both their parents in four months. May our good Lord keep these children safe in the midst of all spiritual ravens that are roaming our skies day and night. May we live the history as we deal with pain day by day. Thank you for your good habit of comforting the bereaved in our localities far and wide.

✦ **ARRIVALS:**

We welcome all boys and girls who were born this year, 2015. We embrace them with our prayers, love and faith. We pray and long for their growth, health, security, welfare and participation in new life in Christ.

We also welcome all those who became members of the church from different communities and through a variety of circumstances that came their way resulting in making that eternal decision. We say "Hallelujah" as a sign of joy, thankful heart and appreciation. We are grateful to God for bringing them to us. Let us walk with them in love and appreciation of their gifts and skills they are bringing to the church.

We cannot forget those who got married in 2015, some moved to different local churches because of their new status. Strange that most of them even changed their phone numbers, the way they walk and talk, they even smile and laugh differently. Congratulations for that transition. It has been a great stride that the Lord allowed you to take by faith.

✦ **SOARING HIGHER:**

2015 saw some of our members graduate from different fields of learning. Children and adults became excited when they accomplished their goals. We thank the Lord for His enablement in our lives. Some bought their first cars, homes and other upgraded their possessions even cell phones. Some were promoted to higher positions with added responsibilities and better pay. We praise the Lord because

their generous giving will be higher and the conference centre millions will be accomplished faster.

While thanking God for achievements let us pause and ask the Lord to enable those who are looking for employment to get the jobs they desire. Pray for those who are thinking of having businesses to be successful in getting the breakthroughs and let us ALL DO ALL THINGS WELL. I have discovered that when you do something well you inspire many to do likewise.

May I also **congratulate** Mseleni Hospital in KZN in winning National Batho Pele Gold award for 2015. Dr. V.G. Fredlund, Mseleni Hospital Acting Hospital Manager shared a good story that Mseleni Hospital won a National Batho Pele Golden award in 2015. On Friday 13th November 2015, on behalf of the Minister of Public Service and Administration –Adv. Ngoako Ramathlhodi, Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration, Honourable Ms Ayanda Dlodlo presented UMkhanyakude’s Mseleni Hospital a Gold award for 3rd National Best Batho Pele team of the year (2015) for providing the best health care to the community and putting its patients first (Batho Pele); this happened during the 3rd Annual National Batho Pele Excellence Awards Ceremony held at Emperors palace in Gauteng .

This is amazing and it will become a history of Mseleni as fighting diseases, fighting poverty, giving hope in the community they serve and putting people’s lives as the priority in all aspects and their needs and to serve them with a good manner and dignity. Mseleni Hospital ensures that services they offer are relevant and are aligned with Batho Pele Principles. During assessment, the hospital had to prove beyond reasonable doubt with sound evidence on how exactly it implements each of eleven (11) Batho Pele Principles; and the Hospital’s Involvement on Operation Sukuma Sakhe proved to have had good impact in rendering health services to community of Mseleni and catchment area in the UMkhanyakude Health District.

HERE AND THERE

FEBRUARY 6 - 8 BOARD MEETING AT IHAWU B & B - DURBAN

This is usually our evaluation and looking ahead of many areas of the church. It is always encouraging to me to meet with 100% members of the Board ready and willing to contribute with their skills and gifts. We thank the Lord who helped the Board to deliberate fully during this time, looking back and looking forward. We salute the local churches who allow their leaders to be away for such meeting. In other instances, they delegate other leaders even if there are funerals. Thank you for understanding.

MARCH 26-27; JUL 30-31 & 19-20 Nov – SIM-SA COUNCIL MEETING: CAPE TOWN

We are grateful to God who allowed me to attend all three meetings of SIM-SA in 2015. These meetings help us understand our partnership with the mission and be part of that global family. SIM was able to assist us in transferring our gift to AEC Malawi after hearing about the floods that took place in that country. That gift brought a blessing to many even though some of us did not participate due to other reasons.

The Director of SIM SA Revd Dr S Ngubane and his wife saw the wedding of their daughter recently and we all praise the Lord for such blessings in the family.

It is through the assistance of SIM SA that we also hosted the Evangel Fellowship International Assembly in Durban at the beginning of this month. We rubbed shoulders with many high-profile leaders of SIM and churches.

May 7 - 10 – Skogheim Workers’ Seminar: Port Shepstone – KZN

About 150 strong workers came from all our four regions at this 13th seminar and the programme was very refreshing, free flowing and challenging. We looked at our calling which is mainly to serve as servants. We also reflected on the fact that we are not kings but servants.

We learned few deep Zulu words like “ukuchobana izintwala and ukukleza” as well as health slogans like “eat less move more, for every one kilogram you lose you will gain one year in your life span” and “servants on horsebacks like princes and princes walking like servants”.

Our leaders sing with meaning, we don’t use accompaniment, when you want a blessing catch them singing. Perhaps we should make a special DVD entitled, “Servants’ Glorious Voices”. The afternoon was a special time of relaxation, networking, laughing, crossing over, discovering, sharing. The evening was again a dedicated time for prayer. We together thanked the Lord for our regions as well as took our concerns to the throne of Grace. **5 – 8 May 2016** is our next meeting with these dedicated leaders of AEC. Pray, plan and be there if you are an AEC worker.

THENGANE AEC – KWANGWANASE CIRCUIT – KZN 20 JUNE 2015

This circuit saw fit to have a day where they reflected on the goodness of the Lord through the ministry of Rev & Mrs JH Gumede who was relieved from ministry administration after more than 25 years of his faithful dedication to pastorate. The weather was fitting for the occasion and the Saints, though with mixed emotions were electrifying with their smiles and regalia.

The guests included most structures and also other circuits’ leadership which came from afar as well as chair persons from those circuits. It was the Gumedes’ lifetime appreciation from people he developed over the years. Their daughter mentioned the fact that they have indelible status to be called Pastor’s kids and as such their extended family has been the Saints. As a result, they were in tears as they saw and heard people lavish accolades to them. I reminded him of Pastor Butcher’s favourite saying, “*Smell it but don’t swallow it.*” We congratulate the Thengane local church and the KwaNgwanase circuit for beautiful networking and unveiling their hearts on the day. Indeed, little is much when God is in it.

Board & Denomination Committee - July 24-26 – Winklespruit- KZN

This was a rainy and chilly weekend on the South of Durban in KZN but almost 66 leaders came braving the many odds that were on the way. The enemy was fighting but our Lord as always was victorious. We deeply appreciate the committee members of all structures who took time to be there as we all planned for this conference. The way the leaders sing when they are alone is amazing.

After the meeting we decided to go and see the Zondo family as they were going through extraordinary time where both of them were sick. Rev Zondo was feeling

better but his wife KaMakhanya was in hospital. Some members from Eastern Cape also joined in and when we arrived on the hallway Rev Zondo was waiting for us and he looked fresh as if he was ready to ascend the stage and take the pulpit on Sunday morning. After greetings he led us to the Ward where his wife was.

In entering, I did not like what I saw. "Many people who are sick!" Then when the eyes locked with KaMakhanya, saw her speaking I was encouraged. After few minutes of greetings from different members, Mrs Ntongana as she is our AEC physiotherapist took charge of the situation with working Mrs Zondo's limbs that were numb at the time. After she completed her duty, we decided to sing, had few words of encouragement in IsiZulu and English as there were Indians next to her, we then prayed and to the blessing of our hearts the Indians prayed claiming the healing power of the Lord Jesus.

SEPTEMBER 12 2015 – INKANYISO DURBAN CIRCUIT – KZN

It seemed appropriate to the Durban Circuit Women to organize themselves to celebrate 30 years of God's faithfulness to their Inkanyiso structure. They recalled how they started in 1985. Grateful to God, they had two women who were in the first committee present in the names of Mrs S Magwaza and Mrs Z Mashiyane who related the early days of this ministry which has grown.

It was heart-warming to see and hear numerous innovations within Inkanyiso Women Ministry. The joy that always hover in their meetings makes the bonding firmer. Also, to relate their history was riveting to those who came late in this great fellowship of the Saints. May I encourage all of us to write our history for the good of the next generation.

ROODEPOORT NORTH AEC – WEST RAND CIRCUIT – GAUTENG - 24 OCTOBER 2015 The Roodepoort City Hall was buzzing with happy people from AEC around West Rand, Pretoria, Limpopo, Mthatha to thank the Lord for the shy Hams family who have served the AEC for many years. Pastor D Siziba will be pastoring that work going forward. It was a blessing to listen to Revd Hams share his long walk with the Lord in different situations in Bible School, in Hospital Christian Fellowship and in AEC. It is true that the maturity comes in time. They have a challenge also of buying the church building which is on offer in their immediate vicinity. Let us join our prayers and support our brothers and sisters as they embark of that massive project.

Sunday October 2015 – Meadowlands AEC – West Rand

It appeared as if the previous activities in Roodepoort simply overflowed to Meadowlands. But it was a different group with a different emphasis in a tent. It was the launching of a revived local church. The faithful drive and commitment of the Mission's committee spearheaded this work with unbelievable support from the brethren. Due to that success, they announced their vision to see them establishing one new local church per year.

Meadowlands has an old site and the building project must not delay. For now they have a permanent tent on site. Rev & Mrs VV Gqoba have been assigned to shepherd this new work. May I encourage all of us to support one another. Building takes a long time, but if we become transparent, we can do great things.

November 14 & 15 2015 – Temba and Winterveld - Gauteng

There was joy, praise, dancing at Temba AEC when Nkosana Mthembu & Nthabiseng Mawela were joined in marriage by Rev TR Mkhwanazi from the same congregation which is very rare these days. We thank God for the Mthembu and Mawela families who celebrated with the AEC members on this second Saturday of November 2015. We wish them God's blessings as they face the future as a couple.

Due to the fact that I had planned to see one or two churches in Pretoria area it was fitting for me to spend the Saturday at Temba and Sunday I visited Rev & Mrs JJ Baloyi's local assembly in Winterveld. I was also shown other AEC local churches in the area inter alia Sekampaneng where Pastor Mabena is spearheading a massive building project, and also where Revd AM Mokoena leads an AEC congregation at Refentse, I also stopped at the new site in Winterveld where Rev G Makwela has claimed two plots next to the main road and they are faced with another building project, I also went to Slovo AEC site where Rev AL Rahlogo is based and saw another building project that he faces with problem of getting proper documents before they could build their place of worship. When you travel in other provinces the land mass is just unending and you just get lost while going to a certain place and after being there you still don't know where you were or where you are going.

MISHAPS -

May I mention with thanksgiving God's protection to Past & Mrs V Makhubu in August when the gas cylinder exploded and they were badly burnt but really, they escaped the worst. They were in Intensive Care Unit for many weeks but finally they were discharged. God has been good to them and their new testimony is amazing.

On September 27 2015 an accident happened on the way to Cape Town. On that split of a second Mrs BH Dube the member of the Swazi Gospel Singers fell in a cliff and broke her thigh and her husband was also injured. Mrs Dube ended in several hospitals hitherto. This happened after the bus they were in stopped after hitting a pedestrian who was crossing the highway in the dark. Pray for the Dubes and the Swazi Gospel Singers that through this they may be comforted.

November 15 2015 the Rev & Mrs BT Chonco and family were nearly killed when a car bulldozed their house through the gable and ended up on the ceiling which fell on them but the car rested on the dividing wall. Hmm our God is amazing!

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

1. KWAZULU-NATAL: 30 JUNE – 4 JULY 2015

The Estcourt circuit hosted this conference at Wembesi. It was a chilly week but the Lord was good in keeping everybody healthy. It is with grateful heart to say I am always amazed to see our happy young people crisscrossing and the adults gracing our conferences. These are two special extremes these days that don't mix well.

It should be remembered that this venue was within Estcourt where the autonomy was given to the church from the mission by General Director Rev Wilfred P Green

in July 1962. Though the landscape and the habitat have changed but that is where the announcement was made of the new name of the church that was born.

We are grateful for the bonding of the Saints and the commitment that is there for even our senior people to attend these conferences. I hope and pray that the young leadership will learn many things from our seniors. It is a blessing to our church to have all age groups. Let us utilize those gifts effectively for our leadership development and maturity.

2. EASTERN CAPE – 15 – 18 JULY 2015

The venue of this conference was Technical College because of high fees at Ikhwezi School. I must applaud the leadership for working very hard within a short time as the dates had to be adjusted also. Usually, Eastern Cape Regional conference takes the form of our AGCC.

There are so many unique things that this region does. The attendance was fairly good though the time of publicly was minimal but the Saints came from all over in their winter attire. We are all grateful for the growth, the response and the innovations that gently mature this region.

Pray for all structural developments that are taking place and the faithful commitment to excellence in leadership.

3. GAUTENG – SUNDAY – 30 AUGUST 2015

This Region had one session of celebration as usual this year and they met in Temba AEC, Hammerskraal.

The Temba venue came alive when they welcomed the beautiful, energetic and loving AEC members from children to the senior citizens of our time.

I have noticed that some people become restless during our meetings. They move up and down, crisscross and diagonal busy with logistics and some happy to be part of history in the making. Unfortunately, the stage is usually used for instrumentation because when our churches were built such new additions were not accommodated in the plans. Technically, the instruments should not be on stage, not unless there is a band which is being hosted.

The Gauteng honoured the services of our Revd K Riba who blazed the trail into Limpopo and established AEC work there. Revd T Goboza joined him this year and they are hungry for souls. It was a moving service in gratitude to God who calls His people and guides them in His ministry.

Later I was informed about the project Gauteng took of drilling a borehole in Limpopo next to AEC Driekop Local Church. This Gauteng region had decided to support the Limpopo Driekop project as a mission project. It was decided that the Pretoria circuit would lead the project and report to the region for evaluation. The report was presented by Pastor E Molele who is the Driekop pastor. He presented the challenges he was facing. His plea was the need to have water at the Church yard as there was no water in the area. This was discussed and the conference approved a budget to help with the security of the premises. As of now the project has been completed, the church and the community is benefitting in getting fresh

clean water from the borehole. Let us congratulate the Gauteng Region for this worthy accomplishment.

4. SWAZILAND: 25 - 28 AUGUST 2015

Swaziland met during the weekdays again and tried to keep the weekend free. I only stopped on the last day of the conference at Mbuluzi Girls' High School. The theme of pursuing the mind that was in Christ was echoed in different angles and a preaching point was graduated into a new local church in the name of Maliyaduma AEC. The Maliyaduma local church came at the right time as we need millions of Emalangenzi for the conference centre. We thank God for this addition.

Thank you for your warm hospitality as always and many innovations that you have and for that extra ordinary gift of the two items from Women amazed me. Don't do that again to me please! God bless you!

FROM OUR STRUCTURES:

It is still a challenge to get credible reports from other structures. It is only women who are doing a good job of submitting their yearly report about their activities. It is true that from the regions things are happening like retreats of Men's Fellowship, Young Adults, Youth Camps, Children's rallies but reports for the denomination are wanting. Let us remember that if we do all things well, we will inspire somebody. Let us remember our core value which says: **EXCELLENCE** honours God and inspires people.

The Women's leadership is grateful to God for 100% attendance in their planning meeting and usage of the Church's 2015 theme and verse in many of their meetings starting from local churches, circuits, retreats and regions. They are also grateful for the fact that they used speakers within AEC in many of their gatherings which solidifies our ethos and distinctiveness.

The noted continuing concerns are:

- a. The high rate of unemployed women within our membership.
- b. The increasing number of our newlyweds who need mentoring in many areas in their new homes, churches and some come from other denominations.
- c. There is also increasing number of widows who need our assistance as some have to raise their children and take care of the entire home as single parents.
- d. In other locals or circuits some of the things were not done because of poor planning or no planning at all.
- e. Communication lines are disregarded in other places resulting in confusion, misinterpretations and apathy.
- f. Long sessions in our gatherings tend to exhaust the energy and the freshness of some of the presentations.
- g. Long distances within of our local churches make it difficult for leaders to visit for encouragement.

But as always, they thank God for financial growth as well as numerical growth. Swaziland was applauded for hiring a caterer during their gathering who also is the member of our church who freed many women from preparing meals.

We are encouraged when we see our Women busy with many innovations in the ministry. God bless you all.

OUR HORIZONTAL INVOLVEMENT

UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE – www.ubi.ac.za We thank God for another year that has gone. May I hasten and say we had two AEC students this year. The request is still pertinent that fees should be paid in advance. Let us make our Bible School students feel the warmth of our love and prayers. This was in the heart of the late Revd BL Mndzebele to be near our students. We urge the circuits and regions to be transparent with what God is doing in the lives of their students.

This year saw Rev MX Dladla our KZN Chairperson being elected to lead the UBI Alumni. Pray for the new leadership to have the mind of Christ as they represent many denominations.

May I share with you that there is a unique opportunity of helping needy students if the Lord leads you to do that. There is a beautiful history that in the recent years two families from Swaziland pledged to help one student per family. Those students are a blessing in the regions where they serve today. May I invite you to avail yourself to us so that we can connect you with somebody for the glory of God.

We are grateful to those local churches who gave after we requested for our involvement. We managed to transfer something to the school what was below our expectation. UBI is our school. We are stake holders. As such much is required from us. There is a dire need for more accommodation, lecturers, study helps etc. because of the increasing numbers of married students as well as BTH students. The Lord has blessed us tremendously. May I still invite you to give as an extension of your missionary zeal. I am attaching these banking details if you don't have them:

ACCOUNT NAME: AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 38023171110

BANK: ABSA BANK

REFERENCE: UBI

Let us transfer a meaningful gift to the school next year as the Lord leads.

BIBLE SOCIETY – www.biblesociety.co.za We are grateful to God for another year in which the Bible could be produced and distributed in different formats. The IsiZulu translation is still going on in Durban. Still very few of our churches remember this yearly commitment. Freely we received; freely we should give so that other person should discover new life in Christ.

The KZN Bible Society offices have been restructured as of December there is only one KZN office in Durban. We are still represented in the Regional Committees of Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.

The new CEO announced that the leather-bound Bibles might be coming back to the market as they were discontinued years ago for the plastic binding.

MODERN SIGNAGE AND DIRECTIONS

May I salute those who have put up their signs. It appears that some local churches have not even started to embark on this project. I thought this was going to be a minor thing that would take two years to complete, but it appears that other local churches need ten years to put up their signs. May I beg those local churches that still have not put up their signs to do so in 2016. It is for the good of the church.

HIV/AIDS & TODAY FOR TOMORROW –

We thank God for all who have passion for this ministry in different communities. We appreciate those who translated and still translating the T4T books. In time of compiling my report I was still waiting for the progress report in these ministry opportunities from the regions. Mrs ET Mndzebele was requested by T4T SIM missionary Revd Chris Maphosa to join him in training the Chinese churches in Gauteng last month. They trained 68 Chinese and Lambano membership and 23 children. It appears that this is the beginning of another chapter in our history of taking our expertise to other communities outside AEC. We praise God for Mrs Mndzebele for availing herself on behalf of us all, as our passionate nurse.

GRANDPARENTS DAY – SEPTEMBER 13 2015

We salute all those churches that made this special day a success in their local churches. I heard that some took their elderly to restaurants and gave them forks and knives. I hope they were also served with dessert. You will never know what impact that creates in the lives of our grandparents. May I encourage our young people to pledge to groom our elderly people. Cut their hair and beard; trim their nails and lubricate their elbows, knees and heels. Go all the way and do the extra ordinary to get an extra ordinary blessing. Some stay alone, visit and clean the place. Thank you and thank you again. Next year the day falls on the **11 September 2016**.

Our Grand Parents are the symbol of His grace, and the proof of resilience and endurance in the faith once given to us. We admire them with all our hearts.

‡ CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY - OCTOBER 11 2015

Some local churches shift the date to any later date in October because of different circumstances. But if possible, let us maintain the same date because there is a general prayer of thanksgiving for the pastoral families on that Sunday. May our good Lord bless and enrich all local churches who took time to thank the Lord for these servants. **09 October 2016** will be our next **Clergy Appreciation Day**. Thank you!

Conference Centre Project – It is my privilege to humbly say this is no more a vision but a living project. The Conference Centre Committee has done a superb job since Soshanguve. They had numerous meetings with different stake holders, they have loaded the Board with good reports and they have made sketches available for a world class AEC Conference Centre to be built at Mankayana.

The project will cost more than 70 million Rand/Emalangeneni. We have never given a million a year in all our contributions. Because of that, we need to check our faith in God and take that first giant step of faith. I still believe that the Lord is waiting to see that first step and He is ready to do the rest. It is a project of our time and this generation. With future in our focus, joining hands with one another we will

accomplish a lot. Our involvement in this project says a lot about our spirituality and our belief in why we do what we do.

In all our regions, I discovered that there are massive projects of church buildings going up. These are massive projects, beautiful modern buildings. Due to this fact, we have a conference project within our own projects in our communities. The Conference Centre requires our commitment at the same time. We need His wisdom as we pledge our resources accordingly. It is happening during our time. The Lord knows that we can do it.

In Unity, Faith, Appreciation – let us do it due to the good hand of the Lord upon us.

May I say thank you to those who have faithfully contributed to this fund since Soshanguve in 2014. Thank you for the initiative that the Board Members took to lead the givers. May all leaders take the leadership in the giving so that the people we lead become inspired by their actions.

Evangel Fellowship International – Nov 29 – Dec 4 2015 – Durban. We reported last year that we attended this Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2014, where South Africa was voted to host this gathering of only leaders of all churches that were founded by SIM. We teamed up with ECSA as AEC and hosted this assembly in Durban just two weeks ago. I must thank Revd MX Dladla who stood in my place during the preparation of the venue and the arrival and departure of the guests together with Revd Strini Sivalingham –the ECSA President.

We had delegates from **Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe.** We missed **Bolivia, Botswana, Liberia, and Malawi** due to last minute problems.

This is the fellowship of all churches that were founded by SIM in our global village. The focus was on discipleship and children ministry. I was grateful to God to discover that there are people who have the same desire that God has in my heart. If I had a way, I could request that all of us be involved in children's ministry. I am grateful to God for the few that we have in our church whose hearts are with the children. We praise God for their dedication, love, availability and protection.

The discussions crystalized forcing the Evangel to respond to major concerns that are hurting the church inter alia: Islam, Apostles, Prophets, Bishops, Miracle Workers, Homosexuals; Cults, Corrupt Governments etc. The general feeling was that we should share our think tank theological scholars who could share the Forceful Biblical Stand for the Evangel so that we could deepen the knowledge of God within our churches. It was amazing to see that the problem of our Ethiopian Churches, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso etc is the same problem of AEC Southern Africa.

The next assembly will take place on the 26 November to 01 December 2017 in a Francophone country like Burkina Faso or Ivory Coast. There are subscriptions that have accumulated that we should pay since my last report and I trust that the treasurer will settle that though we have to pay in US\$ and also the request came in that we should put Evangel Fellowship International in our budgets so that our network would be respected as faithful members.

PLEASE NOTE

2016 is the year of elections from local churches, circuit, regions and AGCC. It will be a very busy year with mixed emotions to some and to others a special year of prayer. If we don't clear our spiritual focus, we can mess up the entire Africa Evangelical Church. Let us remember from the local churches and up that the church is the body of Jesus Christ. The church is His purchased precious possession. Therefore, it is holy and we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We desperately need to do God's will in all we do.

As we mature in leadership, there are necessary skills that are needed. We need good communicators, selfless leaders who will not rest until they see better life in another. The church needs people who will have the mind that was in Christ. The church needs people who will be willing to be poured out for His glory. We need the chairpersons who will lead, secretaries who will write and communicate better; treasurers who will be faithful and prayerful preserve the gifts of the Saints. We need people who will work properly with the pastor and other structures. We need the passionate leaders who will respect people and inspire others.

ABRIDGED CHURCH STATISTICS 2015:

In 2015 the statistics did not come early enough from other circuits. If there is something that you don't understand, feel free to ask your leadership to explain. This forms part of the fact that we are alive. Let us thank the Lord for the people that the Lord brings to our local churches. Let us take time to pray for one another and thank the Lord for the numbers we have. When we look at our children, we are challenged to increase our focus to our children's ministry. I did speak about this need last year, but the children are still standing in need of a guide. Will you consider this call and step out in faith and trust the Lord of harvest?

Finally, brethren, *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."* (1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV). Let us be **alert** on these last days! It is the explosion of many things. Be firm as you stand in the faith. Be courageous and resilient. Be immovable! Have thick skin and soft heart of faith in the living God! To the Young Children, the Youth, the Young Adults, the Women and Men, our Elderly prayer warriors may the Lord protect and warm your hearts as you face daily responsibilities in life. He is Able!

May I take this opportunity and wish all members of our church a joyful 2015 Christmas and a Fruitful, Healthy and industrious Happy New Year 2016. Let us bond with one another as we jointly linger before the throne of grace, until we meet again, next December God willing in the Eastern Cape.

My Tribute is borrowed from Andrae Crouch when he says:

"How can I say thanks, for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet You give to prove Your love for me.
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.
Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee.
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.
To God be the glory, for the things He has done."

I thank God for the privilege of being nothing but a servant, seeing Him increase while I decrease.

Humbly presented by



Rev P Mtambo, PRESIDENT
AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH
19 DECEMBER 2015

Prayer Pointers for the Year 2016:

1. The Board and the entire leadership as they execute policies in different levels for the glory of God.
2. 2016 is the election year and coincidentally all structures will be electing new committees from the local church to the Board. We need God's direction as we elect these leaders of His church. Being sensitive and obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May all leaders finish well!
3. Good health, safety, fulfilment and joy in our communities and families.
4. Tangible brotherly love that will draw many to Jesus.
5. Biblical and cheerful giving within our denomination.
6. Important dates to note:
 - ✓ 05- 07 February 2016 [Board Meeting]
 - ✓ 05 - 08 May 2016 [Workers' Seminar]
 - ✓ 08 May [Mother's Day]
 - ✓ 19 June [Father's Day]
 - ✓ June- July [RCCs]
 - ✓ 22 - 24 July Denominational Committees Mtg.
 - ✓ 11 September 2016 [Grandparents' Day]
 - ✓ 9 October [Clergy Appreciation Day]
 - ✓ 16 - 20 December 2016 [AGCC] EC hosting

Let us be alert in all angles as we serve!

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Sukuma Comprehensive High School - KZN
19 DECEMBER 2015

REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY LUNGISILE NDZIMBA

Allow me to take this opportunity to greet the Board, the Regional leadership, all structures, abefundisi bebandla le AEC in this huge occasion and standing on behalf of the church, I would like to thank and welcome the President's report and thank you for such a report. God has done great things and we are filled with joy, Sajabula, sangabavuyayo.

- We are very fortunate to have such a caring, passionate, willing, mindful, sensitive, as you are, shown a strong hunger for souls and appreciation to men, women, young people and children.
- In your report you have touched many things but I will mention few, e.g., in bereavements you have shown a sense YOKUVAKALELWA yintlungu nawe and that makes our family members feel remembered in all our homes, you know them by names and that reveal UMALUSI WOKWENENE, a good shepherd therefore we are really favoured.
- You have a keen eye to the developments that takes place in our church and you acknowledge the graduations, new borns ad promotions we are proud of you. You encourage giving in the church, acknowledgement of Mseleni Hospital for its excellence that shows that we are see in our corners. Continued fellowship of our leaders and being supported by their local churches.
- You have shown greater knowledge of the developments in the regions' programmes in your visits HAYI KAWUDINWA KUKWENZA OKUHLE, ad that encourages us to do more when you come again its more than last year. You visited Eastern Cape, Swaziland, Gauteng ad KwaZulu-Natal and you reported of their good deeds, THINA SIBAMBA NGAZIBINI.
- I have discovered that you have touched all structures that make you all-rounder, without complaining. Qina uqonde sibambalwa.
- We would like to congratulate the women's structure for being so forth in early submission of their reports, Halala Siyabulela maqobokazana you make us proud of you and remember we are celebrating the 16 days of activism campaign against women ad children abuse. BoMama finyezani umbhinco kuyanyukela. We are once more reminded of taking our structures programmes as important as submitting our reports early to enable the president to compile the church report early. We note with concern and also acknowledge the leading women's attendance of 100% in their meetings.
- It is also noted that poor connection lines, long distances, it is important to know our constitution so that we may not get lost. As a church we are a

home to the homeless and hungry people. With these long distances between the local churches, we need to plant more churches within those distances to make our networking easier and reachable.

- Finances, Baba Shoba we acknowledge the work done by the treasurer and his team to contributing to the financial growth, we also appreciate the good work which happened in Swaziland KONE OKUHLE. That means it is clear where we are going.
- About signage of where we worship we noted that we don't have proper signs and we also acknowledge with concern this need and its importance.
- Continued connection with Union Bible Institute and great support the church has, and deeper involvement in their programmes and Revd MX Dladla who recently was nominated in the institution Alunni. Mgabadeli, uMpembe ongapendiwe siyawupenda ke namahlanje, siyakubongela! Acknowledged the individual support to students, wow and the continued support to the Bible Society.
- Acknowledgement of Clergy Day and continued connection with International fellowship, especially the neighbouring countries and help them if we can.
- We will not keep silent as mentioned the elections in 2016, selfless leaders who will not rest, good communicators, with the mind of Christ, caring for people and all who would take the leadership route as our God is faithful.
- Lastly you are showing the AEC that leaders are not seen by their suits, dignity, sound you make, good planning, promises.
- But it is about the move ad progress you make ad trusting God to carry you through. With God all things are possible. As the church we need to be really productive in terms of numbers and spiritual growth.
- The church really needs to be alert as these times are evil and merciless to the living and drugs ad substance abuse is alarming.
- Kufihlwa kufihlwani?
- BE ALERT! BE ALERT! BE ALERT! BE ALERT! BE ALERT! BE ALERT!
We would like to thank Baba Mongameli for every wisdom you applied in the success of all the church programmes and continued encouragement to many in the church and beyond, we thank you.

God bless you and have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year, Be Alert!

Prepared and presented by

LC Ndzimba

Matatiele Local Church – Eastern Cape