

## Scoping this Edition

This is our first quarter newsletter and comes with warm New Year greetings and best wishes for a blessed year. It is the start of the second decade in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, *Wahoo!* How time flies! Go with the tide or hold fast? Two centuries earlier, Paul must have caught that same mood when he warned his listeners: *“Be very careful, then, how you live- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”* Eph. 5:15-16. This is so relevant for us today than ever before. Thus, this is the underlying theme for our General Assembly this year (August 24 -28). We must be wise and hold fast to Christ (the Wisdom), so that we are not swept on our feet with the fleeting godless times. We look forward to a great time of reflection and spiritual enrichment. Please register now and secure your place.

Already the year has begun with indelible imprints; second only to the tsunami in the South East Asian region of about same season six years ago, the Haiti earthquake and the consequent destruction of lives and properties demands a response from the rest of the world and no less the church in Africa. Be counted as a member of the church of Jesus Christ in Africa.

The Nairobi Evangelical School of Theology –NEGST, a project of AEA is on the verge of being a full fledge university- The African International University (AIU) with holistic and innovative academic and professional degree programmes on offer.

The main feature in this edition showcases the work of the Evangelical Fellowship in Zimbabwe. And can any good report come from Zimbabwe? You read and tell.... Also, we peep into one of the Commissions of AEA. Africa, at this point in time has joined the billion man club. Over 50% of this huge population in Africa are under 25 years of age. What hope for Africa’s youths? What are you doing Pastor, for your youthful congregation? The Youth Commission has a wide network of youth mentors round the continent you can call on to serve you and the church. Happy reading . . .



## Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe

“Advancing the Spirit of Evangelism”

### STATE OF THE NATION AND THE WORK BEING DONE BY THE CHURCH in Zimbabwe

The nation of Zimbabwe is currently undergoing a very “contested” yet indispensable transition in both the political, social, economic and religious aspects of her life. This is evidenced by the gradual change from a one-party dominance to a situation characterized by vibrant opposition since 1980. This has resulted in the formation of a government of national unity (inclusive government). In addition, there are political reforms as well as economic reforms in a bid to resuscitate the inflationary and speculative economic situation. These reforms are within the context of a battered nation, with largely every aspect of life heavily polarized, while at the same time people are crying for the redress of the recent violent past. In other words, the nation is at a very critical stage in its 30 year history, where there is a growing need for national healing, reconciliation as well as deliberate policies for nation building.

In view of such stark realities, the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe has and continues to be involved in spearheading efforts towards national healing and reconciliation. It supports the call for a home grown constitution as well as rebuilding and reviving broken relationships between the government, the civil society, and the international community as well as with the people of Zimbabwe. As Evangelicals, the Gospel of Christ takes pre-eminence in the organisation’s activities and involvement in national issues , thereby proving a holistic package to assist the nation as she goes through this grandiose transition, from an authoritarian system towards a more democratic and plural society.

## **The Constitutional Reform process**

This process, born out of Article 6 of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) “acknowledging that it is indeed a fundamental right and duty of the Zimbabwean people to make a constitution by themselves and for themselves”.



Even though the process started amidst chaos and sabotage attempts from various political and civic quarters, some progress has been achieved in the following areas: setting up of the Select Committee of Parliament composed of representatives of the parties to the agreement, the formation of the management committee and the stirring committee; -the convening of the First All stakeholders Conference to consult stakeholders. (see picture)

But the process is now trailing behind by over three months and it still remains a public secret as to the commencement of the crucial public consultation phase. This calls for a local guarantor of the GPA.

In a bid to influence the process, EFZ has been able to conduct public dissemination meetings and workshops sensitising the Church on their role in the process, issues of major concern and advising them on the time frames and the overall process outline. The EFZ’s Women Desk is currently organising a tour of the ten provinces in the country to mobilise and sensitise women on key issues such as the upholding and enshrining of biblical values that celebrates and promotes the family unit, the sanctity of life, marriage and nation building. One of the major outcomes of this project is the crafting of “The Mothers Voice,” that will be used as an advocacy tool targeting the Constitutional Select Committee, women and men in Zimbabwe.

## **Peace building work**

To consolidate the gains thus far realised within the peace building sector in Zimbabwe, EFZ is involved in community based peace



building initiatives, with the broader objective of promoting societal reconciliation and healing through the development of local capacities in conflict mediation and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. (picture shows a community meeting). It is further aimed that the communities will be capacitated to develop their own context specific intervention strategies in order to establish sustainable peace.

## **The Church and Civil Society Forum (CCSF)**

In pursuant with the political realities marked by the signing of the Global Political Agreement-GPA (including also the government of national unity) and the subsequent creation of the Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration as provided for in the GPA, the Church and the Civil Society came together to form the Church and Civil Society Forum in May 2009 in Kariba. The main objective was to establish a common, comprehensive national healing, reconciliation and integration framework that will be used to lobby and engage with the established Organ for Healing with a view to facilitate broader participation of civic society in the formulation of the national healing framework. Thus, to date, this platform has provided an opportunity for national consultative meetings thereby according the people a chance and an opportunity to contribute and input into the national healing process. While efforts remain intact to engage the Organ on national healing, the Church is also spearheading community healing meetings and programs at the very local level.

## **Ministry Development Commission**

The Ministry Development Commission (MDC) is pivotal in pursuing the thrust of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, whose mission is to empower, mobilise and network evangelicals for the propagation and dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is enhanced by coordinating concerted efforts, through facilitating evangelism and discipleship meetings, and through facilitating leadership empowerment conferences and seminars across the body of Christ. The commission also thrives to promote and provide for spiritual fellowship and theological reflection among the evangelicals. This year the Commission is poised for a much busier season as it facilitates national, regional and international ministry. Some of the major attractions include the hosting of Joyce Meyer for a conference and the festival of life in June 3 to 6 in Bulawayo and Harare. The coming of Dr. W. F. Kumuyi, who has the third largest local church in the world, will certainly bring a lot of transformational value in the church community in Zimbabwe. The commission will also facilitate numerous evangelism campaigns across the nation, Discipleship training and leadership conferences.

## The Humanitarian Commission

The Humanitarian Commission of the EFZ is moved to action by the passion of the organisation for the disadvantaged in society. Against such a background, the goal of the commission is to be an effective arm of the organisation which seeks to ameliorate the challenges of the disadvantaged. The commission seeks to ensure that it improves situations of the people in relation to child protection, water and sanitation, food and non food items distribution, disaster preparedness and emergencies handling, shelter construction and gender, child protection and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. In 1992 and 2002, the organisation reached out to the drought stricken population of Zimbabwe and provided them with food and non food items. It also assisted the victims of political violence in 2008. In 2008 it again constructed shelter for the mobile and vulnerable populations of Hopley and it trained the disadvantaged population of Hopley, Caledonia and Whitecliffe on livelihood skills like candle making and mushroom growing. (See picture)



Currently, the organisation is doing food and non food items distributions in Masvingo and education assistance in Chitungwiza. In a big way the organisation is aiming to equip its people with disaster preparedness skills, livelihood skills, child protection information and information on water and sanitation.

## The HIV and AIDS Department

The Ministry Development Commission acknowledges that the HIV and AIDS pandemic have moral overtones in the society. All the research projects done in Southern Africa in general and Zimbabwe in particular alluded to the fact that, HIV and AIDS can be redressed if the KEY drivers of HIV transmissions are addressed. This has realised the hatching of massive national Behaviour Change programmes in Zimbabwe and Church comes out as the key custodian of such Behaviour Change programmes in Zimbabwe.



The Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe has 10 years experience in HIV and AIDS programming. Through partners like PSI, Abt Associates, Mercy Corps, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, Africare, CDC and USAID the EFZ has managed to train over 120 Home Based Caregiver, 200 Peer Educators, over 300 lay counsellors, and the organisation has reached to over 1500 people living with HIV and AIDS. The HIV and AIDS department believes that the Church in Zimbabwe, and indeed worldwide has the capacity to swallow the AIDS monster. The Church is not only the Light of the World but also its' Salt. The HIV and AIDS pandemic is therefore a challenge and an opportunity for the Church to combine its proclamatory and demonstrative roles towards meeting the spiritual and material needs of its communities, including People Living Positively with HIV and AIDS, and affected by AIDS. The picture is showing young people in Bulawayo having a meeting on the HIV issues affecting the youth.

**NEGST/AIU (a project of AEA) Announces  
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## PEEP INTO AEA YOUTH AND SPORTS COMMISSION

The AEA Youth and Sports Commission has cherished the partnership with the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) Youth Commission and the International Sports Coalition (ISC). The mission of the WEA Youth Commission has been a source of inspiration for our work in the AEA Youth Commission to reach the teaming youths in Africa with activities organized with the following objectives;

- Impart a vision for the youth ministry to the Church
- Networking youth ministry to reach and disciple every young person for Jesus Christ

The ISC partnership has facilitated the use of the universal language of sports in the ministry. Sport is an effective tool for evangelism and a powerful medium for the Gospel. We have applied the following strategies through regional and national coalitions;

- Church Sports
- ACE Strategies Conference
- Global Community Games
- International Sports Leadership Training
- Major Sports Events Partnership
- Major Sports Events Host Partnership
- Proclamation by Sports People
- Serving the People of Sports
- Strategic Sports Partnerships

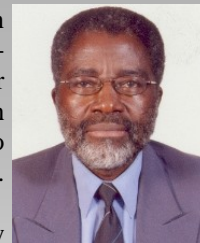
During the recent Football 'Africa Cup of Nations' held in Angola in January 2010, the presence of Christian Chaplaincy made a big impact to the players, coaches, managers and even spectators. It had started by training Church leaders in 4 different cities where the games were to be played.

Now we are preparing for the FIFA World Cup which will take place in South Africa from 11<sup>th</sup> June to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010. We are using the *Ubabalo eAfrica* 'God's Grace for Africa' strategy with the aim of training and transforming football coaches into Whole Life Coaches. This is a Leadership and Life Skills program through Whole Life football coaching. The curriculum is in force and we plan to reach 25,000 churches, 75,000 football teams, 240 leadership sessions leading to having 1.3 million Young Dynamic Future Leaders before the kick off on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The Youth and Sports Commission has established functional Mini Regions and placed Convenors in each one of them. Each Convenor has a co-convenor and a team of 9 Facilitators taking charge of each of the 9 strategies shown above. The Mini Region Convenors will be able to introduce the trained Sports Ministry Leaders in each of the countries in their regions to the General Secretaries of the Evangelical Alliances.

## Obituary

The Executive Board of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) announces with regret, the demise of our brother and colleague Dr. Tokunboh Adeyemo. Dr. Adeyemo passed on to glory on March 17, 2010 at the M. P. Shah Hospital in Nairobi.



Dr. Adeyemo was the General Secretary of AEA for twenty five years (1978-2002). He represented AEA on the International Council of the World Evangelical Alliance (then WEF) during this period, and served as Chairman of the Council for several years. He has been the Chancellor of the newly established Africa International University (formerly the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology, a project of AEA,) an institution he also headed as Principal in its formative years.

Dr. Adeyemo was among Africa's well known theologians and for all times and will be remembered for his sterling leadership and scholarship. The best known work he will be remembered for is the African Bible Commentary, as the General Editor.

He is survived by the wife, Mrs. Ireti Adeyemo and two grown up sons, Bamidele and Modupe.

He was 65 years and would be sadly missed.

**May his Soul rest in Peace**

## AEA LAUNCHES APPEAL FUND IN AID OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Following the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti in January this year and the out pouring of grieve and support for the victims from the rest of the world, AEA is appealing to the church in Africa to lend support to this effort. As the people of God we know just too well that we are our brothers keeper in spite of our own circumstances and we need to demonstrate this.

Donations can be wired to a special account for this purpose (with a note by email to [info@aeafrika.org](mailto:info@aeafrika.org)) as follows:

Name of account: **Association of Evangelicals Haiti Appeal Fund**

Account number: **USD 0100000 212037**

Name of Bank: **CFC Stanbic Bank Ltd.**

**P. O. Box 72833-00200**

**CFC Stanbic Centre,**

**Chiromo Road, Nairobi, Kenya**

## Count Down to the General Assembly

Registration for the AEA General Assembly is in progress. Why not take advantage of the early bird registration at \$50 discount on the total cost. This lasts till March 31, 2010.

**Date:** August 24-28, 2010

**Venue:** Kenya (location in Kenya to be confirmed)

**Theme:** Redeeming the Time (Eph. 5:15-16)

**Cost:** Registration \$50, Accommodation & board: \$350

**Participation:** The General Assembly provides a forum for fellowship, networking and spiritual enrichment for all. Therefore, it is not restrictive and open to all. However, for the AEA business sessions it is only the official delegates that are allowed to vote.

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