



AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH

P.O. Box 101410, Scottsville 3209. SOUTH AFRICA

Incorporated under Section 21 of the Company's Act, 1973 (Act 61 of 1973) No. 2003/013588/08

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Virtual

Annual General Conference 2021

**Denying self
and
Daily Follow Jesus**

YEAR 2022 - VERSE:

Then He said to them all,
"If anyone desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily,
and follow Me." (NKJ)

(Luke 9:23)

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.

UMBONO MGOMO WEBANDLA LE-AEC:

"Ngokukholwa sibona ibandla lisebenzisana ebunyeni phezu kokuba lehlukene ngezilimi, ngobuzwe, ngendlela yokuphila nangobulili; labo abavumelene ngesifundiso mayelana nensindiso, futhi-ke abaveza ukuba mzimba munye ngempilo ephilwa yiwo onke amalungu alo ukuze liphumelele ukwenza abafundi nokuzandisa ngokuya liqhubekela ekuphileni impilo engcwele."

IMIGOMO:

1. Ukuhlela izinto ezithile eziphawulekayo esinokuzenza ndawonye emsebenzini wokuqhuba ivangeli nokufinyelela ezindaweni ezintsha khona lapha kwelakithi nakwamanye amazwe. Lokhu-ke kuyabandakanya ukwazisana ngezinto eziphathekayo eziyizicelo zomkhuleko emabandleni ethu ahlukene, lokho kwenziwe njalo ngezikhathi ezimisiweyo.
2. Ukuhlela izivivinyo eziyakwenziwa ngezikhathi ezithile ngamalungu amabandla (zibhalwe phansi noma kuxoxwe ngomlomo) ukuze kubonakale ukuthi basiqonda kangakanani isifundiso sokusindiswa esiphilayo ngokwevangeli. Lapho kutholakala khona ukuthi kukhona ukungazi noma ukungaqondi ngokufaneleyo abaholi bayakuyimela ngezinyawo leyondaba.
3. Ukuhlela izikhungo zokufundisa abaholi bamabandla ethu mayelana nokufundiswa yiBhayibheli mayelana nempilo yoMzimba (oyiBandla) nokuthi imelwe iphilwe kanjani emabandleni ethu.
4. Ukufundisa izifundo ngokuhambisa ivangeli ngokwenza abafundi (kubhalwe phansi noma kukhulunywe ngomlomo kunikezwa amalungu amabandla ethu) nokuthi lowo nalowo athole umfundi othile azakumelekelela (2 Thim. 2:2).
5. Ukuhlela izifundo mayelana nempilo yobungcwele; kube khona indlela eyenziwa ngamabandla ethu ukulekelela amalungu ukuba azi ukuthi awaziphileli-nje, kumelwe azidalule, eziveza ethembekile yilowo nalowo komunye ngezinhlelo ezithile ezifaneleyo ezenziwayo, okusho ukuthi owesilisa komunye wesilisa, nowesifazane komunye wesifazane.

UMBONO NEENJONGO ZEBANDLA LE-AEC

"Ngokholo sibona ibandla lisebenza ngobunye nangona kukho ukwahlukana ngeelwimi, ubuhlanga, inkcubeko, nesini. Kukho nesivumelwano mayelana nemfundiso yosindiso, ebonakalisa umzimba omnye ngempilo yawo onke amalungu alo, khonukuze ibandla libenako ukwenza abafundi nokwanda ekuphileni impilo engcwele."

IINJONGO:

1. Ukucwangcisa iinkqubo ezithile, namaphulo abalaseleyo apho sisebenzisana sonke, ekuhambiseni ivangeli, sivuselela kwiindawo ezintsha, ezikufutshane nezikude; kwilizwe lakuthi kanti nakwamanye amazwe. Oku ke kuquka ukwabelana nokwazisana ngezinto ezithile emasizithandazele kumabandla ethu, ngamaxesha afanelekileyo.
2. Ukuqhuba nokuvavanya ngamaxesha athile amalungu (kubhalwe phantsi okanye kuthethwe ngomlomo); ukufumanisa ukuba ayiqonda kangakanani na le mfundiso yevangeli engokusindiswa. Apho ke kuye kwafumaniseka ukuba kukho ukungaqondi kakuhle, abakhokeli bebandla bazakuwuchophela umbandela lowo kude kubekho ulungelelwano.
3. Ukuqhuba izifundo zokufundisa nokuhlaziya abakhokeli bamabandla ethu mayela nemfundiso yeBhayibhile ngempilo yomzimba kaKristu (iBandla) nokuba imelwe kukuthi isebenze iphilwe kanjani na emabandleni ethu.
4. Ukuqhuba izifundo ezimalunga nokuvangela nokufundisa (ezibhalwe phantsi nezo zithethwa ngomlomo, zawo onke amalungu ebandla lethu), khonukuze elowo nalowo afumane umfundi othile aza kumncedisa (2 Tim. 2:2).
5. Ukuqhuba izifundo ezimalunga nokuphila impilo eNgcwele; nokuba emabandleni ethu kubekho uncedo oluthile lokunceda amalungu ukuba azi ukuba ilungu aliziphileli nje; amalungu ayaphilelana, yaye athembekile ingulowo nalowo eveza izakhono anazo; umzalwane ancedisane nomnye umzalwane, nodade ancedisane nomnye udade, kusetyenziswane ke ngokwanelisayo.

UMBONO NGEMGOMO WELIBANDLA LE-AEC

"Ngekukholwa sibona libandla lisebenta ngebunye ngetilimi letehlukene, nebuve, ngemihambo kanye nebulili, sibe sivumelene ngemfundziso yeLiVangeli lensindziso lokufakazelwa yimphilo lephilwa ngiwo onkhe emalunga ukuze lifundzise litibonakalise liphila ebungcweleni."

TINHLOSO:

1. Kuhlela imisebenti netikhankhanyo lapho sisebenta ndzawonye, etimishane kanye netinhlelo tekuphumela ngaphandle emagatjeni nasemaveni. Loku kungafaka ticelo temthandazo letibalulekile tiyofika emabandleni etfu lehlukene; loko kwenziwe ngetikhatsi letimisiwe.
2. Kutsi njalo ngesikhatsi kubekhona kuciniseka ngemalunga etfu elibandla kutsi bayiva kanjani imfundziso yelivangeli lensindziso (kubhalwe noma kukhulunywe). Lapho kungekho khona lwati; umholi welibandla akunakekele loko.
3. Kwenta tindlela tekufundzisa baholi belibandla ngemfundziso yeliBhayibheli kulemphilo nekutsi kufanele tisebente kanjani emabandleni etfu.
4. Kufundzisana ngesifundvo sekuvangela kanye nekwenta baholi kuwo onkhe emalunga etfu nekutsi lilunga ngalinye linikwe litfuba lekwenza lomunye abe ngumlandzeli noma umfundzi. (2 Thimothewu 2:2).
5. Kubamba timfundziso ngemphilo yebungcwele nekutsi emabandleni etfu kutfolakale indlela yekusita emalunga kutsi anakekelane ngetinhlelo letifanele; umfowetfu anakekele umfowetfu, dzadzewetfu anakekele dzadzewetfu.

AEC CORE VALUES:

1. **BIBLE** is our ultimate source of authority and its truth is essential for transformation of lives. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 2. **PEOPLE** matter. Genesis 4:9-12; 9:5-6.
 3. We value **HOLINESS** and that full devotion to Christ and relational health are to be norms of every believer." 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 12:1-2.
 4. **UNITY** We value that the church should operate as a loving unified community of servants that celebrates diversity in gifts, function and preference. 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (4-7); Ephesians 4:3-7; 11-13.
 5. **LEADERSHIP** is the critical value of Godly character, personal integrity, ministry skill and relational health in leadership at all levels of ministry. Philippians 2:19-23.
 6. **EXCELLENCE** honours God and inspires people. Genesis 39:4-15.
 7. **RELEVANCE** We value that the Church should be culturally relevant while holding to God's eternal truth. 1 Corinthians 9:20.
 8. **INNOVATION** We value that gifts of innovation should be encouraged in all that we do. Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58.
 9. **MISSION** We value the encouragement, development and exercise of each believer's ministry gifts and skills in fulfilling mission work." 1 Corinthians 14:29-33.
 10. **STEWARDSHIP** We value that every believer has God-given resources that should be used for eternal purposes. Ephesians 2:10.
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WHAT A YEAR –

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

The 2021 pain and suffering will never change the inner joy that Jesus gives as we acknowledge Him. It is true that in suffering we experience joy as we bond with our living hope. Jesus Christ our comforter.

We had many diverse experiences of lock down; travel restrictions, different levels adjustments and the virus has continued to plague the globe. We have lost our loved ones and lost jobs and opportunities. The restrictions in our meetings which has created a havoc in other communities.

The year 2021 will go to the archives of history as the year where all our songs and hymns were transposed into a minor key of sorrow confusion and desperation.

✠ HEAVEN REJOICED IN RECEIVING MANY OF OUR MEMBERS –

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.

We give thanks and praise to God who allows us to bond and know each other. He also takes away whoever He chooses, and we are left with void and pain. 2021 has been another painful year

where we saw fresh graves symbolizing sorrow and sadness. The graveyards have been adorned by fresh grave mounds with no grass or weeds on them due to freshness of loss after loss.

I will just sum up the loss we incurred and what came to my desk during the year not mentioning many brethren within the local churches and relatives who succumbed during this year.

Mrs Gugu Sacolo (LaDlamini) in eSwatini passed away and was buried on 20 January 2021

Pastor Austin Mgabhi in eSwatini passed away on 30 December 2020 funeral 04 January 2021

Mrs Christinah Ziqubu (Ntombela) 19 January 2021 laid to rest 23 January 2021 in East Rand, Wattville

Pastor Phillip Ziqubu followed his wife on 26 January 2021 laid to rest 30 January 2021 in East Rand, Wattville

Mrs Phoseka Josephine (MaMthembu) 02 February 2021 laid to rest 06 February 2021 in KwaZulu-Natal

Mrs Mchunu NtombiZodwa (MaDlamini) 02 Feb 2021 funeral 06 February 2021 in East Rand

Pastor Solly Sithole – AEC Mamelodi East, Gauteng passed away on 2 February and the funeral was on 6 February 2021

Revd and Mrs L Rahlogo lost their daughter **Kholofelo** on March 4 2021, in Gauteng and was buried on 08 April 2021

Mrs Phindi Tsela the wife of Revd BE Tsela's brother passed away in Eswatini on a horrific accident on 4 May 2021 and was buried on May 08 2021

Revd DT Silindza lost his father **Zechariah Bulawayo Silindza** and was buried on 8 May 2021

Revd Alpheus M Ncwane passed away on the 08 May and funeral May 15 2021

Revd Komane Solomon Riba passed to glory May 15 and funeral took place on the 22 May 2021

Revd Sibusiso Clement Mkhize passed away on May 31 and funeral took place on 5 June 2021

Gogo Lucy Masilela passed away on 12 June and laid to rest on 19 June 2021

Pastor Veli Meyiwa went to be with the Lord on 14 June and buried on 23 June 2021

Pastor Piet Mbonani of East Rand passed away on 19 June and was buried on 21 June 2021

Mr Joel Ramahlafi of Mofolo, West Rand went to glory on 26 June and buried on the 02 July 2021

Mrs Victoria B Zikhali went to glory in KwaZulu-Natal on 24 June and her remains buried on the 01 July 2021

Pastor Wilson S Mathenjwa went to glory on 08 July in KwaZulu-Natal and was buried on 11 July 2021

Mrs Thandi F Nene the wife of Pastor M Nene passed away on the morning of the 28 July 2021 in eSwatini and her remains buried on 01 August 2021

Anti Asiyena Maseko went to be with the Lord on 24 August and was buried on 29 August 2021 in eSwatini

Revd Gcinumntu Nkosibomvu passed away in Eastern Cape 31 August and was buried on 11 September 2021

Evang. Douglas Dodisane Mqibane of Dikela, in Eastern Cape passed away on 5 September and the funeral 17 September 2021

Revd Themba M Dlamini in Eswatini passed away 26 September and his funeral was held on 2 October 2021

Sonwabile Soso Ntongana of Mthatha in Eastern Cape, passed away on 21 October and the funeral held on 29 October 2021

✠ ARRIVALS:

We welcome all boys and girls, during Covid-19 who were born this year, 2021. We will continually welcome the new generation that God gives us in His church. We welcome the 2021 weddings and landmark Wedding Anniversaries. We congratulate those new brides and grooms who will never forget how their plans were smashed by restrictions. Wherever God has assigned us let us actively do whatever we do as unto the Lord. Be it services in the kitchen, smiling, encouraging, showing directions etc such will never be in vain with the Lord. Let us do our best to guide the younger generation. *We say hearty welcome!*

✠ SOARING HIGHER:

Though studying or learning was really difficult in 2021 but we congratulate all those who made it from different fields of learning, and we welcome the 2021 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. The good and bad will always happen. Let us learn that something good comes from the bad that comes our way.

HERE AND THERE

FEBRUARY 27 THE BOARD MET VIRTUALLY

This was our evaluation meeting as usual and focusing on what transpired during our first Virtual Conference in December 2020 and looking forward to the 2021 opportunities. It was difficult to fully plan for the year and discuss some agenda items that need more time because of many connectivity issues where we stay. But we are thankful that the Board is getting used to these meetings now.

The normal Christian Calendar was not adhered to due to Covid and restrictions in meetings as well as the number of congregants who could meet. We are grateful to all leaders and local

churches who submitted to the recommendations issued by different Governments more so, the Department of Health.

MAY 07, 2021, VIRTUAL WORKERS' WEBINAR – We were able to hold our workers' webinar which was well attended by workers from all regions. It was encouraging to see most of the workers after not meeting in person for two years. We are getting used to virtual communication. It is an ideal way of communication and let us continue to upgrade our gadgets. We will announce after February 2022 the format and the dates of our Workers' seminar in 2022.

AUGUST 6 & 7 2021, ZOOM BOARD MEETING – We were grateful to God who allowed us to use modern technology to facilitate our meeting. It was in that meeting where the decision was taken to start planning for the 2021 AGCC due to Covid-19 global sting.

The theme and the Year Verse was tabled at this meeting. This came with the background that we would like to do more as individual Christians. **"Denying self and Daily Follow Jesus"** was derived from what Jesus said to them all, **"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."** (NKJV) Luke 9:23.

The Board felt that it is a matter of commitment, discipleship, discipline, personal pledge to the Lord as individuals. When we forget things, become lazy or tardy in our doing it speaks a lot about our commitment. May the year bring fruit to those who will do the Word. It is not a too hard invitation. The key thing is to follow Him. We might have heavy crosses that we carry but when we daily carry that and follow Him, He is always close to us and He knows the way as He leads.

The decision to conduct a virtual conference was taken again with desire to improve. Unfortunately, the funding from the regions was not encouraging. I thank God for those few individuals and local churches who did their best during Covid-19. But the Board at times sacrificed any things. I thank God for the commitment I witnessed from this team. May I repeat what I said last year when I spoke about giving. I said I hope we have less people who still want to be seen when giving. The Lord Jesus said many years ago: **"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."**

Progressing or growing is moving from what you were doing yesterday and be excited with what you are doing today. That is UPGRADE! That is MATURING! That is LIFE!

OCTOBER 24, 2021, MBAZWANE LOCAL CHURCH - KZN – I had a privilege of fulfilling my desire for years to visit this local church where the late Revd Thokozani Thwala was the pastor. The fellowship was electrifying with their preaching points which are led by the Pauline Timothy's concept, and they are striving with life, happiness, and joy. Let us develop strong leadership core groups in our local churches. God has given us people to mentor and others are willing to be mentored as they take the leadership role in different responsibilities. Let us develop eldership, the deacons and deaconesses as God matures His church. My visit was heart warming as I also so people that I haven't seen for more than 10 years. Pray for such churches who lost their pastors through death.

OCTOBER 31, 2021, MTHATHA LOCAL CHURCH – EASTERN CAPE – Due to the fact that it was possible for me to attend Sonwabile Ntongana's funeral on Friday it became fitting for me to take other errands while I was still within the Region. On Saturday I went to the Conference Centre site.

On Sunday I had a privilege of fellowshiping with Mthatha brethren. I saw how they have upgraded their site by building a beautiful cottage that can accommodate the needy for the night or weekend. What an investment for the church. Thank you Mthatha for that good upgrade that you made. I also visited the bereaved Ntongana family while I was around. We prayed with them for the three days I was around there.

DECEMBER 11, 2021, ESWATINI

Motshane dedicated their beautiful church building under strict covid protocol because they have been postponing for several years. I was privileged to witness their joyous day with HRH Princess Lindziwe the Minister of Home Affairs who spoke highly of Africa Evangelical Church and the impact of schools that are run by AEC in Eswatini. These schools have produced cream of scholars. Motshane has a vision of building a credible school too as they already have a pre-school with well-disciplined learners and committed educators. It is a visionary Church under the current pastorate of Revd & Mrs WN Dlodlu. Let us remember them in prayer for their great vision to be realized. It is their cross that they have carry until they finish their race.

DECEMBER 12, 2021, ESWATINI

On Sunday was my busiest day as Elder MTE Mtetwa refined my itinerary and organized an entourage to accompany me to Nkoyoyo AEC to witness the aftermaths of the late Revd TM Dlamini who worked very hard in that local to build it with his hands as an accomplished carpenter in hanging doors and ceiling. The fellowship was reverting.

From Nkoyoyo we rushed to Mahwalala where Pastor Nathi and Tfobile Gumede are pastoring. Another group of happy people were waiting for us after a short notice. I will never forget the little Asanda Mhlanga who gave me her greetings on behalf of the children to greet Esikhaleni brethren. They are busy with their building project, and they have a preaching point, a very active group of committed people. I praise God for that work.

From Mahwalala we drove to Mankayane Conference Centre, and we rejoiced to see walls standing firm. We were joined by the circuit leadership to pray. We noticed that Mankayane local church do help in cutting grass there which really should be done by all of us.

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

1. KWAZULU-NATAL: 2021

This Regional Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. But I did receive a comprehensive report from the Regional leadership which I appreciated much. To lead is to work. It is to take up your cross daily and follow.

2. EASTERN CAPE: 2021

This Regional Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

3. GAUTENG: 2021

This Regional Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

4. ESWATINI: MBULUZI –2021

Eswatini Regional Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

OUR STRUCTURES:

May I encourage all structures to be creative in encouraging the Saints to be active in whatever way. Let us not depend on group meetings which we are used to, but one on one we can bring encouragement during this time. Let us support the children as they are really confused when they see that there is no church services or Sunday school any more in some areas. This is the time to emphasize the promises of God to them. Deny yourself, take up your cross and daily follow the Master.

Again, I say, **“Upgrade! Upgrade! Upgrade!”** Let us not be the victims of group meeting syndrome.

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. Revd MX Dladla is holding double position this time at UBI as he is the chairperson of the Alumni and also the vice chair of the council. Let us pray for him, it is a demanding assignment that he holds. Visit UBI web site and get all the answers.

We thank God for Revd G Mnisi leadership of the school over the years, but the time has come for him to retire we are praying that the Lord will have somebody to take the school to the future. The Board is looking for that one, as a church we can pray. It is that time that we need to have UBI at heart as we go to the Lord.

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. Bible Society strives to be custodians of the Word of God through your prayers and financial support. AEC is obvious always at the top on the church list but at times we are nowhere in our giving. That is not like us. Our problem we forget to carry our cross daily not once in two years but daily.

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 donor **reference number 700876** so that your gift will go under AEC. Let us serve whole heartedly as we touch the lives of many people with God’s word even in 2022!

The MISSIONS FUND

Last year I did encourage us to relook at our Missionary zeal. We, being the product of Missions, we introduced a special fund where we may plant our seed for Missions. It is true that we cannot all go but we can all pray for Missions. We may also encourage someone to go.

Perhaps we will revisit this open door in future as it appears that it has not sunk in us clearly. There is the ever-growing quest to take the gospel beyond our borders.

We are grateful to God for those who faithfully contributed and pray that we may feel the need to share the good news and daily follow the Master.

GRANDPARENTS DAY – SEPTEMBER 12 2021

"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 2021 and thanked the Lord for the Grandparents we have in the church and communities. 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 **11 September 2022**. 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 – 10 OCTOBER 2021

We thank God for those local churches who appreciated their Pastors in 2021. It happened under difficult circumstances. This should be the expression of the generous and happy hearts. As I mentioned last year, other local churches have not started this good habitual habit of joy in their local churches. At our churches be centres of joy, peace, and goodwill. Not places of resentments, fights, show-offs, and sneezing anger. The Cross of Christ paid it all! It is true that some local churches are struggling. But a word 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 2022 will be on **09 October 2022**. You may start preparing your innovations and budget early in the year. Do the Word in love heartily as to the Lord! Daily carrying your Cross of Love as you follow Jesus!

Conference Centre Project – Mankayane. Our Conference Centre walls are still standing waiting for more committed and visionary people. We don't give because we meet, but we give because it is our passion and vision, we daily carry with us. I thank God for the few individuals who just couldn't stop giving. They are few and they are there! On the other hand, there are many who are waiting to be pushed to give. Unfortunately, your treasure is controlled by your heart. Jesus said: ***Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.***



I was privileged to stand and touch those walls on Sunday 12 December 2021 with other Eswatini leadership and Mankayane circuit pastors and local church members. I salute the Mankayane local for taking care of the yard. I discovered that in summer the grass grows faster and needs cutting. It would be a good ministry for those in Eswatini to organize fellowship teams to go and clear the site of weeds in turns and have time of praying as they sweat. That is a good place for men and youth to take the initiative. The women will follow when the structure allows for safety, but now it is still rugged needing men!

Giving for the conference centre is made easy by providing different platforms. You may give through your local or circuit and use the banking details you know in Eswatini there are two and South Africa there is one account but if you accidentally give to the Board account it is easily

transferred to centre account. Or all those who have online banking facility on their mobile or computer go to our www.africec.org and click donate, Payfast will make you securely pay fast in the comfort of your environment. It will register your name also. Try it and you will like it. I would advise that you use **instantEFT** as your first choice if possible as charges are less, but credit cards are accepted. Upgrade your giving.

May I encourage all of us to be faithful to what do what we are supposed to do as to the Lord, not to men. We don't only give when we are together in a meeting. But this is a personal commitment that test your growth in the Lord. Daily take up your cross and follow the master.

Conference Centre Project – Springs, Gauteng. After struggling with different problems at the site, we are happy to report that the place was sold not on a total loss as we were moving to that direction. This is the last time we report on the Springs centre. But again, all praise to God for the fact that this is through, and I haven't heard of any frictions within the region demanding their monies or speaking bad of leadership. That is spiritual maturity that we need. Many lessons have been learned through this experience. Our Lord will lead us to a better place but let take up our crosses and follow the master.

Eastern Cape Conference Centre – The Region is still busy with active commitment as they also were affected by Covid 19. I had a privilege of visiting the site on Saturday October 30 2021 and Revd TG Ntongana was helpful in taking me there with Revd Ntoyaphi. The site is breath taking near the

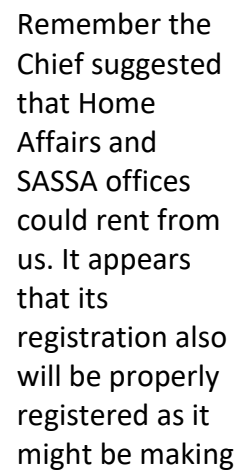


Ocean and the famous Hole in the Rock. The road to the place is being upgraded. I saw the cottage that the region has built for the old lady who will be moved from the site area to her new home. She will be on good view to look at the centre and the valley.

When the Lord gives us something like this, it requires our FULL participation and involvement. It is not for leaders only, but it is an open invitation to enter and grab the land. Young and old. When we give it should be continuous not abruptly done.

Another innovation that we may do there is to build chalets either per circuit or per local which can be rented out for people who would like to visit the place and stay for a weekend or a week. You can drive or hike to the beach or the Hole in the Rock. It was scary for me to behold. The more I looked at it the more it moved to me closer as if to swallow me. Since I am acrophobic hence my knees went weak to stand.

We need pictures from a drone to capture the landscape of the place. I would propose that the Eastern Cape think of proper landscaping of the site, have proper corner pegs put by the surveyor, plant appropriate trees as boundary markers and as wind breakers, if the chalets idea is welcomed have plans and cost per unit which will be used even when the centre is built.



WILLINGLY BEARING YOUR CROSS WITH JOY IN 2022 AND BEYOND AS WE FOLLOW JESUS!

“Denying self and daily following Jesus will make us victorious at the end.” I thank God for the opportunity He gave me to serve so many beautiful people in different ways this year. My travels were restricted due to travel protocol during Covid-19. I feel bad that I couldn’t go to Gauteng for the last two years. I did make few kilometres to our other three regions. It is true that I didn’t see many physically this year, but I know how I kept in touch with many through prayer, phone calls, emails etc. I do feel prayers for many of our members and members at large.

I thank God for the privilege of being a servant, seeing Him increase while I decrease. Let us together march in faith into 2022 and see Him do great things in the midst all these plagues for His glory. As the rugby referee sounds his calls for scrum let us **CROUCH!** (*forwards to drop in a low position*) **BIND!** (*the props to grip their opponent's jersey*) **SET!** (*the players to engage and compete*).

Humbly presented by

Reed P Mtambo, PRESIDENT
AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA
19 DECEMBER 2021

Prayer Pointers for the Year 2022:

1. God to help us through these global disasters and needs.
2. Conference Centre Giving, Building, Skills, Wisdom to adjust with time.
3. Biblical and cheerful giving within our denomination as we travel less and we should give more.
4. Let all of us deny ourselves and take our crosses daily as we follow Him.
5. Upgrade, good health, safety, fulfilment and joy in our communities and families as we serve.
(Mask. Wash Hands. Sanitize. Social Distancing. Travel less. Obey.)
6. Tangible brotherly love that will draw many to Jesus.
7. Important dates to note:
 - ✓ 11 – 13 February 2022 [Board Meeting] *Zoom tentative*
 - ✓ 15 – 17 April 2022 [Easter Celebration]
 - ✓ 13 – 15 May 2022 [Workers' Seminar] *Zoom tentative*
 - ✓ 08 May 2022 [Mother's Day]
 - ✓ 19 June 2022 [Father's Day]
 - ✓ **00 – 00 June 2022 [Eastern Cape RCC]**
 - ✓ **00-00 June 2022 [Gauteng]**
 - ✓ **00 – 00 Jul 2022 [KZN RCC]**
 - ✓ **08 July 2022 – AEC 60th Anniversary (Autonomy given on 08 July 1962)**
 - ✓ **00-00 August 2022 [ESwatini RCC]**
 - ✓ 22 – 24 July Board & Denominational Committees Mtg. (pending on the virus behaviour)
 - ✓ 11 September 2022 [Grandparents' Day]
 - ✓ 09 October 2022 [Clergy Appreciation Day]
 - ✓ 16 - 20 December 2022 [AGCC] Eastern Cape if the virus becomes history

Let us be encouraged and enjoy as we daily follow Jesus and His WORD!