



## Diocese of Port Elizabeth preparations for the Provincial Conference

The 17th Provincial Conference of the St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild will be hosted by the Diocese of Port Elizabeth in June 2014. The theme of the Conference as was endorsed by the Mpumalanga Provincial Council of September 2013 is, "Africa For Jesus." The said Conference will be commemorating the 118th year of Bernard Mizeki the martyr's death.

Bernard Mizeki was born in about 1861 and he came to South Africa as a peasant in the Cape Colony shores. He met the Cowley Fathers (Also known as the Society of Saint John the Evangelist), was baptized on the 09th March 1891 and later became

a Catechist and was sent to Rhodesia which is now known as Zimbabwe. Bernard mastered English, French, high Dutch and at least about eight African languages. Bernard accompanied Bishop Knight-Bruce to Mashonaland, where he studied the local language and mastered it better than any of the foreigners of his time.

Through his love for children and passion for education, he opened a school in Mashona. Bernard was married to Mutwa who was later named Lily who happened to be Mangwende's granddaughter. Bernard was speared to death on the 18th June 1896.

The Diocese of Port Elizabeth Executive Committee brain stormed on the 26th October 2013 the hosting of this gigantic event, which will see about 200 or more St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Delegates and later about 1000 Guilders in the Nelson Mandela Metro shores from the 18th - 22nd June 2014.

The proposed venue for the Conference is Nangoza Jebe formerly known as Great Centenary Hall in New Brighton near Port Elizabeth. It has also been reported that Archbishop Thabo Makgoba will also be in attendance, he will be hosted by the Port Elizabeth Diocesan Bishop Bethlehem Nopece.

The meeting was blessed by the attendance of Bro. Mxolisi Tsi-ka, the Provincial Secretary of the Men's Guild.

- Bro. Songezo Mfazwe



# Provincial Council Meeting held in Delmas, Diocese of Mpumalanga September 2013



The Provincial Council is made up of Provincial Executive of St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild and all of the affiliate Diocesan Executives of the St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild of the Southern Africa Province. This Council meeting is held twice a year with the first one being held in February and the second one being held in September of the same year. Also these meetings rotate from one Diocese to the other and the work of Council is to take and implement resolutions in between Guild's conferences which are held once in three years.

The Diocese of Mpumalanga Provincial Council meeting was opened with a prayer by the Provincial Chaplain, Reverend Molefe Kotoane and the welcoming of Dioceses was done by the Provincial Chairman, Bro. Mzo Mncube.

The following were the highlights of the Provincial Council meeting: From the President and Chairman reports: The Chairman proposed that Dioceses must embark on awareness initiatives during 16 days of Non-Violence against women and children to curb the ever increasing abuses of all forms against women and children. Diocese of False Bay proposed that there should only be one Provincial Council meeting per year instead of two, the emphasis was more on financial viability, distance between Dioceses, the issue of the second day of Provincial Council meeting being a fruitless expenditure, etc. It was resolved that a document to this effect be tabled in the next Provincial Council meeting.

Report on 2014 Port Elizabeth Conference: The theme of the conference is "UYesu uthatha iAfrica/ Africa for Jesus and Jesus for Africa." The conference venue will be Nangoza Jebe Hall in the famous New-Brighton Township of Port Elizabeth. Invitation has been extended to the Archbishop as well as the hosting

Diocese Bishop. The Provincial Executive report included the following: Reverend Tong re-imburement of the flight ticket that was not honoured without apology; Launch of Guild in the Diocese of St. Mark; Saldanha Bay debt to Province writing off; Plan to host first Provincial Council meeting after conference in Angola; Diocese of Namibia invitation; Section 21 Company registration.

It is also very important to note that the Guild Constitution amendments were finalised, where the Provincial Council meeting was declared to have Conference rights. A Legal Advisors workshop was held in Kempton Park on the 17th August 2013, where the document was discussed and finalised. The Provincial Council meeting of the 20th September 2013 in Ebenezer Farm in the Diocese of Mpumalanga adopted the final draft of the Constitution as the official Constitution of the Guild.

The second day of the meeting was based more on Portfolio reports and resolutions, the meeting adjourned at 12:30.

- Fezile Maki





# Diocese of Port Elizabeth Mini Conference Report

The Church of Ascension near Cradock hosted the Diocese of Port Elizabeth mini Conference on the 21st - 22nd June 2013. The conference was a success, well attended and with a mixture of feelings.

Region C (hosting Region) won all trophies that the Diocese was competing for, Envelops (Iingxowa) and Most Improved Region. This has proved that Region C is united and very organized. The skills that the hosting Region possesses saved the Diocese a lot of money and the manner in which they organized the conference was a success.

The Provincial President, Reverend Elliot Masoka was the guest speaker and his deliberations gave an impetus to the guilders to engage in a robust debate.

It is said to report that Bro. Fezile Jeyi, who hails from St. Ninians in Somerset East, who was a Diocesan Secretary elected in the Diocesan Constitutional Conference of November 2011 in Holy Spirit, Kwa-Zakhele resigned citing issues that would include work load and poor health conditions.

Bro. F. Jeyi thanked the Diocese for having faith in him to entrust him with the Diocesan books, he also thanked his Region C for the support they gave him whilst serving them at Diocesan level as Secretary.

The Conference spent about half a day on Saturday trying to persuade Bro. Jeyi not to resign but that was in vain. Also in attendance were, Diocesan President Reverend Sthe Rini, Kariega Archdeacon Reverend Zweli Tom, the Bishop's Chaplain Reverend Phumla Mtila, Reverend Nzwana of St. Cyprians and Deacon Nodwele (former Diocesan Secretary of the Guild) who all made their presence felt through their engagements, advises and proposals.

Diocesan President, Reverend Rini gave his first profound Presidential Charge on the first day of the Conference with a theme, "A yes man stands for nothing and falls for everything," as he read from 2 Tim 3:1-5; Judges 16 and Proverbs 23:29 to substantiate the gist of his Charge.

*- Bro. Songezo Mfazwe*



# Diocese of Free State Conference

Mona ke Malkwort Confereceng ya Diocess ya Free state kadi 04/05/06/2013 Retlile lehaeng la bana ba dikgutsana lebasa I tekanelang retlisitse thepelo hobona le mpho ya chelete e kalo ka R1000 Mmehetse ona ke mosebetsi wa selemo le selemo Dioceseng ena.

enwa ya supang ka monwana o hlalosa ditaba ho bahlanka baruti baneng bale teng ke Revd. Chaoane, Revd. Molifi, Revd. Moipolai, Revd. Ramatlakane le President Revd. Moerane.

- Ntate Tankiso Monyane

Hape re entse setswalle le Diocess ya Lesotho re etsa Mojekelo lebona selemo le selemo moPresidente ke yena



# The 2011 Johannesburg Conference: “Faith without works”

The 16th Provincial St. Bernard Mizeki Men’s Guild conference was a success, it was well organised in all aspects. Diocese of Johannesburg made sure that all Conference delegates are well catered for and that the conference proceedings are not disturbed. The diligent work that has been done by the previous Provincial Executive in ensuring that the conference is of high standard cannot be left unmentioned. The conference administration was professionally done, it included but not, limited to Security, Catering, Media, Social Visibility (March to UJ), Fundraising, Entertainment, etc.





# Provincial Conference: Diocese of Lesotho, Maseru 2 October 2008



## The Role of Men in the Family, Society and Church

### Good Godly Families:

Results in Good Godly Churches  
Result in Good Godly Communities  
Result in Good Godly Society/Nation

### Starting Small:

Focusing on the Family is starting small and slowly, BUT it is surely Effective. Remember, a Journey of a 1000 miles starts with the 1st STEP.

### Multiplication Factor:

Even Jesus started his Ministry with a small group (family) of 12 apostles. Today Christians are all over the world including thousands of SBM Members.



# Media Portfolio

**Media Officer:** The following is what the Legal Advisors are proposing in regard to the office concern: The Media Officer shall be responsible for the Public Relations, Communication, Branding, Marketing and Newsletter Publications.

**Mission Statement:** The guild is alive because the Media office reports

**Vision (Media Office):** Creation of an everlasting brand which will speak to the objectives of the ACSA and the St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild. Restoration of men's dignity within the family, working environment and Society at large through media as well as all other communication mechanisms. To create working relations with all men's organizations and guilds' that will add value to the life of this guild. To create a conducive environment for all races and age groups to be able to fully engage the St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild without losing its own (The Guild) culture. Taking charge and showing interest in all the activities of the ACSA, more especially those that are in line with the guild's objectives and interest. To have an up to date website and an informative newsletter.

**Strategy:** The creation of archive file for all the valuable material of the St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild. Launching of Tsuibila, with a new vision of not only publishing Diocesan stories but making it a source of information of all Guild's news as well as the burning issues of ACSA. To sell the guild wherever

it sees necessary using branding material such as flyers, diaries, posters etc. Creation of a website or even buying a space in the already existing ACSA website at a cost (this will need quite an all inclusive research) and the creation of pages in media pages such as facebook, twitter etc. Involvement of all Dioceses not only through establishment of Commissions but allowing them to create their own archive files and compilation of their Diocesan history of the guild with pictures old and new. Researching and compilation of guild's Provincial history on its establishment and the reason/background thereof. Creation of a beneficial communication strategy that will be fair and clear to all Dioceses and other relevant stakeholders. Improving on the current status quo by emphasizing on the planned Commissions with clear terms of reference that are properly unpacked. Recording of all guild's meetings and activities

**Anticipated outcomes:** To have a robust Media Office that will be able to produce articles that are properly researched and investigated, stories that are well written and have a proper filing systems that will include archives. To have a complete compilation of the guilds/founders history and acknowledgements. To have an easily accessible guild to all the members of the guild, working or unemployed and to all others who share the same vision and objectives. To have all the levels of the guild working for the glory of Jesus Christ through the publication of guilds' objectives and constitution. To have long lasting relations with the ACSA, mens' organizations/guilds that share the same objectives with the guild, Government (all levels), NGO's and any other relevant stakeholders. To have a proper minute taking mechanism, which is recorded for referencing and archiving purposes. - *Fezile Maki*

## Social Responsibility Portfolio:

The following is an observation of how the portfolio has performed over the past 11 months in office: The portfolio has over the short space of time been able to fast track the Registration process of St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild as a Non-Profit Organization (NPO). This has enabled the PEXCO and PCM to realize that the registration process requires more time, information and engagements. The other Milestone was to be able to secure cargo courier to Mozambique that is meant to assist our brothers in Angola through SA Navy free of charge. A progress report in this regard was table twice in the PCMs and to the PEXCO for consideration. It is therefore expected of this portfolio that by June 2014 the said cargo is already shipped through to Angola.

**Challenges faced by the portfolio:** The portfolio is not seriously taken by the Guild, from Parish Level to Provincial Level. Provincial meetings and in particular portfolio breakaways during PCMs are attended by members of other portfolios like Deputy Secretaries of Dioceses. Members that deliberate on Social Responsibilities are inconsistently attending these portfolio breakaways, making it difficult to execute resolutions taken. The Guild is not implementing

any Social related projects and it has no working relations with the Mother body (The Church) in relation to such projects.

**Solutions that can be implemented:** Dioceses must make sure that the portfolio does exist at all levels and also ensure that there are programmes and projects that relate to Social Responsibility that are implemented. The portfolio needs to have a budget to fulfil its mandate. A motion to the upcoming Provincial Conference will be forwarded suggesting that at least 10% of the total income made by the Province to be availed to fund Social Responsibility projects and poverty alleviation programmes. The Guild exists within the Church, within communities and therefore the portfolio as well as all levels of the Guild must have working relations with all Church structures that deal with social outreach and poverty alleviation programmes.

**Portfolio Future Projections:** Launch of Bernard Mizeki Social relief fund by June 2014. Implementation of Social Responsibility programmes and the Poverty Alleviating programmes from bottom up, i.e. from Parishes to Province. Forging of working relations with the entire Church in regard to Social Outreaches and any other related programmes and projects. Finalisation of NPO registration. To have a qualified person who can craft business plans as well as funding proposals to potential funders/donors for the implementation of projects.

*Social Reponsibilitiy Portfolio continues on page 8*

**Social Responsibility Portfolio continues from page 7**

**Conclusion:** There is a need to educate each other about the importance of this portfolio, the value it brings to the organisation and how it is supposed to be viewed at all Guild levels. It is a grave concern to note that this portfolio has been neglected and how it is not seriously considered in planning and priorities of the guild. We also need to consider change how we present our reports and follow this acronym SWEEPS, which the Canons of the ACSA emphasise

1. Social responsibility
2. Worship
3. Evangelism

4. Education
5. Pastoral care
6. Stewardship

The foremost Guild's mission and objection is the proclamation of Christ as the Redeemer and Lord. It is also important that the guild to imitate Christ, who throughout His ministry preached the importance of Social Responsibility, cohesion and caring for the less fortunate and vulnerable. It is this Guilds mandate and through this portfolio that it will be able to assist the Church and the government in fighting all the inequalities that the country is currently facing, high unemployment rates and poverty. - *Bro. M. Nxazonke*

# Cape Town Conference 2005



**“Relevance of our ministry in the challenges of the 21st century”**

The 14th St. Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild Conference was hosted by the Diocese of Cape Town in 2005. There are no reports about the conference except for the photos which also paint a

picture of a well organised conference. The delegates were accommodated in nearby schools from where the conference venue was.

