



AFROSCOPE

Association of Evangelicals in Africa Newsletter

July - September 2009

Scoping This Issue...by the General Secretary

Making sure AEA communication lines are cleared has been a major priority in the last three months since assumption of office as General Secretary. I have endeavoured to be in touch with every part of the family but this has been daunting, as I would essentially need a translation into three languages: English, French and Portuguese for every communication I put out. Even more daunting is the fact we have a very lean staff team at the Secretariat and with gaps in our language skills rather than English, let alone translation. Also, communication is hampered from the non-response at the other end- your end, you the recipients. The "undeliverable" messages bouncing back are even better appreciated as these help somehow to review the directory of the AEA contacts. It is best when I get feedback to complete the communication loop. I also discovered that many of the communications I have put out are targeted and not everyone has a complete picture of the "to-ings" and "fro-ings" in AEA. *Afroscope*, the AEA newsletter is the one medium that connects everyone at anyone time.

Regrettably, this has been out of circulation for a long time. This edition is an attempt to revive the *Afroscope*. It would be at best palliative, as it will be mostly electronic and a few pages only. However, God willing, we want to get this to you quarterly and regularly from now on.

In this issue we feature highlights of the inception into office of the new General Secretary and the Nairobi based operational arms of AEA.

We hope that future editions will continue to showcase what the evangelical church is doing around the continent and in all the nations of Africa. This is also an invitation to send us an update of your country as soon as possible and we will feature this appropriately.

The formal induction into

office took place on June 24, 2009. This took the form of a meeting with the Board for handing over from the transition Team Leader and a short induction service; anointing with oil and offering prayers for the incoming General Secretary. This was followed by a luncheon to which associate members and friends of AEA in Nairobi were invited.

The host Fellowship, the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) demonstrates what AEA is about in the

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Rev. Dr. Mario Li Hing Chairman of the Board and Mr. Aiah Foday-Khabenje, the new General Secretary

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE OF KENYA OVERVIEW

Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) is the umbrella of evangelical churches and Para-church organizations with a current membership of 56 registered member denominations. These constitute 48,000 evangelical congregations in Kenya, and a platform for their representation in the national development and social transformation processes. EAK has been involved in a number of relief and

development processes in Kenya and has played a key advocacy role in the political transition process in the country over the last 20 years, in the constitutional review, and the war against corruption. It has also been a key player in the national healing, peace and reconciliation, more so during the post election violence in Kenya.

PEPFAR HIV & AIDS Prevention Program

EAK in partnership with Tearfund UK is implementing a HIV & AIDS prevention program Kilifi, Rachuonyo, Machakos, Nairobi East and Kisii. Through this program EAK will contribute to a decrease in the HIV prevalence rate in Kenya in fulfillment Kenya's National Strategic Plan by harnessing the potential of its evangelical congregations and local communities. The program will focus on;

- a) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, (PMTCT),
- b) Behavior Change Communication (BCC) and
- c) Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT).

Advocacy

a) Constitutional Review Process

EAK is a key stakeholder in the ongoing constitutional review process, advocating on the contentious issues including Kadhis (Islamic) courts among others. EAK is working alongside other religious institutions under the auspice of Inter-religious Forum (IRF). In addition, EAK has been recruited to the Committee of Reference under the Ministry for Justice, national cohesion and Constitutional Affairs and Committee of Experts (COE)

b) Micah Challenge Kenya

Micah Challenge Kenya (MCK) is part of Micah Challenge International, a global campaign to mobilize Christians against poverty. The campaign aims to deepen Christian engagement with impoverished and marginalized communities, and to influence leaders of rich and poor nations to fulfill their promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

At the recently concluded Global National Coordinators gathering, 30 different nationals came together for a two-day workshop in Kenya to strategize for 10th October 2010 (10.10.10), marking



National Coordinators Meeting in Nairobi Kenya – July 2009

the two thirds point to 2015. The gathering built synergy around a

collective Vision, Mission while focusing on the inspiration that fuels the campaign Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require **To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God**"



MCK National Coordinator Sophie Nyokali

The Campaign Coordinator was recently recruited to give leadership to the campaign which seeks to; mobilize, empowering, build capacity within the Church on the (MDG's) and the citizenry to hold the government accountable for the delivery of services to the poor and marginalized communities. This is in a coalition with Christian Development Agencies and the Church.

Marking Micah Sunday (18th October 2009), MCK seeks to mobilize over 300,000 people in schools and churches to focus on environmental stewardship during the "Stand Up" campaign in collaboration with United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) & Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP).

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Nations. The vision is to mobilize the church in each nation in Africa as God's instrument for bringing the Good news by proclamation and good works for salvation and transformation of the nations. Like the EAK there are 32 other nations with evangelical fellowships in Africa but in various state of preparedness to make the necessary impact in their ministry to the nation. AEA's role is to work alongside these and help strengthen them for effectiveness. We do this through Commissions set up around various issues and objectives.

AEA also has two projects based in Nairobi; the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) and now in transition to a full fledge university to be known as the Africa International University and the Christian Learning Materials Centre (CLMC). NEGST founded in 1983, has a team of well trained international faculty and has produced over 800 graduates from over 20 nations in Africa. Also, NEGST has had students from Asia, Europe and USA. CLC produces Sunday school materials for churches of various denominations.

Karibuni:(welcome) Kenyan Church Leaders fete AEA new General Secretary

Following the official inauguration into office by the Board of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) on June 24, 2009 Mr. Aiah Foday-Khabenje, the new General Secretary was guest of honour at a luncheon organized in his honour to meet the evangelical community in Nairobi. Speaking at the Luncheon, the Chairman of the Board Rev. Dr. Mario Li Hing gave a brief background to the significant initiative the Board took four years before to initiate an organizational development process following the departure of the erstwhile General Secretary, Rev Daniel Bitrus after serving for only about two years with AEA. He expressed appreciation for former General Secretaries in the last 43 years of the existence of the movement, starting with the late Dr. Bryan Kato, the first African General Secretary of AEA and his successor, Dr. Tokunboh Adeyemo. He had special praise for the Rev. Dr. Judy Mbugua, the Continental Coordinator of the Women's Commission, PACWA who had held the fort in the last four years of transition.

He then welcomed and introduced the new General Secretary, Mr. Aiah Foday-Khabenje. He revealed that Mr. Khabenje was not a new comer to AEA as he had served his national fellowship in Sierra Leone for the last sixteen years, nearly ten of which was as the General Secretary and CEO. Mr. Khabenje has a wealth of experience in providing leadership in church circles and civil society. His educational attainment includes a B.Sc. and MBA from University of Sierra Leone and an M.A. from Wesley Biblical Seminary from Jackson, MS in the USA. Mr. Khabenje is also a Fellow of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO).

Mr. Khabenje in his response expressed his appreciation for the honour accorded him and for the opportunity to serve the church in Africa. Like the last speaker, Mr. Khabenje paid growing tribute to those who have gone before him. He said if AEA should see further than we can see now it is only because we have to stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Referring to the transition period, he said it takes only a woman to midwife a new birth and praised the Rev. Dr. Judy Mbugua for playing that role for a new dawn in AEA.

AEA Prepares to showcase in five years (2010-2014)

About 25 people from 8 nations gathered at the Kijiji Guesthouse at the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate in School of Theology (NEGST) on September 9-11, 2009 for a strategic planning workshop. The participants represented the various arms of AEA, including representation from the National Evangelical Alliances, Executive Board, Projects, Commissions and staff as key stakeholders to do strategic planning for the next five years (2010-2014). The plan is now in the process of being

drafted for the Board's document. It has five strategic objectives, viz:

approval at their next meeting in November. However, I would hasten to give highlights of the

- I. To strengthen AEA's governance structure and leadership to effectively carry out its mission
- II. To maximize AEA's ministry impact through the National Alliances, Commissions and projects
- III. To promote strong networking and collaboration with relevant stake holders for holistic transformation
- IV. To an evangelical platform for effective response to socio-political and Economic issues in Africa as intergral Mission and
- V. To develop a viable and sustainable financial and human and resource base.

The exercise also proposed alternate structure for the Board's approval.



(Group work: deliberating one of the objectives-figuring out desired outcomes and tactical activities to accomplish this)

Christian Learning Materials Centre (CLMC) -Transforming generations through Christian Education materials and services.

Christian Learning materials center (CLMC) is a project of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA), whose objective is to conduct research, curriculum development, publishing and training the African church to fulfill their Christian educational task. These goods and services are aimed at the church, the schools and other organizations that carry a Christian educational mandate. Her programs and materials are thoroughly bible based and evangelical in nature.

CLMC was established in response to the need to strengthen Christian education in Africa. As many embraced the Christian faith, the need to equip them with the right Christian educational materials and to train Christian education workers, non- formally, to ground them in the faith become evident. After two key conferences and much research and consultation, AEA's Theological and Christian education Commission together with the Evangelical Fellowship of Kenya founded CLMC.

In executing her mission CLMC has published Christian education materials for use in churches and also schools. These include a Sunday school (children) curriculum, covering ages 4 to 15 years and other manuals on special topics addressing different teen age issues. These have been published in French, Kinyarwanda and Kiswahili. They are currently used in many churches in Kenya and Africa.

We also carry out non-formal training for Christian educators and especially (children and teens workers) across the continent. The goal is to equip the trainee with necessary Christian Education Credentials to enable him to handle the Christian education process for spiritual and character formation among children and teens. This has been very helpful because few children workers in the African church context have any training for the ministries they do. CLMC is available to offer our training services to Christian educators in the African church.

The Greatest Room in the World is Room for Improvement

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Capacity Building

Since 2007 EAK in partnership with Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) has trained four hundred and sixty Bishops and senior Pastors in five interactive sessions focusing on a biblical response to Anti- Corruption under the theme "How can we be involved?". This partnership has led to the developed and subsequent launch of a comprehensive topical Biblical Study Guide "Integrity Against Corruption" on 19th August 2009 in Nairobi. The guide can be accessed through EAK office or online on www.kacc.go.ke.

Prayer Request

- Wisdom and God's guidance for the new GS as he takes up the task of leading AEA.
- Transformation of Africa
- Resources for the work of AEA
- General Assembly August 24-28, 2010
- Lausanne Congress for World Evangelisation to be hosted in the Church in Africa (Cape Town 2010)
- Pray for Jewel, wife of our International Director W.E.A Geoff Tunnicliffe for successful recovery from surgery
- Pray for persecuted church in Eritrea

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