

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Annual General Conference 2018



Doing the Word!

YEAR 2019 - VERSE:

“But be **doers** of the **word**, and not **hearers** only,
deceiving yourselves.”
(James 1:22 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.

APPRECIATION –

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

2018 was a very challenging year for some of us. But we can still say the Lord has done great things for us as He builds His Church. Some of us saw new things in their lives happening. Some experienced new life that Jesus gives. Others had a privilege of visiting other countries. The Lord was good as they flew, sailed or drove through our busy roads. It could be that the Lord exposed some of us to new challenges. We are appreciating the many prayer partners of our membership scattered in all of our regions. The Lord would like to see us anchored in faith in our prayers as we communicate with Him who desires us to be like Him.

Personally, I am grateful to my family, home church, leadership groups that I worked with from the Local Church, circuits, regions, task teams, structural leadership and the Board. Through it all I learnt to trust in Jesus. It is true that storms produce skilled sailors. The year saw me hospitalized for almost a month. When I was discharged I had so many challenges in the recovery road. I saw the good and bad of medication. During my seclusion I was in pains at times that cannot be explained, but I am glad the Lord brought me back through the tearful prayers of the Saints. It is true that many did not hear about that. The Lord did not want to unsettle you and be restless in your concerns. Let us all thank the Lord that we are here in Eswatini in 2018.

THE 2017 CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS –

Filadelfia Special School and the able teams of Gauteng Region did exceptional work in hosting our conference last year. Praise the Lord!

The "Christ building His Church" theme rang from that big tent and in small groups where the structures met and it has sent the positive ripples throughout the year in all regions, circuits, local churches and structures. Yes, it is His precious possession – the Church that He is building. Some people have been playing with (petros) **πέτρος** [PETER] and (petra) **πέτρα** [ROCK] words in their reflections on the amazing words that Jesus uttered to Peter. Keep it up!

Apart from having our guest speaker Revd J Msane and his wife, we were honoured to have Bishop N. Mazelo from Botswana with his wife and entourage, Revd Dr MG Mnisi (Principal – UBI) just showed up as always. Indeed, love just appears! May the good Lord bless us all.

✠ HEAVEN REJOICED IN RECEIVING THEM –

Though death invades and destroys us, the climax of it all is that **DEATH WILL DIE** and resurrection will bring the freedom of perpetual life. Aches and pains, tears and sorrow will all cease.

Mrs MaPlaatjie Msibi went to be with the Lord on May 5 and the following day which was Sunday was a gloomy one. We pour our condolences to the family and the church as a whole as she was in the Women's Denomination committee. Her funeral was held on the 12th May 2018. The fellowship we had with her while she was still with us will linger on for a long time. Let us hold Baba Msibi with our prayers and love.

Ndlovu, Leonard from ESikhaleni went to be with the Lord on the 31st August 2018. He was buried on the 8th September 2018. This is Ndlovu who used to enjoy driving the President to speaking engagements if he had time. It was a refreshing ministry in his soul. Though he had no position or portfolio in the church but he was loved by many people from all our regions. He was nicknamed “indoda yenhloko” by men. Pray for the children as both parents are now gone in two years. His place in the church at large will never be filled. The Lord knows why He took him to his final home. We praise Him though painful as it is.

Mr Mazwayinene Michael Gcingca of Lukhanyisweni, Eastern Cape was buried on the 8th September 2018. Gcingca was very active in the church and in other structures. I personally will miss him as he was handy when requested to do anything that required good balanced decision. Do carry the family, relatives and the church before the throne of grace.

Mr Maxwell Vuthuza Jula of Nkanga was buried a week later on the 15th September 2018. Jula was a senior leader who invested his life in many leadership roles in the church and we will miss his contributions though he was reserved in bigger conferences but in small groups was very effective.

Mrs Estella Thoko Mabuza from Lobamba lomdzala went to be with the Lord and was buried on the 17th November 2018. Blessed are those that this dear woman has touched within her time in the church and communities. Pray for the relatives and her local church as the vacuum has been created that cannot be filled in. We thank the Lord for her life well lived.

Mrs Rose M. Maseko the mother of Revd NB Maseko passed away on the 23rd November 2018 through the motor vehicle accident going home from church and was buried on the 1st December 2018. We are always shocked and confused when we lose our loved ones through many mishaps that break our life cord and leave us with perpetual void in our hearts. Let us stand with the Masekos in prayer as they go through this sad passage of life.

Busisiwe Pearl Gumede daughter of Revd & Mrs SM Gumede of KZN, passed away on the 30th November and her funeral was on the 7th December 2018. The sad part also is that she had already registered to attend this conference and her name had to be withdrawn from Mtuba list. She touched many people’s lives in her own way. Her light burned wherever she was placed. We are also deeply hurt when our children leave us unexpectedly like this. May our good Lord mend the wounds that are still fresh in the parent’s hearts and memories. We lift them up with our prayers and love.

✠ **ARRIVALS:**

We welcome all boys and girls who were born this year, 2018. We will continually welcome the new generation that God gives us in His church. Together we welcome the recipients of 2018 Wedding Anniversary Celebrities from far and near. We say hearty welcome! The Lord also has added those who were born again this year and joined the AEC may we say to you, warm welcome! We love you and you are very important to us, whether you are young or matured, you are special!

✦ **SOARING HIGHER:**

We congratulate all those who graduated from different fields of learning and experience during the 2018 year. Remember that a lot is expected from you to live up to your new status in life. Some of you will face another tedious road of looking for employment and others seeking promotions. We thank God for you and commit your future to Him who knows and cares for you. We are proud of you and we say, "Well Done and Congratulations!"

HERE AND THERE

FEBRUARY 2 - 4 IHAWU GUEST HOUSE – MAYVILLE DURBAN

This was our evaluation meeting as usual and focusing on the future. We were grateful to God for allowing us to meet and pray for the church that He builds. We reflected on Soshanguve experience and how the Gauteng Region were really favoured by God to host the unforgettable 2017 AGCC. We saw the challenge of growing numbers of our members attending the conferences from all regions. We appreciated those who came from far away like Cape Town and Botswana to be part of us. Also, the planning of our structures to handle the same theme in their groups as the Lord leads.

FEBRUARY 4 – CHESTERVILLE DURBAN

The Lord allowed me to stop in our Chesterville, Durban Central Branch for Sunday service. It was a blessing to me to see a dynamic group of the Saints who are part of the church which Christ is building. This branch is led by Revd and Mrs MX Dladla, the KZN Regional Chairperson. I could tell that if they exercise their faith God can do great things in that big city of eThekweni.

They were renting a place in town and eventually moved to the place where they are meeting in a tent. They have the site already though it is small to build a church building and provide a secure place of parking. These days it is difficult to get a site that you could utilize one third for the building and two thirds for the parking especially in towns and cities.

To see young people negotiating their route to a Sunday Worship service becomes a blessing and realization that indeed Christ is building His church. They had young people who came from Eswatini visiting on the day. God has given us a choice for our lives. Many of us chose AEC as our home church and spiritual family. Thank you Chesterville! It was a vibrant morning for me to worship with you.

APRIL 30 - PRAYER WALK ON CONFERENCE SITE - MANKAYANE

We took a group of brethren from Esikhaleni to pray on site. It was rare historical happening when we left at about 2:00 am with the aim of lifting our hearts with prayer of faith and thanksgiving to God for Mankayane Conference Centre. We were joined by the Eswatini Executive and other members. Arriving on site Babe Fred Magagula and other task team members were already there. We took time to be welcomed by the Chair Revd WN Dlodlu and we moved step by step with our walk and gathering in groups as we prayed. We then gave our humble contributions to the appropriate leaders, and thanked the Lord for His goodness. Then the climax was the releasing of balloons in white and blue which flew away in an orderly way until they disappeared. I still ask myself as to *what happened to them?*

Due to the fact that the group had other members which was their first visit to Eswatini, we took short stop overs in AEC sites. We decided to stop at Motshane where we discovered that the leadership there, were waiting for us, they shared with us how God has blessed them and their project at hand of a school. From there since it was getting late, we had late lunch in a very special place with special menu prepared by our own Mrs N Shabangu. After late lunch we went to Mbuluzi, then KaBoyce-Mbabane and then Matsapha. While we were there, I was contacted by the Vice Chair of the Executive, Revd M Dlamini that Ezulwini AEC was still waiting for us which we sadly regretted stopping there as it was already evening. We deeply apologize to Revd AM Matsenjwa for not showing up with special people that the Lord gave us on that day.

MARCH 22-23 – SIM-SA COUNCIL MEETING: CAPE TOWN

Due to ill health, I was able to attend one March meeting and the other two had to be absent. But always to connect with Missions reminds us that we are the sent ones. We must go or provide a substitute who will go as we are the product of Missions.

May 10 - 13 – Workers’ Seminar – Skogheim - KZN

We were forced to go back to Skogheim because of our ever-growing numbers of those who attend. We enjoyed fellowship and learning from one another as we looked at the Church that Jesus is building. It has so many diverse elements that demands our deeper anchoring in the Word of God as well as correct interpretation of the Holy Word.

We still invite the churches to invest on their leaders by raising enough funds for them to be part of this family in a casual place. All it takes is, planning and budgeting.

Next year we will be trying another venue in Port Shepstone next to the Indian Ocean. The dates are **9 – 12 May 2019**. The workers will hear and see the waves of the beautiful coastal beach. Those who have never felt the massage of their feet by the salty wet sand tickling their feet they will experience that if they so choose. We are not promising swimming as we might not have life savers there. We don't want to feed the hungry sharks/whales and we have not heard about those who are called to go to Nineveh!

May 29-June 4 – Cape Town

Revd TG Ntongana, the Eastern Cape Regional Chair planned his yearly visit this year and he reported God's favour to the Cape Town work. He also experienced a new phenomenon of Baptizing the new members in the Indian Ocean.

We are grateful to the UMthatha local church for supporting their Pastor and Regional Chairperson in some of these travels. Practically the whole Eastern Cape Region should be supportive to this Western Cape work and all of us should be encouraging the birth and the nurturing of that work in person, through prayer as well as through our finances.

July 04 – 08 – Bloemfontein – Evangelical Bible Church SIM SA

I received an invitation from EBC to grace their conference in July during which Pastor Noel Lyuma was going to be ordained as a Bishop of that church. Seeing the

distance and the kind of invitation I requested the General Secretary to avail himself to go if available.

He managed to attend the above-mentioned event. It was a great success by their standard and those who attended it. What was intended did take place, that is to ordain Pastor Nowel Lyuma as their Bishop. This was done by Bishop Pau Mususu from Evangelical Church of Zambia. It was a vibrant celebration in terms of song and dance. At the end of the conference, they were requested with Dr S Ngubane, Bishop P Mususu and his team to remain behind for a briefing in terms of persisting challenges with the other group that split away from them. The two discussed challenges were **firstly** - the registration with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) by this other group and their continuing usage of the name, the letter-heads and the Logo. Their fear is the smear campaign and damage to their image. They were reminded of them being a lawfully constituted organization with autonomy. They were requested to continue to engage peacefully with the other group before resorting to courts for stopping them from using their name since they were the ones who registered the name first.

Secondly the challenge which was discussed was pertaining to difficulty to reconcile with them in spite of the fact that the Namibian group has continued to support their breakaway without wanting to hear their side of the story. Even with this second challenge they were advised to continue to seek reconciliation and keep their doors open if they so wish to come back. But they highlighted their desire to welcome individuals who come back rather than them as a group. All stake holders agreed to assist if the assistance requested by them in the form of an invitation letter to a meeting that will seek to assist especially with reconciliation. But they will still have to exhaust all avenues open to them as an independent body.

July 20 – 22 2018 Board and Denomination’s Committees – Kapenta Bay – Port Shepstone - KZN

This was a special time of praying and focus our vision for this conference with all structures in Eswatini. It was humbling to see members attending this meeting and being open to the leading of the Spirit. The fellowship of leaders together is life giving to one another as we sing, we pray and have our meals together.

Our 2019-year verse and the theme were birthed at Kapenta Bay as you, the church at large prayed for us and we thank God for you. The embryo vision has grown resulting in this conference. Thank you again to all prayer partners, who stood firm on our behalf before the throne of grace.

September 24 – Hluhluwe – KZN

I dashed to Hluhluwe with the aim of delivering used clothes that the circuit may give away. We found Ms N Buthelezi; CT Fakude; NN Mamba and Ms S Fakude waiting for us. It was my first exposure to see the area where God has placed Ms Buthelezi. She showed us the legacy and the landmarks that Revd SD Mathenjwa left. We thought we were going to drop the bales of clothes and rush back only to be taken out for lunch in town. I say hearty thank you ladies! You made us feel important on the day, as you won our hearts!

October 5 - Kapenta Bay – Port Shepstone - KZN

The KZN Women's Retreat of Inkanyiso did break a record by booking three hotels in Port Shepstone overlooking the Indian Ocean. Strange enough it was Esikhaleni Circuit which was hosting these honourable guests from KZN Region and birds of the same feather from Eastern Cape, Eswatini and Gauteng. They were 345 strong purposeful women of God who met from the 3rd.

This was my first outside trip since I was not feeling well. It was an eye opener of how the Church that Christ is building is growing. We are maturing by years. All regions were represented there. To my amazement I don't have words to explain how beautiful and colourful the attire was. The smiles, the voices of praise, and the purposeful riveting worship spirit was awesome. Hmm, as one said "uyadliwa ukotini lapha". Please let us not be superfluous in our outlook and thus chase others who might not be like us as we upgrade!

I wanted to say, to men, try to have one of retreats in suits and ties and see how it will change your outlook where you will be camping. It just uplifts the atmosphere to the dignity that the Lord deserves. See how prisoners at the bar dress up to face the jury. How much more should we be well groomed when we come before the Lord in one accord! Think about it and indeed Upgrade! Upgrade! Upgrade!

When I requested a bag of cement from whosoever was willing for the conference centre this group collected more than ten thousand rand while I was still greeting them. I believe that our Lord is pleased as we grow in all areas. The Lord bless us all as we do the WORD!

October 13 - Mfazazana – Hibberdene - KZN

This was witnessing Christ building His Church in His own way. There is Mr & Mrs IF/LC Ndlovu, a middle age couple who built a beautiful double story building overlooking the N2 and the Indian Ocean. While they were pursuing to finish their dream home, the Lord told them to donate the whole building and the land to a group that has a heart for the desolate, physically challenged, handicapped people. They belonged to a certain church, the Lord directed them to hand over the project to the then, unknown Revd A Ncwane of AEC – Ekuphileni circuit.

The donation complemented Revd Ncwane's heart of reaching to the total man with the gospel involving their spiritual, social, physical and intellectual needs. Eventually the extra ordinary embryo was shared to the circuit leadership and membership and the circuit embraced the new baby. The house is not finished, but the circuit has taken over the finishing off the building and landscaping. It is a huge project that will involve many people and stakeholders as I saw it. To turn a family home to be compliant with the requirements of accommodating the physically challenged individuals will not be an easy project to manage.

On this day the circuit was thanking God for the project that has started on the South Coast of Durban. They invited Revd A Matsenjwa all the way from Ezulwini in Eswatini to grace the project and he shared his heart from the Word of God centred on Love, Gift and Compassion. Indeed, our gospel should be a full package looking at our communities and reaching out to help them where they are.

OUR GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Explosion of information – The advance of / in technology has continued to invade our lives. The communication has improved and yet it is expensive to communicate with one another. Crime as we all know has grown in many levels. Let us be wise as we interact with technology. We can lose our lives, possessions and be traumatised for life if we are careless. For those who use different network platforms, be careful what you post on those platforms. Google might be recording you and there will be no need for your Curriculum Vitae in the future, because everybody can easily access to your life if you are not careful.

Let us learn from the mishaps of others. Our potential young people have ended up in drugs, violence, failure, suicide, cults, slaves etc. Our world has changed, it is said that our world is a global village. Overseas is just across the street or in my palm. In this audience we have a good number of members of AEC who have covered many trips on air as their attended different calls of duties within our village. Let us celebrate our involvement with our generation in making great strides of experience to lift all of us for the glory of God and His church! ***“Be doers of the Word!”***

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

1. KWAZULU-NATAL: 04 - 08 JULY 2018

This Regional Conference was held at Khulani Special School at Hluhluwe. The attendance was good as usual. I requested the Deputy President Revd SR Maseko to go and fill my position as I was not fit to do that duty. He took his time with Mr B Zwane from Eswatini. They arrived on Friday to just have fellowship with me at home, and the following day we all moved to the venue. I briefly greeted the conference and introduced the Deputy President after which I left.

The report that came from the Deputy President was that he was happy to see the KZN Regional Conference attendees and was thankful to the leadership for warm welcome afforded to them and token of appreciation given to them. We were grateful to the bag of cement from whoever was willing which was taken on the day and given to them to go and deposit it in Eswatini for the Conference centre. The Lord bless you all!

2. EASTERN CAPE – LUSIKISIKI - 27 JUNE - 01 JULY 2018

The Eastern Cape ventured to go out from Mthatha for their 2018 Regional Conference. As said earlier I missed the opportunity of being with them but they also generously gave a bag of cement from whosoever was willing and I saw the heart of the givers as I took their gift to Eswatini.

The Chairperson’s report was very positive. They celebrated the ordination of their three workers and also another worker in anticipation of his completing his studies at UBI. We thank God for His faithfulness to us all in calling the workers and see them sacrifice and respond to the highest call.

The Chairperson tabled some of the following proposals:

1. Circuits to start preaching points yearly which will graduate to a local church from 2019.
2. Emphasize evangelism in our communities so that the church can grow numerically.
3. Act on those things that are requested by the Board in time to avoid deadlines and embarrassments.
4. Plan to have Leadership Development and skilling of our members.
5. Implement caring fathers and mothers to those children who don't have parents.
6. Look at the time conflicts because of funerals depriving our Sunday Worship Service times.

Let us join hands as we pray for this region and their desire to see the work of the Lord grow as they do the WORD!

3. GAUTENG – SUNDAY – 09 SEPTEMBER 2018

I could not make it to Gauteng RCC but had good communication with the Chairperson Revd G Makwela. I sent my greetings to them and requested them to take a bag of cement from whosoever was willing. The Lord touched hearts and we did manage to get a good number of bags. Thank you for your willingness to work together even if things go askew. I was encouraged to hear about the ongoing Mission to have at least one preaching point per year. This Gauteng initiative is a blessing as the Saints think of others where they are. It is Christ who is building His Church as we do the WORD!

4. SWAZILAND: MBULUZI - 22 - 24 AUGUST 2018

Swaziland Regional Conference was held at Mbuluzi in 2018. It was a busy time as the weekend the country was going to hold National Elections. The days were shortened and the weekend left free. I couldn't be with them also. But I requested the Deputy President to give my greetings to the conference. Together with my request was another special request to those who are willing to give a bag of cement. Our faithful God did touch the hearts and we are all grateful for many responses we received.

I also captured a good report that a certain group of pastors who pledged to give five bags each and also others to assist a retired pastor build his home. What a good encouraging Christlike vision and action! Such deserves our applause as a church that Christ builds. We have to be like Him!

FROM OUR STRUCTURES:

EXCELLENCE honours God and inspires people. I am happy to repeat what I said last year. **“Upgrade! Upgrade! Upgrade!”** Let us upgrade ourselves in all spheres of our activity and leadership. *Let us do well.* The way we counsel, dress, give, pray, preach, sing, speak, teach, worship, write, set up logistics etc., let us just upgrade ourselves. Again, I say, **“Upgrade! Upgrade! Upgrade!”**

The Women's leadership is grateful for another great exciting year in all regions which is witnessed during their Regional Retreats. Their upgrading has been phenomenal. They have initiated many things from their local churches to their regions and overflowing to the denomination as a whole. They are at present focusing on the following goals:

- ✓ To uphold “unity in diversity...” within women of the Africa Evangelical Church, through encouraging women to visit each other at our regional retreats.
- ✓ To be compassionate towards one another and to reach out to those in need.
- ✓ To look after the welfare of Pastors and their immediate families.
- ✓ To improve the standard of giving/fundraising.

Their Regional Chairpersons crisscrossed to other region during their Regional Retreats. That has helped them to see how other women do their services and programmes as well as topics in such fellowships. In October the Eswatini and KZN Women leadership drove all the way to East London to witness what God is doing in the Eastern Cape. Those are amazing strides of faith needing our big applause to them and glory to our Lord Jesus.

The Women gave large amounts of money to the Centre fund which they have collected over the years. Some of those who started the fund are not in the leadership anymore, but those who are present have run in full speed with the baton. That is highly appreciated in keeping on with the vision.

They are stretching themselves to the following:

- ✓ the joyful giving and setting up of funding for pastors’ funeral scheme (by Gauteng women)
- ✓ supporting children’s ministry
- ✓ acknowledgement of important dates in the AEC calendar
- ✓ the wellness zone program called “shukuma mfati” where women start the day by working out to keep themselves fit for the day
- ✓ handwork valued by Eswatini Women as fundraising tool
- ✓ **‘We care’** gift tokens given to widows and sympathize with them.
- ✓ Tokens presented to all the pastorate widows during every AGCC

The Children’s Ministry:

This should be the backbone of our ministry and vision. The numbers that have come in, show us that we have about 7,000 children that are nurtured by this structure. We have less than 500 teachers who are committed to telling the children about God’s love. We are grateful to God for those who have dedicated their lives in reaching the next generation. We are still in dire need of Male children workers. May I appeal to young people who complain that they are doing nothing in the church, this is a lifetime fulfilling opportunity to raise your hand and be counted. Some of you are teachers by profession, why not share your skills with the church at large. Indeed, it is demanding but it goes with great eternal rewards.

May the good Lord give our Children’s Ministry workers resilient character. May we all be supportive through prayer, personnel, finance, availability to assist or observe. Let us create a warm fellowship in our local churches. May I appeal to all pastors to be helpful and handy to the Children Workers that God has given you. In other local churches they don’t have what you have. These children are still reachable today. Together doing the WORD we could have a greater harvest!

The Youth Ministry:

This structure reported a successful year in all our regions and also attendance to conferences and camps with their zeal for the Lord. We are thankful to God for

various innovative drives in their places of service. It is true that some faced hard life decisions and some have enjoyed fellowship in different platforms. Those who are available become more active in doing what the Lord allows them to do.

Their report also raised some concerns that could be handled in their local situation. But I have realized that without teaching our youth to balance things in life they end up being negative in many things. May I invite again all those who can contribute to our youth to invest in their lives. I still believe that God is raising a mighty army of youth with purpose and direction in life.

The activities in our regions are multi-layered as the needs are not the same. They have camps, conventions, sports day, fun runs, debates, Bible Studies, life skills information, outreach, community involvement, leadership development, visioning tomorrow's church, visitations, many *how to* topics – the list is endless. But these things and many more would work well if they get guidance from their leaders. ***Let us be caring as we do the Word!***

We will not hide these truths from our children/youth; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders. Psalm 78:4.

The Young Adults:

The Young Adults have reported successes and struggles in different regions. I took time last year to explain how I saw God growing His church for the past 50 years in maturing each structure. The guidelines are being delayed over small things. The debate continues on the age of entry to Young Adulthood as well as the name. The common name used globally is Young Adults which captures the wide spectrum of College, Career, Professionals and the Millennials. We have the greatest challenge to understand the multigenerational or intergenerational leadership dynamics to shape the effectiveness of our growing Africa Evangelical Church.

Take time to look around our church. God has brought us together with His love and purpose. Let us encourage one another to do the Word. As we interact with different generations, let us remember what Paul said to Young leader Timothy: 2 Timothy 3 gives us a powerful image of affectionate and effective intergenerational mentoring and leadership in ministry. Verse 10 says "*You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance*". The apostle effectively shared the message and work he was called to with the next generation, modelling and mentoring Timothy for the work of the ministry. In verse 14, Paul challenges Timothy because he invested in him, "*Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it*" (NIV)

The Men's Ministry:

It is noted that Men in all their regions did have their Annual retreats except Gauteng. The themes they had in these retreats are tailored to meet the needs of today's Men. They have had creative topics in line with the Denomination's year theme: "I will Build My Church". We praise God for the challenge that all structures and all local churches have adopted to expand on the theme for the whole year in different ways. We salute you all as we together grow to the fullness of Christ.

The Men's Fellowship is requesting the pastors to encourage their Men membership to attend their services so that we all grow together. Let us make 2019 a better year of service for our Master. In other areas Men go out with their Sons to have that bonding fellowship as we have a good number of our young men who don't have fathers. The Men we have in AEC today can touch many lives by extending their responsibilities as they impact the younger one. Let's do the WORD!

OUR HORIZONTAL INVOLVEMENT

May 16 – 24 2018 - THE UGANDAN TRIP FROM AEC MSELENI CIRCUIT. This really began to form back in 2015 when Luke and Lucy Profitt first started to mention their desire to join a Training in Ministry Outreach team with Africa Inland Mission. As their vision developed and the issues of the Ik people came into focus they shared this with Hlulabantu AEC church where they were worshipping regularly and ministering in the community. The vision was taken up in prayer by the fellowship and the women offered to help Lucy learn some of the skills she would need for living in a very rural community – like killing & plucking a chicken, & grinding corn. The church was sad to see them go but happy to recommend them to the ministry the Lord was laying on their hearts. In April 2016 a commissioning service was held and much prayer offered on their behalf.

In the following years members of the church received their news updates and regular prayer was made on their behalf. Mr Samke Nxumalo indicated his desire in 2017 for a group to go to visit them on the Ik ridge. So, it was that a team of **two pastors, two nurses and a doctor** went to Uganda.

A large part of the trip was washing and tending the feet of people whose language we could not speak, whilst we observed the work of missionaries amongst them. We learnt to greet, walked, sang, and prayed with the people and saw tragic needs unmet. Each of those who went experienced somethings they did not really understand or expect.

There is a whole world out there that needs to be set free by the love of Christ and each of us has a part to play. Mission is not just for a few days, or in one place but is a way of life and across the whole world.

Our church has a tremendous gift to share with others – Faith in God and the knowledge that Christ is our Saviour. We have God's love that moves us when we see others in practical need that we can assist in some way, knowing the importance of making relationships in each place we go! The challenge is to the whole church! We cannot be silent! We are the product of Missions! We can do the WORD!

2018 - Ngwanatau Gladys Makua in Zambia is a missionary with Operation Mobilization from Pretoria. This lady has been working in Zambia for some time and I want to share few things that she shared with me.

She works with different groups of people women and children. She has discovered that there are three kinds of children. There are those who are **in, of or on** the street. She referred me to how God views children. To quote her "They are a gift from Him; created in His own image; worthy of His blessings in Matthew 18:5 *“and*

whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.” Why are they on the street corners?

- ✓ They are innocent, rejected, abandoned and are hurting inside.
- ✓ Some lost both parents because of HIV/AIDS, no families want to take them.
- ✓ Some lost their mother and left with the aunt who mistreats them physically and emotionally.
- ✓ Some are told to follow their dead mothers, etc

Lamentations 4:4-5 *“The parched tongues of their little ones stick to the roofs of their mouths in thirst. The children cry for bread, but no one has any to give them. The people who once ate the richest foods now beg in the streets for anything they can get. Those who once wore the finest clothes now search the garbage dumps for food.”*

Other programme she has been exposed to is that of a Day Care, where the children are picked up in the morning, brought to the centre for food, wash their clothes and take a shower and be involved in Bible study. After that they are taken back to the streets where they belong and some are reunited with their parents.

She also deals with trauma and crisis that some women go through. In other areas she encounters Muslim children and women. Home schooling some children and some are eight- or nine-year olds. Pray for Gladys as she carries the banner of God’s love. Support Gladys financially every month or as the Lord leads.

UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE – WWW.UBI.AC.ZA UBI is registered, accredited, approved and credible institution offering *Higher Certificate in Theology; Diploma in Theology and Bachelor of Theology*. On the 24 November 2018 we saw three AEC students graduate. Each of the three regions in South Africa shared one graduate. (Eastern Cape launched Ngiki, Gauteng launched Khambule and KZN had Buthelezi graduating). May those who have completed their studies find God’s will for their lives as servants of the Master who is building His Church.

The school will ever need our prayers, our financial support for the students that God has called but somebody should supply the means, some people will need our encouragement to take that step of faith for three or four or five years to study the Word of God and be able to dissect it without any hesitancy.

AEC is a member of the Council and as such we will continue to be involved financially, through prayer and recommending the school to those that the Lord calls to study His Word from any neighbour countries. Visit their web page and get all the answers.

I was blessed to see a graduate Indian widow, seeing her two boys graduating at UBI on the same day. What a family! What an obedient heart! What a privilege! Have budget from your local church to encourage the school. This year it was the 77th Graduation Ceremony. Stand with the school as it nears the century of faithfully unveiling the Word of God to those that God has called.

One denomination adopted supporting one lecturer who teaches there. We congratulate such stride that some churches have taken to have a part in that spiritual and eternal investment.

October 6 – Thanking God for the Xabas and Mbanjwas by the Alumni. This was a joyous day for the two long serving lecturers to be appreciated by the Alumni and the church at large. It emphasizes the faithfulness of God over the centuries to the institution.

BIBLE SOCIETY – www.biblesociety.co.za Praise be to the Lord for another year in which the Bible could be produced and distributed in different formats. The IsiZulu translation is still going on in Durban.

Take note that every year the prices of Bibles are adjusted at the beginning of November. Also, when you transfer the AEC donation to the Bible Society of South Africa use this new donor **reference number 700876** so that your gift will go under AEC. We are members of Bible Society and as such we are deeply involved in our support. During the last financial year, I am happy to report that we gave more than R27000 due to the hard work done by our Women with R5 coin containers that were used by some, and some local churches have their yearly budget covering their giving every year. Let us do things properly and orderly displaying that we are maturing in Missions' giving!

MODERN SIGNAGE AND DIRECTIONS

We appreciate those local churches who have put up their AEC place of worship signs in 2018. It is an ongoing project. The majority don't have signs pointing to their places of worship! These should be done according to the standards required by our Roads Department for those who are in urban areas. Signs are part of today's marketing tool.

HIV/AIDS & TODAY FOR TOMORROW –

This year we did have activities mainly in training or workshops for the Today for Tomorrow programmes in Swaziland and KZN. Rev Chris Maphosa, a Missionary now under SIM is passionate with Today for Tomorrow programme, did team up with Mrs E Mndzebele and others in different areas even in 2018.

In North West 2040 learners in 17 schools were exposed to T4T lessons. Chris made time to be with teachers in KZN during their Regional Conference and 60 teachers who are impacting 600 children were trained. Follow up meetings were held in Pietermaritzburg, training happened at Umthatha, Eastern Cape where 50 teachers came in the midst of taxi violence, and those teachers have been impacting 705 children.

Another addition on the ministry to children has been the course on ORALITY attended by some of our members in Zimbabwe. This is telling Biblical story in a creative, intentional, with the aim of applying the truth of the story to the listener. This is the approach that the Lord Jesus used many times. If I remember well, He only read from the scroll in the Synagogue. Some who went have taught the skill to others to brighten our impact to children with prayer that they will be better citizens and leaders in whichever field the Lord might place them.

We praise the Lord for people who have the burden for our children. We will ever need more teachers until Christ comes. Let us step out and invade the lives of our children with God's love even in 2019!

GRANDPARENTS DAY – SEPTEMBER 09 2018

*“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy **grandmother** Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” II Timothy 1:5.*

We praise God for those who took time in 2018 and thanked the Lord for the grand mothers and fathers they have in their local churches. They are a gift to the church. Some local churches don't have them and some have many of them. We thank God for the gift of these special people. Let us embrace them with our love not only on that one day but every day let us do the Word as we laugh with them, assist them and listen to them as they teach us life lessons.

Our next Grandparents' day will be on the **8th September 2019**. I have noticed that some are graduating to the real Grandparents at the end of this year.

✠ CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY – 14 OCTOBER 2018

A number of pastors have shared with me how their local churches appreciated them and thanked God for their leadership in 2018. We say thank you to those churches and may I encourage those that did not to start that family bonding in thanking God for their pastoral family.

A concern has come to me that other pastors are never appreciated which is sad. On the same vein I have heard that other pastors do demand that their local churches appreciate them with specific gifts. That is also sad to hear. Other churches have gone too far in that they impose on the membership to raise a specific amount which at times becomes too much for the ordinary member who might not have resources to do that. In all let us be careful and be led by the Spirit of God to do what is right and wholesome. At the end all of us should be grateful to God who made our paths to crisscross the fabric of our lives and appointments.

The Clergy Appreciation Day for 2018 will be on the **13th October 2019**. You may start preparing your innovations and budget early in the year. Do the Word in love!

Conference Centre Project – This is exciting year of action as our verse reminds us. Doing the Word! The excitement is high with others and the giving is sacrificial from others. We say whosoever has a willing heart, God looks for such an individual. I heard many humbling stories of how people are giving. A retiring matured lady instead of building her new house said, I want to see the conference centre first built with my money and my needs will follow later.

I still encourage each and every one of us to build the centre with our prayers. The needs are not money and mortar. But as I usually say, it is a step of faith that is required. An old adage says, “Well begun is half done.” The Mankayane landscape will never be the same. The hills that the Lord wanted to have His footprint 121 years ago has allowed us to add another land mark. A beautiful and unique place of worship. A place to glorify the Lord! We are all praying that the Lord keeps us until we become part of that joyous gathering as we march around the first phase.

May I say thank you to all committees who served in the past as next year elections will be conducted and new committees will take the baton from local churches, circuits, regions and AGCC. Let us acknowledge the work they did and truly thank God for their dedication. Some used their everything in order that we

could get something. Others had a rough time in their lives and they will ever need our support.

UNTIL THEN ...

I thank God for the opportunity He gave me to serve so many beautiful people. I learnt that people matter. I learnt to appraise and applaud; to lead and to be led; to invest in lives, give and encourage; to laugh, listen and love; to observe and to pray; to read and to smile; to think, touch and trust; to reach out and solidify those contacts.

May I take this opportunity as always to thank you all prayer partners from all our regions.

I wish all members of our church a Peaceful and fruitful, healthy and industrious New Year 2019. Let us bond with one another as we celebrate our presence in the AEC. I thank God for the privilege of being a servant, seeing Him increase while I decrease.

Yes, as Christ builds His Own Church, He would like to see us doing the Word! Let us together march in faith and see Him do great things for His glory through us.

Be Doers of the Word!

Humbly presented by



Reed P Mntambo, PRESIDENT

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA
29 DECEMBER 2018

Prayer Pointers for the Year 2019:

1. Conference Centre Giving, Building, Skill, Wisdom
2. Biblical and cheerful giving within our denomination.
3. The elections in the local, circuit, regional and denominational representation.
4. Let all of us live and do the Word.
5. Upgrade, good health, safety, fulfilment and joy in our communities and families as we serve.
6. Tangible brotherly love that will draw many to Jesus.
7. Important dates to note:

- ✓ 08 – 10 February 2019 [Board Meeting]
- ✓ 09 – 12 May 2019 [Workers' Seminar]
- ✓ 12 May 2019 [Mother's Day]
- ✓ 16 June 2019 [Father's Day]
- ✓ 26 – 30 June 2019 [Eastern Cape RCC]
- ✓ 19 – 24 August 2019 [Eswatini RCC]
- ✓ 29 September 2019 [Gauteng]
- ✓ 26 – 30 June 2019 [KZN RCC]
- ✓ 19 – 21 July Denominational Committees Mtg.
- ✓ 08 September 2019 [Grandparents' Day]
- ✓ 13 October 2019 [Clergy Appreciation Day]
- ✓ 16 - 20 December 2019 [AGCC]

Let us be encouraged as we witness the results of our doing the WORD!

**AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE
St Marks High School, Mbabane, eSwatini.
RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
29 DECEMBER 2018**

By Ms Makhosazana Themba

Programme Director, President and the Board, Leadership at different levels
Bazalwane abathandekayo eNkosini.

I stand before you as a proud full member of this fast-growing church and more,
the church that has made GOD the centre of everything.

As a congregation we are very proud of the leadership that has managed not to lead
us astray, when so many Pastors have used such opportunities for their personal
gains, but we are very fortunate that as this group we are being led to the right
direction – in the fulfilment of God's will, this has come out very clear in the 2018
Presidential Speech.

2018 the year that we are about to finish -3 days to go (3 Lalas and 3 Vukas) and
we will be in the New Year- 2019. This year has not been easy, full of challenges
but the only thing we are happy and sure of is SISAKHOLWA, we have not moved
an inch from what we chose to be.

Today we are having our AGCC as we agreed in 2017, without making any
comparisons; there are denominations that have failed to meet as we are this week
because of personal, general reasons and conditions beyond their understanding.
We thank the Almighty that we still have a leader; we have witnessed scenarios
where leaders were driven out of church premises.

It is with great pride and honour that this year's theme has kept us moving and
growing and remained as the pillar and source of our strength. Some of us have
lost the beloved ones but it's encouraging that such loss was shared among the
church, and to know that they have left us to be with the Lord. We also thank God
that increase is noticed in the following arenas - marriages, births – as a church
we warmly welcome them and confident that they will feel welcomed as they have
been long waited for and they do have a special role to play within this organization.
The church has also been blessed by having those who have accepted Lord Jesus
as their personal Saviour, that is the best present they have ever given to
themselves i.e. **Preparation for life after death or being mindful that izinto
azipheleli la, kodwa ngelinye ilanga izincwadi ziyovulwa, zibuye zivulwe.**

The church is most privileged to have 2018 –Achievers in different spheres, they
are warmly welcomed and mostly needed. It is very consoling to know that what
they achieved has not gone unnoticed but somebody in a little corner is watching

– BRAVO and VIVA good spirit of achieving / winning. I hope now they feel **oomph** to push forward harder (New & additional qualifications, new jobs and promotions our prayers are with them.

In the same breath we are praying for those who will be looking for jobs with no order of priority as this will increase the church cash flow - nikani u Caesar okuka Caesar

Planning Sessions

A winning and functional organization is characterised by taking time away from the busy schedule to review, if they are still on the right track and be able to re plan. It is encouraging to learn that this church has been able to get such a chance, no wonder we have made so much progress in pursue of the Vision and Mission of the church.

A new dimension is being highlighted where fellow brethren were able to visit each other, we are all encouraged to do the same as there are good lessons to be learned, sharing of best practices and provide support for each other.

Conference Centre

This is the year where we have been richly blessed where as a church, we have been able to have our long-standing wish, fulfilled. It is with great joy that some of us are lucky / honoured to see one of our dreams come true, though it is with sadness that some of our great leaders and fellow brethren who had the same vision are no longer with us, but we thank them for being determined in fulfilling such a dream of having our own conference centre. Such a venture ascribes well to what is wished by all - Land ownership.

Groups Meetings / Fellowships

This group is also congratulated for being able to meet at different levels and it is soul enriching and fulfilling that all the groups aspired to unite the church thus producing the formidable organisation that will ensure that the will of God is done. As a church we are humbled at the precious gold that has been given to us inKanyiso, as a church we never stop to marvel at their good works and what they still continue to strive for – you are really an engine of this church – We pray that the Almighty keep and protect you while serving Him unreservedly.

The exciting news that as a church we have pocket of good practice such as providing care to those in need, we applaud the donation of the centre to be used by those with handicaps.

It is appreciated that the President has taken into cognisance the availability and irrational use of technology, much as this is fast and modernised mode of communication, but it not without challenges that are so expensive that have caused others to lose their future, today we have people that are highly qualified

but because of the time they spent on social media and content there in, have not been able to secure jobs, please allow us not to pray and ask in vain for what we are responsible for blocking, learn to spend your quality time at work or looking for job not in IT.

All regions were commended for being able to have their conferences, this would not have been possible without the Presidential and Board leadership – we thus feel proud to be led by such a competent and Goal Directed group. The slogan contained in honourable President Speech even in the previous years – UPGRADE! UPGRADE! is well embraced and demonstrated in the following areas:

- Unity and diversity
- Reach out to those in need
- Welfare for our Pastors
- Improved fundraising strategy

Different Ministries

Children's' Ministry – strides that have been in this area are commendable and the command given well accepted – **that failure to develop this group means that there will be no church tomorrow let's be steadfast in developing this cadre – INKUNZI ISEMATHOLENI.**

Youth - this is a group worth investing in as dividends / bonuses to be received at the end of the tunnel are quite high.

This does not mean other ministries are not important such as young adults, men's – but those mentioned above are the kingpin of our struggle and groups mentioned here are direct descendants of them.

HORIZONTAL / LATERAL INVOLVEMENTS

1. The missionary spirit is commended and it's hoped it will spread throughout the world as this is what has made us to be who we are and where we are, because someone felt the pressure for us, it is thus fitting that we also go out and spread the good news especially to those deprived.

2. Support provide to the Union Bible Institution was well commended.

3. The R5 project went well hoping it will achieve the results its intended for.

4. Signage - Branches that managed to have the signage leading to their places of worship were commended. I know those without it's because of the bureaucratic system we operate under.

5. HIV and AIDS PROGRAMME –The programme is bearing good results and it is hoped will reach many people with the intention to provide care and support.

6. Awareness days / Calendar Days - this programme to large extent has promoted good relationship at different levels with a deeper sense of caring. I wish the commemoration of these days could be documented, videotaped especially the

elderly so as to see the joy in the faces of our lovely grandparents and the church stalwarts.

The creativity and innovations displayed by the local churches does not go unnoticed, we feel humbled to be acknowledged and appreciated by the executive.

Conclusion

Bazalwane the list is endless most unfortunately we don't have the whole day to digest and fully understand the given address, but in short we want to say as ama AEC amahle namhlophe we accept, respect, adopt the speech given on what transpired in the year 2018 and feel proud to be part of the fast growing and achieving organization called – AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH and promise to close the gaps identified allowed by the Almighty - provider of all.

The honourable President is congratulated for being able to compile and deliberate on such an enriching document which will be used as the blue print of our deliberations.

In closing everyone is wished a productive and rewarding year ahead – 2019 let's double or triple our numbers in the next AGCC.

KHANIMAMBO / DIKHENSILE / ENKOSI / SIYABONGA

Humbly presented by

Ms Makhosazana Princess Themba - KZN