



Editorial

POLITICAL SITUATION IN MALAWI

After a year of campaigning for the highest portfolio, Malawians have now settled down when they went to polls on 20th May and exercise their Rights by voting to choose the president.

Malawi is known to be the warm heart of Africa for its warm welcome. It is not quit sure if the incumbent President will deliver according to the results after elections. Civil Society Organizations worked tooth and nail to make sure that there is free and fare elections. All efforts to safe guard the rights of Malawian citizens were just building castles in the air. It will take about thirty years for the country to have genuine democracy. All political parties were born from the mother party, Malawi Congress Party hence the syndrome of politics of appeasement, castigation, regionalism, tribalism and monopoly will not end unless the style of politicizing changes.

The worst thing is that 1.3 million people will die of starvation if the country doesn't find food for its people this year. HIV/Aids is on the increase, parents leave innocent children who need special attention. Every year about one million children lack nutritious food.

The country really needs matured leaders to brighten the future of people. It is only through constant prayers to Almighty God for the country to be healed. There are uncountable hindrances to the development of Malawi due to greedy leaders.

People started a new journey from the date we voted until 2009 when the noise of power hungry leaders will be heard.

THE BIRTH OF ELAPAC BAND

Through Evangelical Lutheran Development Program, ELCM is taking part in the development of Malawi.

ELDP is working tirelessly with people both rural and urban areas trying to ease the living of people in Malawi. HIV/Aids, Agriculture, Gender and Human Rights are

programmes the organization is dealing with. With the escalation of HIV/Aids pandemic, the organization formed a band one year ago of sensitizing the public about the evils of contracting the disease. The Band is patronized by Rev Spencer Mngongonda. It is comprised of ten members with Innocent Kaphinde as the Keyboardist and Band Leader.

ELAPAC which means Evangelical Lutheran Aids Prevention and Control was named after recognition of the

activities of the organization which is to fight against the spread of HIV/Aids.

Within the year, ELAPAC is known throughout the country and receives positive response from people. With little resources the band has, many people learn more about the danger of the deadly disease. The band invites well wishers to give support so that people know the truth about HIV/Aids.

By: Innocent Kaphinde

EPM MEMBERS MEET AT ALENDO HOTEL IN BLANTYRE

Two years have gone since Evangelical Partners in Mission met at Evangelical Lutheran Church's Cathedral in Lilongwe. The group met in August 2002 during ELCM 20th Anniversary and Church Assembly. This year the event was held at Alendo Hotel in Blantyre.

The Joint Mission Board rotates in member churches every year. Members to the meeting were Bishop P Robinson and Rev Anna from ELC in Botswana, Rev Benyam Kassahun of ELCA, Rev Diete Schurte representing ELM, Annti Kuokkanen from Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland and Lars Horfgren of Swedish Evangelic of Swedish Evangelical Mission.

Before dates of meeting which were 14th to 15th June 2004 members were privileged to see some of the developments in ELCM. They visited Phalombe and Mikolongwe Parishes. Mbayani, Ndilande and Kamwetsa congregations in Blantyre were also visited.

WOMEN HELD PARISH ASSEMBLY IN KATEWE

Women held Parish Assembly Meeting at Chivuluvulu Congregation, Katewe Parish on 26th June 2004.

The event which was graced by the presence of Mrs M Bvumbwe who is the Women Advisor was a welcome idea from members of the parish. Women discussed important issues to build the reputation of women in ELCM. Among the topics shared HIV/Aids prevention and control subject was included.

KUUNIKA MEDIA MINISTRY

Lutheran Hour Media Ministry known as Kuunika Media Ministry-Malawi (KMM-M) is a Christ centred media outreach organisation under the International Laymen's League (Int. LLL). In Malawi, it was established by the initiatives of the League and the ELCM after signing the memorandum of understanding between two parties in 2002. As an outreach organisation it aims at proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, teaching,

nurturing, educating and serving as a bridge linking them to the bible based church.

The Ministry serves the church through evangelism and facilitating it. National Newspaper outreach is used to reach millions of readers per edition. The ministry also has updated information on the website, drama and music. The ministry prepares and equips bible based churches for the huge task of evangelism and taking care of new members through workshops. A follow-up service is offered for free Christian counseling, Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) and free topical booklet distribution. Translation programme of materials into predominant languages is also done as well as referring people to the bible based churches.

At the moment the ministry has reached over 19,000 people, referred about 7,000 to the church and covers 13 local congregations in Central Region preciously in Lilongwe and Dowa districts.

Aubrey W Bunguzu
Audience Relations Coordinator

ACTIVITIES IN YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Youth Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi offers various events and gatherings for young people. Youth are expressing themselves in performing different youth activities. They are involved in many activities such as HIV/Aids awareness campaign and sensitize the public against the dangers of contracting the pandemic.

We have volunteer youth workers who are responsible for the day to day affairs in various congregations and parishes in ELCM. Their duties are to lead bible studies, teaching Sunday school just to mention a few. They are also involved in decision making in the church and scouting where by youths play different games and learning different life skills and performing different youthful activities boosting their living standard.

Rev Evance Mphalasa
Youth Coordinator

DEPARTMENT FOR DIAKONIC SERVICES

Diakonia Ministry is one of the departments of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. The Department has its programmes of Feeding Centres, Bursary, Mobil Clinic and HIV/Aids Awareness and Human Rights.

There are 88 feeding centres in all ELCM Parishes. 55 orphan children are fed at

every centre. This means that 4,400 children benefit from the programme in the country.

Feeding Centres are also used as Mobil Healthy Clinic Centres. Orphans receive medicines when they feel sick. Each programme has Coordinating Assistant who reports to the Coordinator of the Department.

Due to limited resources ELCM is unable to feed children at daily basis. Feeding is done three days a week. Medicines are sufficient in centres because of children who get help while not registered at the centre.

By: Stella Nyasulu (Mrs)
Coordinator - Diakonia

IT'S REAL AND SERIOUS

Like manna in the time of Moses
Which passed through the desert
Had fallen on earth
HIV/Aids is real
It's true, we're serious.

We're serious here at Lutheran
About HIV/Aids pandemic
Through Diakonia Ministry
Disseminating the message of hope
To create hope to the hopeless.

As Christians we're serious
To make you more aware
To wear away this killer disease
That's our menu for the day
We're serious.

By: Thomas Kanyama

What's Up

♣ Philip Bouknight and seven other friends from Virginia Synod to visit ELCM. They will arrive on 11th July and be in the country for two weeks.

♣ Bishop Robert Berg, Dianne Kaufmann and other two partners to arrive in the country on 26th July 2004.

♣ Rev Pearson K Banda leave for Germany on 10th July 2004.

♣ Department for Diakonic Services introduces HIV/Aids Programme. Mrs Esther Gondwe who was appointed to be the Assistant Coordinator for the Programme with effect from 1st June 2004

ELCM Pastors Attend Joint Mission Board in Zambia

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia held its Joint Mission Board Meeting from 17th to 19th June 2004 at Chainama Hotel, along Great East Road in Lusaka.

Senior Pastor Kaumba reported about the MissionWork in Copperbelt, ordinations of other pastors, HIV/Aids Programme, site for the Head Office,

finance and other important issues of the church. According to the statistics of ELCZ, membership of all nine parishes is at 5,659.

Rev E J K Mazengera and Rev J Mofolo represented Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi at this occasion.

EQUIPING THE SAINTS WORKSHOP

Kuunika Media Ministry, the church outreach organization planned to conduct Equipping the Saints Workshop with special focus on some new contact persons and a few of the formers ones. The workshop took place from 6th to 8th June 2004. It was officially opened by Bishop Dr J P Bvumbwe.

Thirty six congregational

representatives including lay leaders drawn from several churches in central region; Ntcheu, Salima, Ntchisi and Lilongwe participated for lay led mission outreach training. Equipping the Saints programme has been initiated by Lutheran Hour Ministry to give the Gospel to the whole nations, a worldwide movements of Christians who are motivated, empowered and equipped by the

Holly Spirit, communicating the Gospel of Christ to all people while warmly welcoming and nurturing those who respond and referring them to the church.

The theme of the this year's workshop was; *"working together, sharing Christ with your neighbour and welcoming them to the church"*.

Aubrey Bunguzu

DIAKONIA HOLDS ONE DAY HIV/AIDS AND GENDER WORKSHOP TO ELCM STAFF

Department for Diakonic Services held a one day workshop to sensitize ELCM staff about evils of catching HIV/Aids and abusing the Rights of Women, girls and children. The meeting took place at

Luther Hall on 1st July 2004.

Bishop Dr J P Bvumbwe opened this workshop. The meeting which was attended by thirty five participants is the beginning of its kind in ELCM. Gender and HIV/Aids a topic for the gathering will empower staff of Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Rogart Kapulula,
Gender Programme
Officer from Ministry
of Gender described the
beginning of Gender in
early 1980's. The term,
"gender" was known
by the word Women in

Development (WID). The aim of introducing the
programme was to empower women as they were
deprived after the Second World War.

The workshop was facilitated by Mrs Stella Nyasulu,
Coordinator for Diakonia.

Parish Profile

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is growing tremendously. Within twenty two years of its existence, the church has 328 congregations in all districts apart from Mwanza, and Likoma Districts.

Nsanje Parish In Preparation in the southern tip of Malawi is no exception. The Parish which started in 1995 has one chapel at Migoza Congregation, about twenty kilometres from Nsanje District. There are six preaching points of Mchedeka, Mgona, Nsanje Boma, Bangula, Phokela and Mankhokwe and one congregation, Migoza.

The Parish is under the supervision of Rev Jumbe, with Evangelist Namakonje and Mrs Ndembe as the Parish Worker. Membership is at 743.

BISHOP DR J P BVUMBWE VISITS KATEWE PARISH

Lutherans of Katewe Parish were on 27th June 2004 honoured when Bishop Dr J P Bvumbwe visited them and encouraged them to work together in serving God through Jesus Christ.

Representatives from congregations of the parish gathered at Chivuluvulu welcoming the Bishop. He encouraged Christians to keep on praying for the political situation in the country. People thought of having great change after General Elections but ironically things haven't changed.

Honourable Kapanda Banda who is Member of Parliament in Dedza West thanked Bishop Bvumbwe for the development in the district. He asked him for more prayers and assistance in the area.

Dedza is one of the districts where Evangelical Lutheran Church is helping through ELDP, the development arm of the church.

Staff News

- Rev Alick Msuku was appointed as Zonal Project Officer of Evangelical

Lutheran Development Program for

the Southern Region. His appointment was effect from 1st April 2004.

- Mrs Stella Nyasulu is the new Coordinator for Diakonia Ministry responsible for programmes of Feeding Centres, Mobile Clinic, Bursary, HIV/Aids, Gender and Human Rights. She resumed working on 1st June 2004. .

- Dean Josephy Banda who is studying at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, USA will be in the country on research tour for three months.
- ELCM Information Department starts showing Video in Bishop's Visitation. Lutherans should be waiting to watch activities done in parishes and other important events.

Announcement

Information Office has its own VCR/TV hence all members are invited to watch tapes of Bishop's

Visitations activities and other important invents. Please feel free to come during Lunch Hour only.

Send your views, news, enquiries and contributions to the Information Officer, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

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