

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA- NW DIOCESE

2010-2012 NORTH-WEST DIOCESAN REPORT

TO: LCSA 2012 General Synod

Date: 10-13 December 2012-11-19

Venue: Wartburg

Introduction

Honourable Bishop, deans, pastors, lay delegates and visitors I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Amen.

This is the end of the year. The past three years was full of many various events, of sadness, happiness, uncertainty, grief, hopeless, love just to mention the few. Folks some of our members here and out there lost their loved ones and their belongings, as we heard about the terrible storms which stroked some of the places and lost people homeless and in a way some of our members were affected. The strikes that have been going on especially the tragedy of Marikana, where many lives were lost, parents, wives and children were left fatherless. I hope we took some time and put those in our prayers.

Some of us came across the sign of curl-de sac, for we thought this is the end of our lives as we experienced disappointments, problems, discouragements, etc. some of these are buried and some are not. It is time to let go of the past and contrite on the future. One of the greatest author writes "When you dwell on past hurts and injuries today, you open up fresh wounds for tomorrow".

PERSONNEL

| NO | NAME OF A PASTOR | PARISH | YEAR |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------|------|
| 01. | E Mogorosi | Boikhutso | 2000 |
| 02. | J Sephai | Mafikeng | 2005 |
| 03. | RS Mathulwe | 600 | 2006 |
| 04. | CM Mosenogi | Ventersdorp | 2006 |
| 05. | L Sefako | Itsoseng | 2006 |
| 06. | OG Shuping | Tsetse | 2007 |
| 07. | TJ Mafereka | Potchefstroom | 2009 |
| 08. | S Moate | Tlhabane | 2009 |
| 09. | S Mogale | Ikopeleng/Magokgwane | 2012 |
| DEACONS | | | |
| 01. | EM Mosenogi | 600 | |
| 02. | F Thibedi | Tlhabane | |
| 03. | TP Lenkwe | Magokgwane | |
| 04. | A Marope | Holfontein | |
| 05. | JM Moseitlo | Vrisgewaagdt | |

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DEATHS

| NO | NAMES | DATE | PLACE |
|----------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| 01. | Mokopanele | 30.09.2010 | 600 |
| 02. | A Lenkwe | 18.06.2011 | Swartplaas |
| 03. | Mrs Lenkwe | 11.06.2011 | Magokgwane |
| 04. | P Ditlhareng | 18.01.2012 | Mogopa |
| LAY- PREACHERS | | | |
| 01. | E Makgale | 13.02.2010 | Potchefstroom |
| 02. | P Modisane | 20.11.2010 | Rietfontein |
| 03. | Mosiane | 19.01.2012 | Rietfontein |
| 04. | SJ Tudu | 21.07.2012 | Klerksdorp |

ORDINATIONS, INDUCTIONS AND TRANSFERS

| NO | NAME OF A PASTOR | TRANSFERRED TO | DATE OF ORDINATION | DATE OF INDUCTION |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 01. | OG Shuping | | | 27.06.2010 |
| 02. | M Maragelo | Kagiso (GP), April 2010 | | |
| 03. | S Mogale | | 22.03.2012 | 01.04.2012 |
| | | | | |

The NW Diocese has 09 full time pastors, five deacons and three deaconesses that is, Mrs N Sephai (Mafikeng Parish), Mrs E Mathulwe (600 Parish) and Ms M Phogojane (Ikopeleng). We also have +- 23 lay- preachers.

Rev E Mogorosi and Deacon E Mosenogi have not been doing well due to illnesses. We pray our heavenly Father to give them speedy recovery.

The NWDC would like to thank all pastors, deacons and lay preachers for their dedication to serve God's people, and will like to admonish and encourage those who did not take their work seriously. Let us remember that we will all account to God on the last day. To those who lost their loved ones; may the Almighty God continue to comfort you.

NW DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The following council was elected in 2009 during NW Synod at Phokeng. Their names are:

Chairperson: Dean TJ Mafereka (re-elected)

Deputy Dean: Rev C Mosenogi

Lay Person: Mr MA Masibi (re-elected)

General Secretary: Mrs K Motlhabane (re- elected)

Recording Secretary: Mr G Lenkwe (Forfeited his membership)

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Treasurer: E Ntshwe (re- elected but resigned in 2012 due to school commitments)

Additional Member: Mrs E Mathulwe (Direlanang Women's League Chairperson)

VACANCIES

We have two vacancies that is; Motlatla and Holfontein parishes, but Motlatla is a small parish which could not afford to pay a salary of a pastor. At the moment Rev C Mosenogi is assisting while we are having discussion on merging it with Boikhutso parish.

Holfontein parish is served by deacon Marope after the sudden death of the late Rev P Ditlhareng.

PASTORS SALARIES

This is still a challenge in some of the parishes namely: Tsetse, Boikhutso and Tlhabane. It was resolved in our finance meeting that the salaries of the pastors should be raised to R4500.00 from April 2012. This has been implemented in most of the parishes although some are still struggling to raise this amount. We want to say thank you to the parishes for supporting God's servants.

Rev OG Shuping is pursuing his masters, hopefully he will finish next year. We wish him all the best.

Rev J Gumede is on probation period for six months, working under the supervision of Rev Sephai in Mafikeng. Based on the outcome of Rev Sephai and Mafikeng council recommendation he might be re-instated next year into the pastoral office. We would also like this synod to put his daughter in prayers as she has been undergoing surgeries.

PROPERTY

Mafikeng Parsonage

Several meetings have been called with the Mafikeng parish council. In our last meeting on the 09 June 2012, Mafikeng council requested that the parsonage should not be despatched for sale as they have other plans (for sustainability). The NW council is still waiting for their proposal.

ROODEPOORT

It was discussed and resolved in our diocesan synod in 2009 that this property should not be put to sale. The NWDC tried to come up with a business plan but we could not find donors. At the moment Mr Mokgosane is looking after the place after it was vandalised. The NW Men's league promised to forward a business proposal for this place.

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Ongoing Projects

Potchefstroom parish- A parsonage has been built in Jouberton and now they are busy with a 3years church building project

Tsetse- they are done with the parsonage project

Six- hundred- They have built a two roomed kitchen

Ventersdorp- still busy with church building renovations

Boikhutso- They have built a corrugated iron shack

Ikopeleng- about to kick start their parsonage project

MEETINGS

See the attached 2012 NW Yearly Plan

Easter Celebrations

We are still celebrating these celebrations jointly as a diocese. The 2012 Easter was held at Rietfontein. All of these celebrations have been most successful.

Conferences/ Workshops

Pastors and spouses convention was held on the 25-26 November 2011 at Tsetse B&B under the theme: "Living as disciples/ servants of Christ". Encouraging and motivating topics were presented by pastors, such as; building a missionary journey; leading when times are tough as a disciple of Christ and living as Christ disciples in marriage.

Pastors and lay- preachers' revival/workshop was hosted by Miga congregation on the 06-07 September 2012

FINANCE WORKSHOP/ MEETINGS

Several meetings were hosted, including one workshop which was held at Ga- Motlatla on the 25th February 2012. Special thank you goes to Mr Sereme and Mr Diseko for preparing and facilitating this workshop. Members were work- shopped on budgeting, writing a financial report etc.

On the very same workshop a resolution on pastors salaries which was long discussed at the 2009 NW synod was re-visited, and it was resolved that the NW pastors salaries should be augmented from R3500.00 to +R4500.00. At these kinds of meetings we look at the financial status of our diocese (Financial reports are presented) and the financial reports of the parishes. Not all of the parishes are taking part on sending the agreed contributions to the coffers of the diocese and this hinders the smooth running of the diocese. Some pastors as

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indicated before are still struggling to get their full salaries. See the attached 3rd quarter financial report.

NW Vehicle

Since 2007 to date we have been struggling to raise funds for the dean's car. This shows lack of interest and commitment from our members, and it makes the work of the dean to be ineffective and inconvenient.

PASTORS MEETINGS

We have four meetings yearly. All pastors and deacons are expected to attend these meetings as part of their work. In the past two years these meetings have been well attended, therefore we would like to say thank you to the co-operative pastors and parishes, and continue to encourage others to take God's office very serious (Gopola maikano a gago)

We had one Sunday- school teachers meeting.

One youth- league executive meeting

Not much has been done by DC on HIV&AIDS, but we have set aside the 01-02 December to be HIV&AIDS campaigns in our parishes. On Easter gatherings we do candle lighting and presentations. Presentation was also done at Youth rally by Mrs Sakeng Ranyane in Magokgwane.

LEAGUES

Direlanang Women's league hosted the Ascension day on the 19 May 2012 at Miga village. Diocesan conference was not hosted due to the National conference.

Youth League will be meeting for their annual conference on the 04-09 December 2012, at Vrisgewaagdt.

Women in Action: They were supposed to have their conference on the 18-19 November at Itsoseng, but due to some challenges it was cancelled.

Men's League: Finally after so many attempts to launch this league, with God's help it was done. The NW men's league was launched on the on the 29-30 October at Potchefstroom with approximately → 60 men who were commissioned. The DC would like to applaud the men's league task team and everybody who took part, to make this conference a success.

Sunday school: not much has been done. We should take this very serious and see it as an opportunity to teach our children the word of God and doctrine of our church in preparing them for confirmation class.

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Upcoming Events

16 December 2012 we will be celebrating Reconciliation day at Potchefstroom.

Conclusion

“Taking NW Diocese into the Future”

In conclusion I would like to say: We have heard of challenges, achievements and what is left undone, but we cannot drag our feet and dwell into the past. We should let go of the past and concentrate on the future. As we approach the end of the year and look hopefully to the New Year, there is much work ahead of us to be done.

We have not done much as a church on an area of peace & reconciliation, gender & poverty, HIV & AIDS, unemployment, orphans whereas our members and community at large are faced with these serious issues. Next year we want to pay more attention on these issues. Pastors and some members had an opportunity to attend and be work-shopped on these aspects by LUCSA, we need to make a follow-up and make use of the skills that have been invested upon us.

We need to have open eyes and minds for the concerns and needs of our communities, in Setswana there is an idiom saying: “Motho ke motho ka batho ba bangwe”. This is the age of members/community revolution. Sellers no longer have the upper hand, customers do. Customers now tell the suppliers what they want, when they want it, how they want it and what they will pay. If the church assumptions about community do not change, the doors of the church will be closed soon. Folks we don't have to compromise the teachings of the word of God and the teachings of our church by being “street wise”. Members expect products that are relevant to their needs.

Taking NW Diocese into the future we need dedicated and committed leaders. Our aim next year is to take all people on board if possible. We would organise events such as Graduates gala-dinner with the dean....

Business Indaba with business people who at some time feel that the church doesn't need them or utilise them.

The dean will come up with a new approach in his pastoral visitations. The 2013 visitations will start on Friday, dean meeting with the pastor and his family, then on Saturday he will be joined by his council to meet with parish council and other parish leagues council and on Sunday Sunday service and “bosberaat” with the whole congregation.

We want to see pastors taking initiatives by visiting hospitals, lonely and desperate people in prisons, taking part in community projects, being in contact with other religious leaders and use every opportunity to spread the word of God.

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The issues of the Diocesan finances and how the diocese is to address the challenge of growing its resources and increase its capacity and improve ways to prove it more sustainable. Budget issues will have to be scrutinized and a strategy be developed to address the challenge of sustainability of congregational and diocesan projects, personnel and programs.

Next year we expect a pastor to give a report on his parishnal endeavours over the past quarter and we will have to evaluate, critique, comment and applaud. Pastors it is serious that we take this serious, as it will also help us to measure our work.

Together we can but we cannot get there unless we are moving that way.

Lord Have Mercy!

Thank you.