



# Tigawane – ELCM Sharing

## News

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## NEPAD MEETING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi sent Mphatso Thole, the Information Officer and Rev Naboth Fungo of January Parish in Thyolo to attend the **New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD)** meeting. The workshop which took place from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2004 was organized by Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa was held at Willow Park Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The aim of the meeting was to learn what NEPAD is and the role of the church in the organization. To understand about the African Peer Review Mechanism which is the voluntary mechanism acceded to by member states of African Unity (AU).

The theme of the workshop was “*The Role of Churches in NEPAD Peer Review System: Building capacity for monitoring and evaluation.*” Participants had an opportunity of understanding the primary objectives of NEPAD which are to accelerate the eradication of poverty and inequality in Africa. To place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development. To halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process. To promote the empowerment and economic integration of women.

According to the principals of NEPAD which are African ownership and leadership, new partnerships within Africa and with the international community, Africa will develop if its flagship projects should be implemented.

## **BISHOP ROBERT BERG VISITS ELCM**

For the first time, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi received an American Bishop, especially from North West Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bishop Robert Berg who was accompanied

by his wife Roxie, Diane Kaufmann and Kathy Shattack visited some of the ELCM parishes for three weeks. The group came to Malawi on 28<sup>th</sup> July and went back to America on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

During his visitation the Bishop was privileged to witness dedication of Msambanyama chapel, Salima, January Parish of Thyolo, Nang'ombe Parish Office and Masoko in Karonga Central Parish. He passed greetings from Mark Hanson, the Presiding Bishop of ELCA and also the newly elected president of Lutheran World Federation.

## **ELCM YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi will hold National Youth Assembly from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Invited youths will be representatives of all ELCM parishes.

The assembly is the top most gathering of youths in the church where national important issues are discussed including elections of new members of the national youth committee

This year's meeting will be graced by the presence of Amkeni Choir from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Amkeni is a joint of choir members from different groups.

## **Feeding Season starts in September**

Malawi is one of the countries in southern part of Africa which experience hunger annually. It is very difficult for the government alone to reduce the level of poverty in the country.

Hence Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Malawi is working tooth and nail to reach people holistically. The church through it, department of Diakonia Ministries feeds orphans and other underprivileged children every year. The programme normally starts in October. But this year

feeding will start in September due to early hunger which has affected most parts of the country.

To realize much work done in Feeding Centres, Department for Diakonia Ministries organized workshop to equip Feeding

Assistants. The workshop which was officially opened by Acting Dean Frohlich on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2004 brought together 80 participants from parishes to learn how they will take care about orphans in centres. The Acting Dean referred from Mathews 8:5 where

Jesus elaborates about charitable work. Rev Frohlich asked Feeding Assistants to participate fully to achieve in centres. He warned of getting nothing from the workshop due to poor participation.

2004 has been the most wasteful year in Malawi. People have

started already migrating in search of food. It is pathetic to see elderly people; widows fight for the survival for their children.

The church is expected to feed 5,000 orphans from September 2004 to April next year.

## **Dedication of Madisi Chapel**

There was ululation and jubilation on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2004 when Bishop Dr J P Bvymbwe of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and Bishop Robert Berg of North West Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America dedicated a chapel and three houses at Madisi Lay Training Centre.

Two evangelists, John E Songa and Wangstone Mkhisi were ordained as pastors on the same day. Rev J E Songa will be pastor for Nkhata Bay while Rev W Mkhisi will be responsible for Mulanje Parish.

About two thousand people witnessed the official dedication of the church and two houses at the centre. The church at Madisi is the second largest chapel of ELCM after cathedral. The magnificent structure is situated 1km from Madisi Trading Centre. It is closer to M1 Road which goes to Kasungu.

## **‘We Believe’ SECOND BOOK TRANSLATED BY LHF-MALAWI TO BE OUT VERY SOON**

The second book translated by Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Malawi, a translation project based in Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi will be out by the middle of October.

*‘We Believe’* a very important book for theological training is finally translated. The book will assist more

people to learn about fundamentals of Christian faith.

With assistance from Lutheran Heritage Foundation, the Worldwide Lutheran Translation Projects based in America, ELCM was able to translate and print Small Catechism in Chichewa and Tumbuka. The books will be used for Confirmation Class.

## **Salima Parish Centre Shot in Arm**

Blessings from God poured for congregants of Salima Parish when Bishop Berg of North West Synod of Wisconsin/ELCA presented a cheque worth K1.1 million (\$10,000) to build Parish Centre in the parish.

The ceremony took place on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2004 at the place identified to erect buildings of the centre. The following day Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe and Bishop Berg dedicated Msambanyama chapel. The project was able with help from the visiting Bishop.

In his speech, Bishop Bvumbwe thanked Berg for his generosity to Salima. He assured visitors that ELCM

will make sure to start the project as soon as possible. On behalf of Salima Parish, Acting Dean Rev, R Frohlich received the present from Bishop Bvumbwe.

*By: Patrick Mwanyongo*

## **HOME BASED CARE WORKSHOP**

Nkhata Bay is one district with high level of people living with HIV/Aids. The one and half week workshop was closed on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

Evangelical Lutheran Development Program is working hard in awareness campaign against the killer HIV/Aids. Through its HIV/Aids, Human Rights Programmes the organization is reaching people in targeted working districts teaching people how to control increase of the pandemic.

Rev Spencer Mngongonda, the Assistant Director and HIV/Aids Coordinator organized Home Based Care workshop which was aimed at empowering participants who will be responsible of taking care people living with HIV/Aids. In his remarks Silvester Kasambara MP for Nkhata Bay North Constituency encouraged people to work with ELDP so that the disease is reduced.

Participants were from Nkhata Bay and Karonga.

## **Leadership of Bingu wa Muthalika After 100 days in Office**

Malawians went to polls on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2004 with mixed reactions. There was much tension before elections and most people went

voting with little or no satisfaction of the future ruling. The candidate of the major party was hand picked and results of elections showed that there were irregularities.

Political analysts prophesized doom upon poor Malawians due to the fact that United Democratic Front has delivered nothing according to their manifestos. Corruption, stealing, innocent people being tortured, political appeasement, killing and many sorts of evils derailed the economy of the poor country which is on position 155 in terms of economic situation. This means the country is 13<sup>th</sup> step at the rank from the poorest countries.

After 100 days of Dr Bingu wa Muthalika the country is now showing small green leaves. It is prayers of many poor Malawians that what the president is doing should continue. What is needed is to keep on

praying to God so that ill will politicians should not upset the mind of wa Muthalika whom the poor and donors believe will revive the economy of the country. Those who were pocketing government taxes, coffers from the poor are really brought to book. It was dark, and now light has unveiled the evil. When will Malawians sing a song of freedom? Who will bring genuine democracy in the country after others who were claiming good leaders have failed? When will the poor start praising the government?

Shame on the fat cow which was feeding from the grass of the poor cattle. Yes, it is not every one who is happy with the current leadership but that's what game is all about. It is reasonable to think that those people like pastors and other politicians who were beaten during that time of revolution in 2003 fought for this leadership. Rest in peace to those who shed blood and died. The government is asked to visit countries like Singapore to learn how they revived the their economy within ten years after poor leadership of many years. It will be wise and proper if the current government implements all resolutions which were drafted and manifested by the old government especially reasonable ones.

The country to achieve, needs people of high integrity, good vision, unshakable, tolerant and who care about talking of unheard poor or rich people. Malawi is a God fearing country. Let the godly minds of most Malawians persist in the country.

*By: Mphatso Thole*

## **Kuunika Media Ministry moves to Falls**

Lutheran Hour Ministry known as Kuunika Media Ministry has moved from premises of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi headquarters. LHM started operating in Malawi in January 2002.

The new offices of Kuunika are situated along Malalanga Road about 300 metres from Lilongwe Central Market.

## **Bishop Bvumbwe cheers Orphans at Mlale Feeding Centre**

Due to hunger situation which has affected Karonga District, Mlale is one of the Feeding Centres which did not close for 2003 – 2004 feeding season.

The Bishop with visitors from Evangelical Lutheran Church in America especially North West Synod of Wisconsin witnessed feeding of Orphans at Mlale. It

was a feeding day. About fifty children came to eat Likuni Phala at the Centre.

*By: Information Office*

## **Youth Exchange Programme**

A group of youth from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi led by Ronnie Mvula and Winnie Kamanga visited the Johannes Congregation in Pretoria South Africa from 18<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004.

Lilongwe Cathedral is in partnership with Johannes. The visit was aimed at strengthening

their relation. The visit involved the following Levison Banda (Phalombe), William Mofolo (Blantyre), Samuel Banda and Jeremiah Zimba (Lilongwe Rural). Other include Costance Maujo, Haward Maujo, Janet Lidamlendo and Tendai Kasiya of Lilongwe Cathedral.

The delegation thanked Bishop Dr J P Bvumbwe and Youth Desk for singling them out as representatives of youths on the visit. The group also extended their heartfelt thanks to Johannes Congregation and the host families where they stayed for the warm welcome.

*By: Ronnie Mvula*

## **Bishop Berg visits Monkey Bay Parish**

During his visitation programme Bishop Robert Berg and his group from North West Synod of Wisconsin visited Monkey Bay Parish on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

The Bishop inspected the renovated chapel at Parish Centre and Mtakataka Turn Off Primary School. Monkey Bay is one of the fast growing parishes

although it is in a Muslim area. They also visited Mangochi Parish where they conducted Bible Study.

Since January 2003 Mangochi Parish has no pastor. The Pastor comes from Monkey Bay to visit Christians in the parish.

*By: Patrick Mwanyongo*

## BVUMBWE PARISH HAS THE NEW PASTOR

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is blessed with the coming of Pastor Utz Brunotte from Evangelical Lutheran in Mission who will be the Parish Pastor of Bvumbwe and Mikolongwe.

Brunotte will be based in Blantyre with his wife and two sons.

## SPORTS

In order to avoid youths in indulging immoral activities football was introduced long time ago to keep youngsters busy in Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. Some of the .

Lilongwe Youth Club of Lilongwe Cathedral, Diakonia Rangers of

Mzuzu Parish and Venge Football Club from Madisi Lay Training Centre are some of the clubs. Lilongwe and Venge met at Madisi Football pitch when the giants from the capital were thrashed by two goals to none. The game was graced by the presence of Bishop Berg and Bishop Bvumbwe.

The morale of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004 soccer cerebation was boosted by the presentation of two balls, volley ball net to the winning team by the visiting Bishop from North West Synod of Wisconsin.

## Bible Reflection

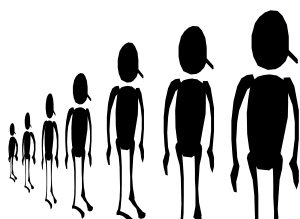
Brothers and sisters in Christ let us remember that we are enjoying Trinity. This is the season when Christians come together, discuss and share how they can abide with God through the presence of God the Father, Jesus and the Holly Spirit.

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The Bible from the episode of 1 Peter 5:5 says that, *“In like manner, you younger men, be in subjection to the older men. But all of you gird yourself with lowliness of mind toward one another because God opposes the haughty ones, but he gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones”*. Respect to others is one aspect of growing in Christian life.

Enjoy trinity with love and kindness.

By: Information Office



## **TRINITY GROUP TO VISIT ELCM**

A group of six people from Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin in USA will visit Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

Visitors led by Rev Curt Jacobson will include Pastor Mary Jorgensen, Dick Cable, Lynn Gullicksrud, Peggy Dimpfel and Mike Schumacher.

Trinity Congregation of North West Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is in companionship with Blantyre Parish. Hence the companions will spend most of their time visiting Blantyre congregations. This is the first time for Blantyre to receive visitors from Trinity

**Tigawane** is the Newsletter  
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