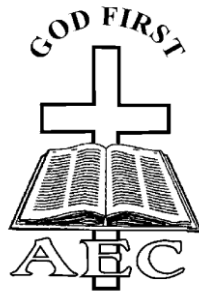


AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Annual General Conference 2019



**Doing it heartily
for the Lord**

YEAR 2020 - VERSE:

“And whatever you do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord and not to men.” NKJV
(Colossians 3:23)

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.
- 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).

2019 was another short but busy year. We are filled with joy as we say, 2020, here, we come. It rolled away like a scroll before we could see some of the desired fruit from the seeds that we planted. Doing the Word has been the theme that rang within all our structures, Bible Studies, Funerals, Camps, Retreats, local churches, Regional Conferences, in WhatsApp groups and some have made it their slogan when they say good bye.

But, really, how many of us feel good that their lives have demonstrated the gist of this verse without speaking. I wonder how many of us have displayed doing the Word in their devotional lives, ministries, outreach, prayer life, generosity, helping the OTHER!

Personally, I am grateful to my family, home church, leadership groups that I worked with from the Local Church, circuits, regions, task teams, young and old. Those who prayed for me, encouraged me, laughed with me if it happened. Those who shared their love in many ways. *May our good Lord bless us all as we serve each other heartily as to the Lord.*

THE 2018 CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS –

St Marks High School in Mbabane, eSwatini was our venue. We waited for this for twelve years or three turns as it finally happened last year. The 1167 of us who were there have good memories of the gate, the banners, the cars, the buses, the hills, the City, the meals, the smiles, the queues, the visiting guests and His Royal Highness Prince Sobandla's presence on behalf of His Majesty.

The Hosts for the 2018 AGCC, as the case had been in the past, informed His Majesty, King Mswati III about the AGCC through the normal "LINCUSA" (Liaison Officer), His Royal Highness Prince Sobandla, given to the AEC by His Majesty the King, years ago! Prince Sobandla came and read His Majesty's Speech at the Opening of the Conference. The hosting Region further reported that HRH Prince Sobandla donated a Cow towards the Conference, which was much appreciated.

The theme, "Doing the Word" had a great impact in the church. The hall that we thought it was big became smaller and consequently, some couldn't get inside. We apologise for such inconveniences that will continue to be part of our being from local churches and up. As the church is designed to perpetually grow, we will never find a place that will accommodate us with our growing special needs.

We thank God for Eswatini leadership and many teams that worked so hard to see the success of that conference. We thank God for the Regional Executive leadership and all structures and teams who did their best for Jesus. May the good Lord give you His continued favour as you serve Him heartily.

✦ 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, wants and fear, loneliness and depression will all cease.

“And if one member suffers, all the parts [share] the suffering; if one member is honoured, all the members [share in] the enjoyment of it.” 1 Cor 12:26

Mrs Ntozethu Gladys Dlamini the wife to Revd SE Dlamini went to be with the Lord on January 03 2019. It was the saddest occasion to begin the year with such pain. Her funeral took place on Saturday 12 January at Mbazwana.

Revd Dlamini was really drained when his wife was not well. He slept in the car, in the hospital, in different homes carrying the hope and the love for his wife. He eventually didn't not enjoy seeing the hospital where his wife was. We prayed and trusted the Lord but the Lord did what was good for us all, though very painful.

Revd SE Dlamini conveyed his deepest appreciation to the entire leadership and the membership of AEC for the support shown. He said his wife was honoured to be given a denominational funeral whatever that means in his interpretation. Thank you for all the support you gave to the family. Continue to pray for after effects and side effects that endeavour to take over our emotional and spiritual healing in such cases.

Mrs Nokuzola Florence Magewu went to be with the Lord on January 31 2019 and her funeral was on February 08 2019. We were grateful to God who led that family to be the early leaders and members of AEC in Swaziland as educators as well as new ground breakers in the church. That continued even when they came back to South Africa. She was a hard-working woman who enjoyed serving others. We are thankful to all those who supported this family over the years and the regions that were represented at the funeral. The Eswatini entourage was a great blessing to the children as they paid their last homage. Pray for the Magewu children as they struggle to continue that legacy of faith in God without parents. There will be challenges that will ever need our prayers, encouragement and communication. May the Magewu legacy not end in this sombre mood. Let us pray for the new shoot to emerge from within the family that served their Lord and the body of Christ in an honourable manner for many years.

Rev AM Zondo lost his sister **Mrs Bongiwe Clarice Ndovela** who passed away on February 15 2019 and was buried on February 23 2019 in Port Shepstone. We thank the Lord for those who attended and supported Revd Zondo as he travelled that painful road again. Let us think and pray for one another as we go through pain, struggles, victories as well as failures. I couldn't attend this funeral due to my weak health at the time.

Mrs Nowandile Ntlantsane who was involved in motor vehicle accident on February 21 went to be with the Lord and her funeral took place on March 09 2019 at Lukhuni, Libode. Revd L Ntlantsane lost his wife while she was on the way to comfort other family that was going through death of their loved one. Indeed, the void is greater that we can imagine. The loss of another pastor's wife left an abyss that cannot be filled but we are called to live with. The Ntlantsane family, the relatives, the local church, the circuit and the region will continue with life with this dear soul missing. We were very encouraged and thanked the Lord to learn that all the children know the Lord Jesus.

Mrs Nomathemba Pilane went to be with the Lord on Sunday evening of April 21 and her remains were buried on April 26 2019. This was a woman of joy, resilience, class, crisp and texture. She loved to sing with her whole vigour. Her son was buried in December during our conference in Eswatini. Hardly four months later, she also was gone. Indeed, death disrupts and frustrates us every time it strikes its scorching sting. But one day it will die.

We thank God for her life and dedication to the church. She was one of the first Women AEC Denomination's Committee member. She worked tirelessly as the Secretary when Eswatini region established the regional office and, in her position, interacted with many a member in her office for prayer and counsel. We are thankful to God for all those who supported the Pilane family over the years. Continue to position yourself in such a way that when God chooses to use you, you may be readily be available.

Dumisa Mbatha passed away on May 17 2019 and was buried on Saturday May 25 2019. He was Pastor D & Mrs Z Mbatha's son of AEC Mamelodi. Our young and old depart, and the strong and the weak also pass away. When that happens, we run to our Father for comfort and healing. Indeed, our God is AMAZING! May our young people and AEC Mamelodi be strong in the faith as they will reflect on the loss for many years to come.

We thank God for the Clergy and all other leadership structures and brethren who went to the extremes to be supportive to the family. The Mbathas are grateful to God for His comfort and thankful to brethren who were supportive in person, in prayer and gifts. That is the beauty of belonging to a church family. You were those friends who stick closer than our brothers. Thank you for doing the word!

Fana Eric Sokhela of Umlazi passed away on May 31 2019 and his funeral was held on June 07 2019. Sokhela was known widely in personal evangelism and prayer circles. He had contacts with many people from other denominations. We are grateful to all those who came close to this family and comforted them. Pray for his wife as she is also frail at this time and the family. He finished his race. The void is left in that family that only God can substitute with His presence.

Simiso Ntanz the son of Mr & Mrs BF Ntanz from Esikhaleni, who are members of denomination's committees passed away on June 05 2019 and his funeral was held on June 15 2019 at KwaNibela under Mseleni Circuit. This was a great loss to the family and the company he worked for as he occupied a very responsible position. Pray for the Ntanzis as they adjust to that void. Also pray that God might comfort them and help them see His plan in all what happened though so painful. It is a blessing to be a member of the body of Christ.

Solomon Sipho Mthembu of Pretoria passed away on June 22 2019 and his funeral took place on June 29 2019. Mthembu was a faithful AEC Temba, elder and whenever we met, he could wear a smile and offer a handshake. I personally wanted to be present in his funeral, but with other commitments I failed to be present. The local church of Temba will miss the dignified presence of Mvelase in their midst. Pray for the family as they adjust to life without the father, that the Heavenly Father may warm their memories as they reflect on the good times they experienced while they were together.

Mrs Kedibone Rumo of Gauteng passed away on August 17 2019 and her funeral took place on August 24 2019. Mrs Rumo was the late pastor Rumo senior's wife and we are thankful to all who came close to this family at the time of great need. When our elderly leaves us our history book closes. Let us revive the extraordinary doing of the Lord in our experiences with God. Pray for the remaining family and relatives that they may discover other passage to enjoy life though deprived of their grandmother.

Miss Dolly Mdudu of Eastern Cape passed away on August 20 2019 and her funeral took place on September 01 2019. Dolly was the daughter to Mrs NL Mdudu from Nkanga who serves in the Women's Denomination Committee. We express our deepest sympathy to Mrs Mdudu. May you spend time reflecting on the good things that you went through with Dolly during the years you were together. Tough as it is, but it is your journey and you must gracefully finish your race too. Our prayers go before the Throne of grace for a continued healing and comfort of the soul. We are deeply saddened to lose our young girl with a beautiful name.

Mrs Nombuso Violet Matyaba of Eastern Cape passed away on June 22 2019 and her funeral took place on September 29 2019. Little did I know that I was hugging her for the last time when I stopped in from the RCC Eastern Cape on June 29 2019 that I will never see her again. The warmth and the sharing with them were just great and flowing with joy and appreciation. *IBhele lihambile kalokhu!* She was a bright and loving woman. I will miss her when I go to the conferences in the Eastern Cape because she was always there with her walking stick and resilient faith.

Revd Knox V Mavimbela of Gauteng passed away on September 23 2019 after prolonged ill health and was laid to rest on September 28 2019. Indeed, we go through mixed emotions when our loved ones depart. Truly our comfort comes from the Word of God. On behalf of the family, bereaved and yet thankful to God for your prayers and comforting words. Your being with the family during his last days which were not easy. The Shoba family became very handy during that time. We appreciate you as you were doing the Word all the way! Pray for the family as they must adjust daily without him in that home. The Lord cares!

Dr Sam Shabalala of Durban passed away on September 23 2019 after long ill health. Shabalala was the witness of our birth as AEC in 1962 and was ordained during that year. He later worked at the SABC and made an indelible impact when he translated the Handel's Messiah into isiZulu rendering. He pursued his studies in Music in Amsterdam, Holland under Theo van der Bijl in Choral and Conducting Techniques. He had an ear and passion for the VOICE that produces melody. His funeral took place on September 29. We lost a jewel with matchless gifts that we will never replace. Pray for the family and friends at this time.

Baba Samson Ncube of Pongolo, Kortnek passed away on the 30 September 2019 and his funeral took place on the 5th October 2019. Ncube was a pillar of AEC in that area under East Rand circuit. He was respected by many local pastors and leaders. His funeral was graced by many pastors of AEC in the East Rand and KZN regional leadership. Revd G Ntshangase shared the good news and some people responded to the open invitation. Pray for his wife and children and that local

church as the scar will never be forgotten. Pray for the continued growth of the work in that area which has many good-mannered people.

Revd Vuyo Victor Gqoba of Gauteng passed away on November 13 2019 and his funeral took place on November 23 2019. The sad news changed our positive expectations of God's intervention as he went in and out of hospital into sombre mood. We remembered that the greatest test of faith is when we don't get what we want, but still, we must be able to say THANK YOU LORD. The Gqoba family was thankful to the AEC for the support they received during this soldier's ill health until death.

May I salute all those who prayed for the family and some came and rubbed shoulders with the family during this painful experience. God chose the best for our fellow soldier. I am thankful to God for the network of faithful people who responded when the siren rang. He was decorated with physicality for valour in the ministry and in leadership development. He demonstrated that stance the way he walked, talked and sang. He is now gone; may we emulate him in some of his character as we manage the gap. Pray for the family that he left, the church he was pastoring and the community he served. To the Gqoba family, we say thank you and we embrace you at this time and going forward! Let us indeed do it heartily as to the Lord.

‡ **ARRIVALS:**

We welcome all boys and girls who were born this year, 2019. We will continually welcome the new generation that God gives us in His church. Together we welcome the recipients of 2019 Wedding Anniversary Merriments from far and near. 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! Thank you for deciding to be part of this family. We need you and appreciate that we can grow together with you and do whatever God allows us to do and do it heartily. Whether it is services in the kitchen or cleaning or preaching or serving in other areas of ministries in the environment where God places us. *We say hearty welcome!*

‡ **SOARING HIGHER:**

We congratulate all those who graduated from different fields of learning and we welcome the 2019 archivers in a variety of stages in life. It may be that awarded certificate, diploma, degree, licence, title, new home, that job, new car, other local church. It is true that the good and bad happens. Let us learn something that the bad brings our way.

We praise God when we reflect on the journey that **Mrs Rose Ramahlafi** has taken. On April 05, 2019 she retired as the Principal of the Latsky Nursing College after bringing transformation in that institution. This college was previously reserved as a white only nursing college. The staff testified that Mrs Ramahlafi loved the church with all her heart, passionate about education, love for her family, caring attitude. She was honoured with an Order as the long serving member of Democratic Nursing Organisation for South African nurses and midwifery professionals (DENOSA).

As AEC we are grateful to God for such exemplary leadership where God has planted our members to do the Word as well as live it daily! Long live to the Ramahlafi!

HERE AND THERE

JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 01 EVANGEL FELLOWSHIP ASSEMBLY - eMseni Christian Centre – Benoni. Due to my monitored health, I requested Revd JA Shoba to represent me in that meeting. This meeting is for leaders of the churches that were founded by the Mission in different countries. It is also very difficult to organize such a meeting because of the language and countries. This year such meeting was supposed to take place in a French speaking country but there was no country willing to host such an assembly.

FEBRUARY 8 - 10 at IHAWU GUEST HOUSE – MAYVILLE DURBAN

This was our evaluation meeting as usual and focusing on what transpired in Eswatini and looking forward to the 2019 opportunities. We were grateful that the Lord allowed us to meet after attending Mrs NF Magewu's funeral at Umzimkhulu, we drove to Durban.

We appreciate the commitment of the Board members to the task that God has given us at this time. The Board does not represent any Region but we become the face of the AEC in unity of purpose, love and wisdom. We do take time to pray for different things in the denomination and we appreciate your prayers as you take us to the throne of grace wherever you are. It is true that most of our meetings end late, but the Lord enables us to finish our agenda.

MARCH 10 IN EAST LONDON- AEC

After the Mrs Ntlantsana funeral at Lukhuni we drove to East London with the Ntonganas for the night in order for us to be at the AEC Entsikelelweni local church on Sunday. It was a wet weekend with fog but we managed to meet the happy, loving and generous group. I was welcomed by phone by Mama Maxhego on Friday late afternoon after leaving the airport. Then on Sunday I met Tatu Nxitywa, Cekuse, Gcelu and Vakele as well as other young people. They impacted my life with their joy. Coincidentally Dr ZM Mkhize who is based at Rhodes University for now the Women erstwhile chair just showed up with a Ntanzu girl from eSikhaleni.

MARCH 16 at Vimbukhalo AEC - Mseleni Circuit

March 16 became a great day at Mseleni Circuit as they dedicated the building of Vimbukhalo local church to the worship of the Lord. The young and old were happy to give to the Lord the beautiful building that they managed to build.

Though the weather was unkind with heat, but we all became witnesses of God's grace. It dawned on me that many in that circuit last saw when Mseleni Local church was dedicated during SAGM more than 60 years ago. With this as my observation, may I take this opportunity and briefly share the importance of the Building Dedication.

We thank the Lord for those who were present from the community, those who represented the chief the Hon Watson Nxumalo, the AEC leadership from the

Region and Rev MX Dladla gave the charge and a number of people dedicated their bodies and allowed the Lord Jesus to dwell in those symbolic temples.

God gives us ability to erect the places of worship. After completing such places, it is befitting for us to dedicate those buildings to the Owner. We could follow the Old Testament where the patriarchs and prophets dedicated the altar as well as the dedication of the temple. It should be a holy convocation of joy with one aim to pledge ourselves to worship the Lord in those building, the centres of fellowship and emphasize the importance of a local church body where we can develop different gifts of one another.

MARCH 28-30 – SIM-SA COUNCIL MEETING: CAPE TOWN

We thank the Lord for allowing me to attend this SIM meeting in Cape Town though it is not easy in many ways. Travelling is not so easy these days, and the ticket hikes are unbelievable. But to hear of what God is doing within SIM-SA reminds us that we were born of Missions. That is why I feel that our budget should always include Missions.

April 17 – 22 2019 – Rev RS Maseko – in Botswana

This was Easter weekend that saw Maseko taking a group of six including him to Botswana. Wow! We thank God for the kind heart of Bishop N Mazelo who always shares his love and environments with us. May the good Lord bless AEC Botswana!

May 09 - 12 – Workers’ Seminar – Skogheim - KZN

The 185 of us went back to Skogheim because of affordability even though we overflow to other neighbouring B&Bs in the area. Every year we usually have more than ten first attenders. I have observed that the human spirit of our leaders when they go there just bubble with high anticipation. We thank the local churches for sponsoring their leaders to attend this seminar. We note that we have a number of our elderly leaders who go there some from their own funds and some are assisted by circuits. We say may God bless you all. It has become a habit to live by example in our giving. There are so many financial needs that come up while we are there and hit us on our face. But as the Spirit moves you to be generous our leaders become generous in their managing what they are given.

There is certain part that I don't like. It is called "umdumbadumbane". But the humbling gesture that is shown by all leaders is really electrifying and eye wetting. It is difficult to paint the picture that is felt after we partake the Holy Communion during the last night of our seminar. I usually sleep after 02h00 and up at 04h00. Our next seminar will be on **07 – 10 May 2020** at Skogheim Conference Centre.

May 27-June 3 – Cape Town

Revd TG Ntongana, the Eastern Cape Chairperson took a trip again this year to Cape Town. He was accompanied by Revd MP Dladla from Dumisa in KZN for that week. He volunteered to accompany him and after raising enough funds for the ticket his dream became a reality when he booked his flight.

I was so thrilled to capture those developments which we have longed to see for years. They experienced language problem as needy community speak Afrikaans, they had to get an interpreter as they couldn't be understood. They both had a

wonderful personal experience which cannot be shared. The harvest indeed in ready for harvest. Faithful and committed harvesters are needed right away.

July 19 – 21 2019 Board and Denomination’s Committees – Camp Jonathan – KZN. This was a special time of praying and planning for this conference. The place was cold and really cold with cold water too. Some of the Board and committee members will never forget that weekend. We thank God for the structures within AEC who, when we meet the feeling of one family becomes tangible.

The theme and the year verse for the 2020 was conceived in that meeting. As some members were attending that meeting for the last time, we thank God for them. Their contributions and insights in a variety of discussions and sharing will linger in our memories for years to come. May you continue to be resourceful in your local churches where the Lord has placed you for a purpose.

July 26 2019 - Mbabane Eswatini with Swazi Gospel Singers. The Lord has done great things indeed in the ministry of SGS. They dedicated this evening in making a live DVD using the Mbabane Alliance Church for the venue. They were thanking God for the 40 years ministry as a singing group. They were the first group to use a guitar in the church, they were the first group to sing with their spouses. They also were the first group to sing at the coronation of King Sobhuza the second as well as King Mswati the third. They also were the first group to sing gospel songs in iSiswati. In their 40th celebration they unveiled the Junior Swazi Gospel Singers which has their children singing. We are proud as AEC to have such trail blazers of good news through song. Pray for them as they near their 50th Anniversary in nine years’ time which will be 2028.

July 28 2019 – Somhlolo Festival of Praise - eSwatini

I was honoured to grace this special ceremony that is held every year to reflect on history and solidify the Nation’s trust in God of the Bible. Their theme was so appropriate taken from 3 John 2. The history states that KING Sobhuza I, who was popularly known as King Somhlolo, had his vision that Swazis would one day choose umculu (book) over indilinga (money).

The King who ruled from 1815-1836, is well-documented in history books for his vision in which he advised the nation to choose the book in an encounter with white men. According to history books, *“one night, shortly before his death, Sobhuza had a vision. In the morning he called his councillors and told them he had dreamt that white skinned people with hair like the tails of cattle would arrive in his country, bringing with them two things: and when translated, these words respectively mean a scroll or book and a round piece of metal or money. The book was taken to represent the Bible, and Sobhuza advised his people to accept this but to try and avoid money.”*

August 10 – Gauteng Inkanyiso Women – Garden Court, Durban – KZN It was an electrifying experience to walk into a cosy hotel hall with almost 200 singing, happy, smiling, laughing women from AEC Gauteng.

Due to traffic and parking delays the timing became perfect for us to be chaotic in that hall. As our eyes locked, and smiles beamed it was fulfilling to see how God has led us thus far. Even the ones that I thought they were of shy character and

reserved they just exploded with joy. Indeed, we are beginning to be a happy church that I longed to see many years ago.

My desire was to greet them and just get the feel of the joy of the Lord in our presence. Cement bags were collected the previous day and they augmented it to 6.4K and such unexpected generosity was humbling. I really discovered that Women do plan their budget ahead and enjoy the dividends thereof. May we all wisely utilize our limited resources that God gives us.

I feel guilty that it has been impossible for me to visit all the structures in their regions or conferences to encourage and get the feel they enjoy.

September 27 – Kapenta Bay – Port Shepstone – KZN I originally planned to visit the KZN Inkanyiso where they booked the entire hotel and other B&Bs as their numbers just soared to more than 300. That was a heavy week to the church as we lost a number of people through death and other funerals were taking place and others pending. I could not see them as I had planned to be in Gauteng and also that trip was tarnished by death as indicated earlier. But the Women contributed their 10K for the Conference Centre was collected. Forward ever backwards never! God bless us all!

October 26 – Mbazwana – KZN The MD Ntulis celebrated their 42nd Anniversary which was organized by their children and I happened to be there due to the fact that I saw the couple develop and upgrade to different positions in the church and work space.

The beauty of their bonding in the midst of physical ailments of Mrs S Ntuli (his wife) was the greatest testimony of God's grace. She fell and broke her ankle, fell and broke her knee, fell and broke her wrist, she has been in and out of theatre for operations more than six times, she has been chronic with arthritis, heart, ankle, knee, spine etc. When Ntuli was mentioning these things we all marvelled that they have walked the journey of ill health together. That taught them to trust in God who begins and finishes.

30 November – LebowaKomo – Limpopo. The Ribas celebrated their 40th anniversary. The goodness of the Lord was displayed in their meditation looking back to the past 40 years of their journey. We wish all these senior couples good health and safety in their errands.

In the church we have all kinds of people. Others are on their first year, others excited about their five years while others jump up and down at their tenth anniversary. May we all display reliability, quality, endurance and security in all stations where God puts us. Congratulations to us all!

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

1. KWAZULU-NATAL: 03 - 07 JULY 2019

This Regional Conference was held at Sisizakele Special School at KwaNgwanase. The Lord was good to me to visit them on July 06 and as always, I found happy crisscrossing young and matured Saints with happy faces and most of them smiling. What a unique gift we have in His church.

I found the Deputy President Revd SR Maseko with his wife and son, who was an invited Bible study speaker and Revd TM Dlamini with two men who just paid them a courtesy visit showing his love for the church. I really felt the honour of seating between the present Deputy President and the former Deputy President in the same Regional conference.

Their theme was in line with our 2019 church theme of “Doing the Word” their emphasis was being faithful in doing the Word. As it is my duty since last year to open the door to whosoever will to give a bag of cement towards the conference centre and the joyful people gave R11100. Thank you KZN RCC for your response. Hoping that you have been faithful in giving throughout the year.

2. EASTERN CAPE – LIBODE– 26 - 30 JUNE 2019

The AEC members invaded the Smuts Ndamase SSS at Nkanga. Their theme was centred around the Doers of the Word who are available and tangible. But my observation was that all the cars that made it there were really tested and really banged by the condition of that road. Perhaps our upgrade must be all inclusive. When we think of the venue we must think about many things, but the mode of transport must be a priority too. I joked with them when I suggested that the Nkanga should shift towards Umtata to enjoy better roads and shopping for groceries etc. I was grateful to visit the region after missing the scheduled visit last year. It was on my way back that I stopped at Mama Matyaba’s home to pay her a visit. Little did I know that it was my last laughter and prayer with her. Indeed, we don’t know about tomorrow. But I had a blessed time with her and children.

3. GAUTENG – SUNDAY – 29 SEPTEMBER 2019

I was glad to be in Gauteng RCC though it was too brief for me. The day became awkward for me when my flight was delayed for three hours and I arrived late at the meeting but was afforded opportunity to greet the Saints and bags of cement were collected from the willing hearts. Revd KS Riba preached a scorching sermon on Divine Appointment.

I was encouraged to see a number of people whom I missed last year and also thrilled to meet old prayer partners and some people that I haven’t seen for few years gracing the service. I saw the growing thrust of the region and also many people wanted to share what God is doing in their lives. All ages were there and very excited too.

Since the funeral of Revd K Mavimbela was on the previous day, my intention was to see Mrs Mavimbela and the family before flying back home, the stop over which I personally enjoyed. I couldn’t stop at the Ndinisa’s residence as I had to be at the airport on time, not knowing that I was going to be delayed at OR for four hours.

I appreciated the courtesy of Dr S Gumede who picked me at the airport and returned me on time for the delayed flight. Every blessing Mnguni and I enjoyed the time we spent together.

4. ESWATINI: MBULUZI – 31 AUGUST & 1 SEPTEMBER 2019

Eswatini Regional Conference was held at Mbuluzi in 2019. I was thankful to God who afforded me another opportunity to visit their RCC having missed the 2018

one. Indeed, an encouragement for me was to see many children and young people attending the conference. It appears that Eswatini is blessed with overflowing children because of their emphasis to Children's Ministry.

The Women have a generous heart and love for AEC and their pastoral team. They have upgraded the catering services, gifts for pastoral families, heart for the elderly and property. This year also I witnessed them handing gifts to the pastoral families. Though I was a visitor together with Revds MX Dladla and BT Chonco we were lavished with memorable gifts. May the Lord bless you richly all of you, generous givers of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The noticeable thing that happened was that their Regional Executive elections were extra ordinary in that only one member from the previous term remained and the entire team was new. There are many dangers in that if it is not from the Lord. We sing, "*Uziliphathe kahle leliVangeli*" reminding ourselves that we are in a relay. Jesus Christ said "Go and preach the good news" We are bearers and custodians of good news. We must not corrupt, infiltrate, influence, tarnish the pure Word as we hand it to the other generation. Hence doing it heartily whatever we do must be our plumb line. Pray for the new members in all committees. Do remember that you are leading God's precious possession – His Church!

FROM OUR STRUCTURES:

EXCELLENCE honours God and inspires people. I am happy to repeat what I said last year and enjoy saying and seeing. "**Upgrade! Upgrade! Upgrade!**" Let us upgrade ourselves in all spheres of our activities 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 Fellowship is grateful for another great exciting year in all regions which is witnessed during their Regional Retreats as always. Their upgrading has been phenomenal. They can travel, they can pay, they can give, they can "*eat cotton*", they can be joyful, they can smile and laugh, they can pray and wait patiently. Yes, God has blessed our women also in 2019.

Their report is positive in many areas because of hard work and commitment to the tasks before them. Two regions reported increased attendance to their retreats and also Doing the Word has been the theme in all their gathering. In two regions the women attending their retreats was not encouraging. Last year I did mention their goals and their stretched desires especially during the term of the current outgoing committee. The crisscrossing of regional visits by some to other groups during their retreats has solidified the unity and encouraged their spiritual growth.

We were all shocked to learn of the passing away of some women during the year who were very strong in Women's ministry. They envy your prayers for the bereaved, for the committees, to do the work entrusted to them heartily.

Personally, I am grateful for the transparency the women conduct their structure. They do submit their financials for me to know. No other structure does that. They are all confidential even to members. Sometimes one wonders whether the funds are properly managed because only few know that. May I say, all the gifts of the Saints should every year be tabled to the membership. Starting from the Local Churches, structures, circuits, regions and AGCC. Once a year we must have an Annual General Meeting during which the Chair and Treasurer table their reports. Please let us ALL UPGRADE! If you fail to do that just withdraw your name from the portfolio and let the other who will be willing to learn and be faithful do the work.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about Titus saying: *“More than that, the churches elected him to travel with us and bring this gift of God’s kindness. We are administering it in a way that brings glory to the Lord and shows that we are doing it willingly. We don’t want anyone to find fault with the way we are administering this generous gift. We intend to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of people.”* 2 Cor 8:19-21.

The Men’s Ministry:

It is noted that Men in all their regions did have their Annual retreats this year and the attendance was a bit better than last year. The activities and topics handled were: active participants in the house of God; Father and the Sons Services; Couples’ Meetings; Sporting Activities; Business and Finance Workshops; Fundraising strategies and Evangelism.

They made golf shirts with the aim of contributing to the Conference Centre Fund. This has been a great initiative even though I don’t have the figure of the amount raised thus far. In other areas the report shows a low turn out to the meetings or retreats and they request encouragement from the Pastors to encourage the Men to be doers of the Word heartily as to the Lord.

We appreciate men for their dedication in serving the Lord in the areas where God has placed them. Men, your presence even in this conference gives us as a church a sense of security and a stamp of resilience in leading and protecting our women and girls as you raise your sons to be Men of service, available and useful to the Master. We salute you for your actions and commitment.

The Young Adults:

The Young Adults have reported successes and struggles again in different regions. The church will eventually mature in all areas and increase our vision for the invasion of the world through His Church!

The Young Adults reported positive meetings and retreats in other regions, while in other regions they are still not organized.

I managed to visit the KZN retreat at Manguze and I was amazed to see very happy group of people handling important topics that are relevant today for this group. Another exciting thing was that they have good human resources within themselves.

I would say, this group when given opportunity they can do great things. The incentives they have are amazing. I am reminded of what the writer to the Roman church said many years ago: *“We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, leading to edification.”*

I thank the Young Adults leaders who were willing to serve in the first coordinating committee until the finalization of the guidelines last year. May I implore the incoming team to be visionaries and see the ministry grow not by might or by strength but by His Spirit. This structure will never be like other structures in numbers. Other local churches will never have this group, just like other churches don't have Grand Parents and others will ever be deprived of not having a good Sunday School programme as we grow in different levels.

Thank you for your contribution to the growth of the AEC and your involvement in different projects in your local churches, circuits and regions. The call is still loud and clear: *“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”*

The Youth Ministry:

The Youth structure reported a successful year in our regions and also attendance fluctuating in some places. As this was the year of elections from local churches to the regions, I discovered that many people don't have a clear picture of any leadership in the church. Why or Who or What etc are questions that have a variety of answers due to worldview.

Some people decline when they are nominated, some push to be nominated or voted in, some don't know who qualifies to be what. Let us make it our habit to read Scriptures. In them we will find all answers we may need in our journey with the Lord.

The Youth structure is the most fluid structure. Some when they are elected, they confuse Christian ministry with the cooperate world. They would like to pounce and direct people they lead, not knowing that it is the opposite in the church. Leaders must lead with their actions, character, commitment, prayer life and conduct in whatever they do. There is no boring time when people are committed and disciplined to the task. I am grateful to God for all those young people who are proud about their Christ who lives in them. Proud of those who serve one another not expecting to be honoured or applauded.

The tendency that is rife at times is to compare which leads to competition which leads to disunity. May I say again to our young people, while you desire to be a better person, spend time with God. He will show you His will for your life. Don't try to be other person or other local church. When you do that you will be a fake not real you.

The Psalmist of old penned: *“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 Children's Ministry:

Our present statistics tells us that we have more than 7500 thousand children in our Sunday School grouping. These young lives are taught by 430 teachers. Though the ratio is not too bad, but there is still a great need for more children and more teachers. You may be the one!

The activities in the Regions are not only limited to Sunday School lessons. They have had workshops; Lesson on Today for Tomorrow; rallies; camps; teachers' meetings; examinations and issuing of certificates in other areas as incentive to the children.

The leaders of this Ministry pray and trust the Lord to lead the children to the personal relationship with Jesus while they are still young. That would help our children to face this cruel world with the direction of the Master of our lives who knows the future.

The teachers appeal to the churches and individuals to support them in their programmes. Also budgeted funding is needed for this ministry.

OUR HORIZONTAL INVOLVEMENT

UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE – www.ubi.ac.za UBI is a registered, accredited, approved and credible institution offering *Higher Certificate in Theology; Diploma in Theology and Bachelor of Theology*.

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.

This year we witnessed their 78th Graduation on the 30 November 2019. We celebrated with four of our students who graduated. These were Pound Luphelile from Elliotdale in the Eastern Cape; Pretty Bhekiwe Mnisi from East Rand; Thabani Oscar Myeni from Mtubatuba and Musa Gibson Tembe from Mabibi, KwaNgwanase – KZN.

We marvelled as we saw two students who came from other African countries i.e. Benin and Tanzania. Also, we heard that the distance learning programme has not yet started to help those who would like to study the Word of God from their places of stay because of work or time etc. God provided two buildings for the Married Students' that can accommodate four couples.

It is true that the Institution has enjoyed collecting wonderful testimonies from different backgrounds of students where they come from. God is refining His servants in a special way. Let us continue encouraging those that God calls to go and study there. Let us pray for the institute. Let us faithfully maintain UBI by our finance as they greet 2020 by faith.

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 planned to be launched next year. Also, there will be many activities

next year as Bible Society will be celebrating bicentennial and aiming to provide 2 million Bibles for South African population and launching of the New IsiZulu Version. **'The Bible: Hope for all'** will be their theme. All these activities need our support and participation.

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 R19000 due to the hard work again done by our Women with R5 coin containers, and some local churches have their yearly budget covering their giving every year. Let us do things properly and orderly displaying that we are heartily giving to the Lord!

Miss RG Makua had many Missionary experiences and challenges in her life here in South Africa and in Zambia. It appears that the Lord is leading her to work with other Mission Agency in George from next year. She will ever be remembered in Zambia by those children and women she touched with the gospel. The challenges in Missions are many, from learning other language, culture, customs, visa if you are in a foreign land, health issues, criminality in our corrupt world, fear and faith. We are grateful to God that Miss Makua is here with us eager to go to regions beyond. Take time to talk to her, pray for her and be in touch with her in her ministry.

HIV/AIDS & TODAY FOR TOMORROW –

“There’s a glimmer of hope, but we’re not there yet. And we can’t give people false hope,” said Dr Sindi van Zyl, a specialist in the HIV and Aids field, at the Cipla HIV/Aids press workshop earlier this month. “One day we will have a cure, but for now, we applaud the scientists for their ongoing research and we look forward to that cure.” Let us be aware and be informed as world scientists work very hard to find the cure. Perhaps that scientist is in our midst here. Let us pray for that discovery.

This year was another busy year in activities mainly in training or workshops for the Today for Tomorrow with Revd Chris Maphosa, a SIM Missionary who is dedicated to the Children’s Ministry from Zimbabwe.

T4T materials are available in different levels and translations are ongoing in three regions. Training for facilitators happened in June in Hammanskraal and we are happy to say all our regions were represented.

The material and personnel support from SIM is highly appreciated and the availability of Revd Chris Maphosa if needed for direction and motivation. Our Sunday School teachers are highly motivated which is yielding good results as the local church increase in their support and involvement. The financial need for this ministry is greatly needed to make us achieve more. Through this programme God has given us open doors to work with other denominations thus reaching the unreached children in our communities.

We are grateful to all those who are involved directly and indirectly to this programme. The pastoral support that is received from time to time is much appreciated. Mama Mndzebele and the entire team in the Eastern Cape, Eswatini, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal remember that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Let us serve whole heartedly as we touch the lives of our children with God's love even in 2020!

The MISSIONS FUND

Since we are a product of Missions, the Board has opened a special fund where you may plant your seed for Missions. It is true that we cannot all go to the Mission fields, but perhaps we may give to enable the gospel to further and beyond our imaginations.

Many Missionaries have said to me, *"AEC should send Missionaries by now. Even SIM-SA has said to me in the recent past "Give us Missionaries." Many other churches are doing it, and you should be like other churches. What is wrong with AEC?"* Such comments might be probing and too sharp, but the fact is, *"When God calls an individual nobody can stand against God's calling."* This might be the time to have a passionate heart for Missions as individuals. May we avidly engage. Through Prayer. Through Reading about Missions. Through Giving. By Going. By Encouraging. Thinking beyond our environment!

Also, we can all pray for Missions. We may also encourage someone to go. You may deposit your Missionary giving to this account and make your name or local church a reference. So far, we have few people who have started as well as not more than four local churches that have included this fund on their budget.

The Account Name: **AEC – Missions**

Bank: **First National Bank (FNB)** Account number: **62824189725**

Branch: **Empangeni 220130**

Reference: ***Your name or Your local Church or cell #***

You decide the amount yourself, your honour it or when you encounter problems it will be between you and the Lord. This is for the matured, purposeful and committed people. Think, Pray and Decide. You can make eternal impact with your gift.

Missionary slogans to digest as you serve heartily

"I have but one candle of life to burn and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light." - **John Keith Falconer**

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

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." - **Oswald J Smith**

Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart." - **Bob Pierce**

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." - **Carl FH Henry**

"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving." - **Amy Carmichael**

Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop." - **Kurt von Scheleicher**

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer." - **Samuel Zwemer**

The Mission of the church is Missions

GRANDPARENTS DAY – SEPTEMBER 08 2019

*“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.” 2 Timothy 1:5.*

We praise God for those who took time in 2019 and thanked the Lord for the Grandparents we have in the church. That appreciation shows respect and honour. They may be frail and chronic in many ways but they are a gift to the church.

This opportunity, should we be alive, will be on the **13th September 2020**. I have noticed that every year some graduate to the real Grandparenthood. Some become embarrassed because they think that they are extra ordinarily old forgetting that we all age daily.

✠ CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY – 13 OCTOBER 2019

We thank God for those local churches who appreciated their Pastors in 2019. This should be the expression of the generous and happy hearts. As I mentioned last year, other local churches have not started this good habit of joy in their local churches. It is true that some local churches are struggling. But a work of gratitude to God coming from a child or ‘Gogo’ or ‘Mkhulu’ is what matters. Gifts and money should be according to the willing hearts.

The Clergy Appreciation Day for 2020 will be on the **11th October 2020**. You may start preparing your innovations and budget early in the year. Do the Word in love heartily as to the Lord!

Conference Centre Project – Mankayane. 2020 will be exciting year of action as we do the word and our active faith pushes us to do it for the Lord! We still say whosoever has a willing and generous heart just GIVE. I still feel that many are still doubting Thomas’s in their actions like chameleon’s forward move. Unfortunately, they are still many of us who are still not owning the unity of the Church.

While we wait for the audited financial statement for the Conference Centre, I know that we have spent close to R1.5 Million. We thank God for those who have given their portion to realize that target. For the next phase or phases, we need few million Rands more. 2020 will be another year of opportunity of doing our part as to the Lord. God is ever ready to lead us to another level of faith in action.

The proper report will be made by the Conference Centre Committee in the appropriate time. So far, we thank God for those who have been involved in handling these funds. We never raised a million Rand/Emalangeneni in our history until now. It is therefore during our time that such strides are happening.

Conference Centre Project – Springs, Gauteng. The Gauteng Region reported that due to the Zamazama vandalism challenges, as well as escalating costs from Rates and Taxes and Security payments the regions decided to sell the Springs property. Getting a buyer is a slow process as sale is done privately. Currently an offer to purchase was accepted and Deed of Sale signed and is being finalized.

Let us all remember that the greatest test of faith is when you don't get what you want, but still you are able to say, **Thank you Lord!** We should thank the Lord for the experience which has revealed our potential when we have a united vision. May the good Lord direct us in His own time to what will be best for the church. May we be aware of what the enemy might through to pollute our unity and vision.

Eastern Cape Conference Centre – A Mvunge family gave AEC 10ha of their land and Chief Jongisile Mbambazela officially and publicly handed over that land at Khumbula, Zidindi on 01 October 2018. This place is only 6 km to the famous Hole in the Wall gracing the Indian Ocean. The Chief even declared that the Mall could be built and pay rent to AEC, even government offices inter alia Home Affairs and SASSA were quoted when the land was handed to the AEC. The Eastern Cape will be busy getting all required documentation of the ownership for the good of our records and bringing glory to God as we take our positions. Whatever we do, let us do it heartily as to the Lord.

Yes, our God is saying something to us. Are we wise and united enough to read between the lines or to understand the writing in the sky? There are terms that we must meet to enjoy his outpouring of His care and love to us.

IMPORTANT INFO

In 2019 the statistics from two regions came very late, but we are grateful for your cooperation in helping us to see what is happening in the places where God has planted us. We thank God for preaching points in all Regions and building projects going on in few local churches. Let us do everything heartily as unto the Lord even when we gather the statistics. It is a Biblical exercise.

DOING WHATEVER WE DO IN 2020 AND BEYOND HEARTILY AS TO THE LORD

May I say “thank you” to all the committees who served in the past term and welcome the new leadership that has taken the baton from local churches, circuits, regions and during this AGCC. Let us be supportive and remind them to lead and truly thank God for their availability and dedication. They will sail a rough terrain. What we know is that the future will be rough as the sinful nature blooms every day. The challenge is to do whatever we do heartily.

*“And whatever you **do, do** it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”*

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 a Happy Christmas and a fruitful, healthy and industrious New Year 2020. 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 whatever we do wholeheartedly as to Him not what will before us. Let us together march in faith and see Him do great things for His glory through us. **Heartily for the Lord!**

Humbly presented by



Reed P Mtambo, PRESIDENT

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA

19 DECEMBER 2019

Prayer Pointers for the Year 2020:

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

- ✓ 07 – 09 February 2020 [Board Meeting]
- ✓ 07 – 10 May 2020 [Workers' Seminar]
- ✓ 10 May 2020 [Mother's Day]
- ✓ 14 June 2020 [Father's Day]
- ✓ **24 – 28 June 2020 [Eastern Cape RCC]**
- ✓ **26-28 June 2020 [Gauteng]**
- ✓ **30 Jun – 04 Jul 2020 [KZN RCC]**
- ✓ **12-16 August 2020 [ESwatini RCC]**
- ✓ 17 – 19 July Denominational Committees Mtg.
- ✓ 13 September 2020 [Grandparents' Day]
- ✓ 11 October 2020 [Clergy Appreciation Day]
- ✓ 16 - 20 December 2020 [AGCC] Eastern Cape

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

**AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE
MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DURBAN. KWAZULU-NATAL
RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
19 DECEMBER 2019
*By Mr Ntshabele Pooe***

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. President, members of the Board and the entire AEC Members, I am humbled to have been granted the honour to respond to our 2019 Presidential report. In the response commitments or undertakings that comes out are on all our behalf and we should be willing to carry out each one. Since these will be too many to remember, I will just pick a few.

Preparation of the Report

We are aware Mr. President of the time you need to be alone as you look at the church, where it has been, the important time to be silent before the Lord, listening to what He impresses upon your heart on the direction our church should be taking. As leaders in different structures, we will ensure that we deal with all secondary issues and prevent these from reaching your level, then you will have ample time to focus on primary issues.

Remembering the Departed

As you take time to remember our departed ones, we are comforted by your words and further note how much you care about us. Your description on our behaviour or mannerism shows a keen interest you have about members of the church.

Those Achievers and Performance

Acknowledging academic achievers amongst us, show us and encourage many to strive to reach higher levels. Mentioning those who have left a mark in their place of employment especially a testimony of their walk with the Lord, this reminds us that our Christ-like character must go beyond our homes and churches, witnessing through actions just like in the case of the types of Mrs. Ramahlafi.

Here and There Activities

Visiting different structures in their different gatherings, you have not failed to see quality work that all structures need to upgrade to the same level. Among those who: “eat cotton without swallowing it” you received a report that included financials, this gave you a clear picture of what is happening in that structure. We are ready to follow good examples and emulate what the women folk are doing.

Wedding Anniversaries

We are encouraged as you note those who have not spend 40 years wondering like the Israelites, but spend that period in their marriages depending on the Lord. We are proud to have such members within AEC ranks as we can learn a lot from them.

Regional Conferences

We thank the Lord for having made it possible to be present at the four (4) Regional conferences. In one of your visits with eyes of an eagle you picked up that almost the entire Regional committee was replaced, save two (2) persons. We wonder what

went through your mind with your observation. Putting ourselves in your shoes we can speculate on a number of questions being: -

- a) Did the previous team perform the duties as expected or not?
- b) If they did not perform as expected what is the impact on continuation with completely new team
- c) If such situation has to arise again, have we prepared the new members to perform in the roles they have been elected.

Relationship with Outside organizations

We are thankful Mr. President for having maintained relationships with credible institutions. The value being added by these institutions with similar beliefs is beyond description. To mention just a few, we have the UBI, SIM, BSSA etc., Some of the benefits received from these Institutions include the following: -

- a) UBI – It is important for us as a church to always be taught and led by pastors who are grounded in the word and received proper training from credible schools.
- b) BSSA – During these critical times we are facing situation where Bibles are freely being distributed. Some of the translations goes directly against our statement of faith. It is important for us to have partners who have credibility and are able to translate the Bible without distortion of promoting foreign beliefs.

Conference Centres

We are responding to your call to action through the slogan “bag of cement”. We join the game with joy. We are aware that small steps lead to bigger achievements. As a result, we will continue responding positively to the call at every given opportunity.

It has been a great step forward in acquiring sites for our conference centres. In that acquisition we face a number of challenges. We are sorry Mr. President in that the work at Eswatini had to be paused. We have forgotten what Nehemiah said in the process of re-building. He said “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down, why should the work cease.” We are sorry that we allowed the financial Sanballat’s to disrupt the progress at the centre.

We are proud about the 10ha land in the Eastern cape and we saying, let the challenges faced at the Gauteng centre be a valuable lesson to all. We now know that ownership without occupation brings in a lot of challenges.

Year Verses from 1988

We are pleased that our church archives are not graves that cannot be opened. This year Mr. President you brought out from our archive’s year verses dating back to 1988. The verses will remind us of all the past good teachings and outstanding actions that we have failed to implement.

Most of us believe in being given the second chance, we like it most because it benefits us. Let us look at the past year verses as the second chance for us to implement what we failed to do in the past. May the Lord grant us strength and desire to carry out what was expected from us.

Prayers For our Leader

In conclusion, it has been mentioned and it is actually evident that the work of our leader is on the increase. The demands are such that no one using his natural strength will be able to cope. I now appeal to all of us, who are aware that the workload on the shoulders of our leader is becoming heavier from one year to the other. Let us all in our prayer sessions always pray for him.

May the Lord bless us all. Thank you.

Presented by

Mr Ntshabele Pooe

AEC – Jabavu - Gauteng