

CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AFRICA

DIOCESE OF CENTRAL ZIMBABWE

N° 236



2018 THEME: "ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU" - JOHN 15^{V4}

CIRCULAR FOR JANUARY 2018

1.0 BISHOP's DIARY

15-18.01.2018	-	Bulawayo	-Bishop's Retreat
20.01.2018	-	Umsungwe Park	-Dedication

1.1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please find attached the confirmation and visit dates taken so far. Ensure that your desired dates have been captured correctly.

2.0 PERSONNEL.

2.1 The Late Mrs. Alice Chiwandire.

It was very saddening indeed to learn of the untimely death of one of our Clergy widows, Mrs. Alice Chiwandire on 27.12.2017. She passed on peacefully at her daughter's home in Harare. Even at her advanced age, she was a very active member of the Church at St. Bernard's Makore. If any, she missed very few Mothers' Union Conferences, including those at national level. She even went to Kariba together with other members of Clergy, their spouses and widows. She will, sadly, be missed. She was laid to rest on Saturday 30.12.17 at their farm (Chiwandire farm) in Gokwe North. I am very grateful to the Clergy and their spouses who braved the Gokwe roads in order to attend the funeral. The Diocese continues to join me and Mrs. Mukuwanda in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the whole Chiwandire family. May Her Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

2.2 Mr. Collin Bafana.

Mr. Collin Bafana, a prominent member of the Anglican Church Men and of St. Philip's Mkoba, passed away on 28.12.2017 at Claybank Hospital, Gweru. To most of us this was very sudden and untimely as we had not heard of his illness. He was laid to rest at Mtapu Cemetery on Sunday 31.12.17. May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace. *(see also under 10.2)*

2.0 ASSESSMENTS & STIPENDS.

I am not too sure whether the submission of assessments has improved as I was on leave. I guess we still have the same problems as the economic situation has not improved much. Stipends are still difficult to pay on time. Bonuses were even more difficult to pay and we had to appeal to our treasury to 'borrow' some money in order to pay the 13th cheque. The amounts being raised at Harvest Thanksgiving festivals are now very low/small. We need to devise another method to ensure that clergy and employees get a decent bonus each year. The Finance Committee needs to discuss this and make some proposals to the Standing Committee.

4.0 DONATIONS TO THE HOSPITAL

None received

5.0 CLERGY, EMPLOYEES AND SPOUSES BIRTHDAYS

Revd. C. Madala	-	1 January
Mrs P. Shazha	-	4 January
Revd. E. Mazula	-	6 January
Revd. S. Marumirofa	-	12 January
Mrs Maseko	-	19 January
Mrs P. Shazha	-	20 January
Revd. L. Mpinga	-	22 January
Mr N. Mbedzi	-	25 January
Revd. A. Gwemende	-	26 January
Revd.C Mpinga	-	2 February
Revd. J Marumirofa	-	4 February
Revd. J Bwanakaya	-	6 February
Mrs M. Chitembetembe	-	10 February
Revd. Canon E. Basvi	-	12 February
Revd. J. Makiwa	-	15 February

6.0 CLIMATE CHANGE.

The Standard BEST COPY READ

RURAL AREAS DESPERATE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

With new findings by the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin — the United Nations weather agency’s annual flagship report — a few days ago reporting that globally averaged concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) reached a record high of 403.3 parts per million [ppm] in 2016, up from 400.00ppm in 2015, the question of whether or not climate change is real is no longer a subject of debate. The so-called “doomsayers” — the scientists who for years have been predicting disaster as a result of the scourge — have been proven right. Just like they warned, climate change is hitting developing countries like Zimbabwe the hardest. Ironically, it is those countries that have contributed the very least, if at all, to the natural catastrophe that are bearing the brunt in the worst way. In Zimbabwe, proof of climate change is now there even for those that initially called it nothing but a hoax meant to cause pandemonium. The National Climate Change Response Strategy — developed by the government to look into climate change matters — has called the phenomenon “the biggest threat to humanity today”. This was no doubt uttered after having realised the impact that the scourge was increasingly having on the generality. The factor most noticeable to everyone — even those that may not quite comprehend what the term “climate change” even means — is the soaring temperatures and the incessant heat waves never experienced before. This is because climate change is the long-term change of climate brought about by the release of greenhouse gases such as CO₂, which trap heat in the atmosphere, resulting in the planet getting hotter — referred to as global warming.

Emmanuel Chapoto, a young man living in Kanyemba, the place of his birth that is located to the furthest north of Zimbabwe where the country borders Zambia and Mozambique, says he can no longer cope with the heat that now characterises the area and for the first time, is considering migrating to some place cooler, preferably the capital Harare, where he reckons the grass is greener and the weather liveable. “I have never known such heat. The heat is making it harder and harder to function over here,” said Chapoto, a nephew to the chief in the area.

The script in Kanyemba reads similar to those in many other remote areas in the country. Temperatures are soaring to unprecedented levels, making it hard for people to operate the way they used to. While many in poor remote areas like Kanyemba have for years survived on subsistence farming, the unbearable heat has ensured the excessive wilting of crops. As if that were not enough, the crops that would have barely survived the ravaging heat are often wiped out by floods. The country has over the years been experiencing erratic rainfall patterns that have evidently left even the Meteorological Services Department with its obsolete equipment quite confused.

The rainy season has lately often been characterised by long and very hot dry spells after which there would be gushes of lightning and violent rains that result in flooding. This has effectively left many rural folk in dire need of food aid and at the mercy of dubious politicians that use food aid to coerce for votes during the election period. As the 2017 UN climate change conference (COP 23) carries on in Bonn, Germany, we await with keen interest to hear the outcomes of the meeting and what the polluting developed nations — that have chiefly contributed to climate change — will do to help people like Chapoto in Kanyemba and his kinsmen, for whom life has completely been changed for the worst, bearing in mind that Zimbabwe (and other countries like it) is greatly affected by the scourge owing to its economic status, location and because many are already overburdened by poverty and disease.

It is also hoped that those that went to represent the country at the meeting in Bonn manage to capture the real situation on the ground, articulating issues in a manner that makes the global stage appreciate the direness of the situation for people like Chapoto as a direct result of climate change. Any further climate change aid that the country will receive should go towards ensuring that marginalised areas like Kanyemba get the assistance they so desperately need to become climate change resilient and therefore not be impacted quite as heavily as they presently are. One can, however, not help wonder how the nations that are gathered in Bonn will manage to “advance the aims and ambitions of the Paris Agreement” when the Donald Trump administration has resolved to pull out of the “legally-binding” agreement as soon as it can — despite the US being the world’s second biggest contributor to climate change, after China.

7.0 AROUND PARISHES.

8.0 NEWS FROM ARCHDEACONRIES.

8.1 Gweru Archdeaconry

I hope you all had a Holy Spirit filled entry into 2018 and now going to hit the ground running. The retreat 1-5th of January was very good and an eye opener to our jobs as man cloth. The part about relationships really touched me. Respect the office if you don't want to respect a fellow priest. All of us cannot occupy the higher offices though we are all called to minister and look after the sheep.

With the onset of January let us try and get over with vestries and let me know dates of induction of churchwardens and councillors so that we fix our calendar.

Let us keep praying that God gives us a Bishop who is from him and tailored for the position. Explain to the laity the proper process of electing not what I am hearing which is really out of this world. Our church is organised and has order please do not forget.

If you default on assessment now, it will affect you in the long run. Please make it number one priority all the time. Encourage your sheep to register to vote if we want to participate in the ruling of our country. Let us revive the ACM this year, our inflows will improve and other guilds must come up to speed. With all the best wishes for 2018.

Compiled by Ven C. Nyereyegona.

9.0 PROJECTS

9.1 Hospital

Progress is very disappointing. Not much has been done at the Male Ward. Back-filling is in progress, though the pace is painstakingly slow because of the inappropriate trailer. We need to have roofed this section of the hospital by mid-February. We are still waiting for cement contributions from other Archdeaconry ACMs. Only Gweru Archdeaconry and St. Cuthbert's Cathedral parish have contributed in full. I am not too sure about what is happening in Kadoma, Kwekwe, Gokwe, Senga and Shurugwi. I have also contributed my share. Could we please remind the ACM Executives in these areas about this important commitment.

9.2 Diocesan Centre.

Still no progress on the external ablution facility. This is now embarrassing if a whole Diocese is failing to complete a toilet! Prices of the steelwork required are still very high. We are considering going back to using timber.

9.3 Butchery/Minimart.

No progress.

9.4 Boreholes.

The borehole at St. James Nyamuroro is still to be drilled. A depth of at least 60m has been recommended and this requires an extra \$1 000.

10.0 GUILDS.

10.1 Mothers Union.

Not much activity at present. They will start preparing for the March Lady Day very soon.

10.2 Anglican Church Men.

Not much activity is happening. However, it was pleasing to see so many ACM members from all over the Diocese at the funeral of the late Mr. Collin Bafana, on Sunday 31st. December 2017. It was very befitting send-off since Mr. Bafana was a very committed member of the ACM. I do not remember him missing any ACM conference and was the ACM Diocesan treasurer for a very long time. He will certainly be missed by the ACM. Our sincere heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Bafana and family. May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

10.3 Vabvuwi.

No report

10.4 Married Couples Fellowship.

No report

10.5 Youth.

No report

10.6 St. Agnes Guild

No report

10.7 St. Peter's Guild

No report

10.8 Child Ministry

All Sunday school teachers are invited to attend a Child ministry council meeting on 27 January at St. Luke's Kwekwe starting at 09:00am.

10.9 Choir.

No report

11.0 RELIEF, DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

No report

12.0 INSTITUTIONS.

12.1 St. Patrick's High School

I was informed that the Form 1 intake process went well. No major hitches were encountered except for some of our children who were taken by other schools.

12.2 Holy Cross Secondary school

The site plan for Holy cross secondary school was approved by the Gokwe town council and it is all left for us to start building. We are now appealing to those who made pledges to start honouring them particularly those who pledged cement and bricks.

12.3 Primary school results

See appended results for St. Hugh's Mazinyo Primary, St. Patrick's Primary & St. Mark's Lozane Primary who all had significant drops of pass rates compared to the previous year(s). We all hope to see an improvement this year.

13.0 SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

No report

14.0 CLERGY RETREAT

This was very well attended. Except for just one clergyman who had gone for a funeral, everyone in active ministry attended. All the retired clergymen were not able to attend though. This retreat was conducted by Bishop Godfrey Tawonezvi of the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo who did a very good job by sharing practical aspects of ministry.

This was a very special retreat for me as it was my last as the bishop of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe. The Clergy wives' retreat also went well but as usual, a number of apologies were received. Revd. W. Nyoka conducted the retreat and I am informed that he did a very good job of it.

NB: We are still experiencing a situation some clergymen attend either the Retreat or Conference without paying the required contribution for food. This is most unfortunate. I think we need to make a firm decision on this - no contribution, no participation. The Diocese loses nothing with this policy! We cannot continue to subsidize others who might not be interested in these important events. The next Senate will certainly discuss this matter and the Archdeacons will let you know of our firm decision.

15.0 HARVEST THANKSGIVING RESULTS.

We have now received all the results and please find the list attached. Some of the figures are so small you wonder whether it is worth the time and energy to have the day. Archdeacons, please discuss this issue with the clergy now, and come up with a solution for discussion at both Senate and Standing Committee.

16.0 INVITATION TO OUR HOUSE DEDICATION.

A separate invitation had been sent to all parishes and churches but we are sorry that some had not received it. A repeat invitation was sent to all clergy. Please note clarifications below:

- (a) This invitation is to **all** who can find time to attend. It is, therefore, **not** limited to clergy and their spouses.
- (b) This is not a Diocesan event, therefore, nobody is obligated to attend. It is purely an invitation at our family level.
- (c) All the four Bishops in Zimbabwe (Harare, Matabeleland, Masvingo, Manicaland) have confirmed their attendance. They will do the dedication and official opening. Some will be accompanied by their spouses.

17.0 FAREWELL SERVICE.

Bishops are mandated to have a farewell service at the end of their Episcopal ministry where they must leave the crozier, pectoral cross etc on the altar of the Cathedral at the end of the service. This effectively signifies surrendering the Episcopal authority of the Diocese to the successor who might not be known yet. The Dean takes custody of these Episcopal items ready to enthrone the next Bishop whenever that occurs.

We are trying to look at suitable dates but we need to confirm with the Archbishop as we do not want this to interfere with the election process. We are considering either Saturday 24 March or Saturday 7th. April. Saturday 31st. March would have been perfect but this is Holy Saturday and such events are not permitted during Holy Week. We shall confirm in due course.

18.0 THOUGHT OF THE MONTH.

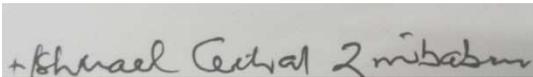
“Napoleon Hill asks us to consider whose life we are living anyway. If it is yours, then you should determine your path’s destination. If you have abdicated the role of master of your life, then anyone’s plan will do. Think about it. Are you required to justify your existence by marching to another’s tune? Or, if your marching orders are still in your head and not in synchronization with your life’s plan, do you really have anyone to blame? Being a good soldier is not the same as being a good leader. Leaders lead and soldiers obey. If it is your decision to be a soldier, then orders from your superiors cannot be overanalyzed or subjected to daily constructive criticism. But if you want to be the captain of your life, then you must ask and answer the questions that position you best on your success path.

Deciding to take command of your life is not easy because you must then make decisions for yourself and inherit the consequences of your choices. To do any less is to abandon your leadership position. If your fear of criticism stops you in your success tracks, recognize this and get over it. Second by second, minute by minute, and hour by hour, you determine your future via the choices you make.

[Napoleon Hill - Power of Positive Action]

PRAYER OF THE MONTH.

Almighty God and Father,
 we can never be fully complete
 without the presence of your Son Jesus Christ,
 the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace;
 and the gift of your Holy Spirit;
 the power that enables us to overcome difficulties,
 the comforter that helps us in our sorrows;
 the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive.
 Help us to understand these mysteries,
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 Ever one God, now and for ever. AMEN.



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+Ishmael Mukuwanda

DIOCESE OF CENTRAL ZIMBABWE

11/01/2018

DATE