

CCAP SYNOD OF HARARE
REPORT TO REFORMED FAMILY FORUM; AUGUST 2018

CCAP Synod of Harare held biennial Synod meeting from 16 to 20 May 2018. We thank some members of the Reformed Family Forum who managed to send representatives with words of solidarity. I just want to take this opportunity to inform you that the new executive was elected at that meeting and the following got in offices;

Moderator ----- Rev. Aston Galanti
Vice Moderator ----- Rev. Alexander Malemero
General Secretary ----- Rev. Kingstar Chipata
Deputy G/Secretary ----- Rev. Jeradi Mwale
Actuary----- Rev. Mizeki Mndola
Elders ----- Emmanuel Mavata and Joyce Mbewe

EVANGELISM: CCAP Harare Synod is in the process of training the Evangelists to make follow-ups and relocate members of the church who were displaced during land reform. So far we have trained 43 of them who are also empowered with self-sustaining skills in order go out for church planting using tent making method. Although they are trying their best they still need the church's support because of the poor economic performance of our country. They find it hard to sustain themselves.

TEE: For spiritual growth and nurturing of our Christians we have just started Theological Education by Extension programme (TEE). To kick start the programme we sent one of our ministers, Rev. Esau Mbondo to go and train for nine months in Mindolo Zambia. He is now back and we are trying to mobilise resources for him to start the programme. At the moment he is full time at the congregation of Marondera and has started this programme with members of his congregation.

THE CHURCH'S IMPACT IN THE SOCIETY: We are in the process of revamping school of Nyabira and building another Primary and Secondary School at Rock Haven. So far we have completed one block with four classrooms which is already in use. The second block with five classrooms is at roof level. These classrooms are being used by secondary school students. The enrolment is already at 216 for the secondary. The Primary School pupils are using temporary shelters and they are 149 pupils; that is from ECD, Grade 1 to 5. Registration with Ministry of Education of this school is still in progress.

The purpose of establishing this school at Rock Haven is to help children of that community who walk about 8 kilo meters to the nearest primary school and more than 10 kilo meters to the nearest secondary school.

The church is also registering with the government Community Oriented Relief Department (CORD) through which the church will be able to serve the society on humanitarian needs such as education, HIV / AIDS programmes and address other human needs in the communities. Under this we have what we call Chikondano group which go out teaching about healthy behaviour. This will help the church to become relevant to people.

CHURCH'S ROLE IN PEACE MAKING AND JUSTICE: CCAP Synod of Harare is a member of Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC). Many main line churches join together in that organisation in order to work together in addressing issues to do with peace and justice in the country. Through this council mainline churches write pastoral letters to the head of government when need arises. We

participate in observing election through the same forum. We also address issues of social justice in the same manner.

CHURCHE'S RESPONSE TO PROSPERITY GOSPEL: Prosperity Gospel which is preached by most Pentecostal churches is real a threat to many mainline churches. Due to poverty and critical economic problems; Cash shortages, the collapse of the national economy and massive unemployment, many desperate people are hooked by such gospel.

To combat this gospel, CCAP Harare Synod is putting more emphasis on proper teaching of catechism classes and Bible studies. All members are encouraged to have a Bible and read it daily. Our desire to start and expand the programme of TEE is to nurture our Christians in true theology and empower them with the truth of the Gospel such that they will be rooted in Scripture. We also encourage all ministers to farther their theological studies in order to stand against false teaching of neo-Pentecostal tendencies.

We are proud to belong to the Reformed Family Forum.

ELECTION IN ZIMBABWE 30 JULY 2018:

In addition to the above report of my church allow me to take this opportunity to inform you about the current situation in Zimbabwe as we are closely drawing to the polls.

When we go to the polls on Monday, July 30, it will be the first time since the country gained independence in 1980 that the name of Robert Mugabe will not appear on the presidential ballot. Mugabe, 94, who led Zimbabwe for 37 years as Prime Minister and, later, President, [resigned](#) at the end of November 2017 as Parliament initiated impeachment proceedings against him. He was succeeded by his Vice President and former Defence Minister, Emmerson Mnangagwa, also of the ruling ZANU-PF party.

We see the election as pivotal for the country's revival. The winner will need to help the nation address critical economic problems on cash shortage, the collapse of the national economy, massive unemployment and crumbling infrastructure.

Many people are cautiously optimistic about the process. President Mnangagwa has stuck to the constitutionally-mandated electoral timetable by calling elections for July 30th. To date, there have been relatively very few and minor reports of political violence during the campaign, a factor that often marred previous elections.

Voters will also find 23 candidates on their presidential ballots as a result of minimal filing requirements. However, only a few seem likely to pose any serious challenge to Mnangagwa, 75, who will be ZANU-PF's candidate.

By most accounts, Mnangagwa's leading rival is 40-year-old Nelson Chamisa, leader of the largest wing of the fragmented Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), previously led by the late Morgan Tsvangirai, who passed away earlier this year. Chamisa will run as the candidate for the MDC Alliance, an electoral bloc of seven parties, many of which were part of the MDC at its formation in 1999.

Zimbabwe's once booming economy has experienced significant decline since 2000. A chaotic land reform initiative disrupted the economy's agricultural base. A period of extreme hyperinflation from 2004 to 2009 wiped out savings, disrupted supply networks, scared off investors and led to the abandonment of the country's currency in favour of foreign currencies: the US dollar, the South African rand and the Botswanan pula. More than 90 per cent of Zimbabwe's economically active adults are unemployed.

With the above in mind, during church service every Sunday we pray for peaceful and non-violence election. We therefore, ask for your prayers for free, fair and credible elections. Pray for peace to prevail before, during and after elections.

Thank you

Rev. Kingstar Chipata

On Behalf of CCAP Synod of Harare: