



# SOLA 5

# E-NEWSLETTER

an association of God-centered evangelicals in southern Africa

**No 6      6 March 2008**

Besides the newsletter from Evangel Baptist Church, we also inform you that the website of Sovereign Grace Theological Seminary (SGTS) became active recently. The SGTS is one of the schools of the University of Africa. The respective web addresses are reproduced at the end of the Newsletter. The plan is to bring you some more information regarding the SGTS soon.

## **Newsletter from Evangel Baptist Church, Lusaka, Zambia (February 2008)**

*Prepare To Meet Thy God (Amos 4v12)*

### Introduction

Much of our Newsletter this month contains a summary of events in the last year and some planned issues for this year.

### Leadership

During the year April 2006 to May 2007 the Pastor, Grave Singogo (photo), and his family took sabbatical leave. We are grateful to the Lord for having watched over them and brought them back safely to minister amongst us.

We also report that towards the end of December 2007, one of our four elders stepped down. The elders wish to register their thanks for the period the elder served at EBC.

Further, one of the five deacons left for further studies and is not expected back until August, 2009. No doubt this has placed a constraint on the remaining 4 deacons. There are plans to add two more deacons to the deaconate.

### Ministries

The elders would like to acknowledge that for the first time in the Church's history, all ministries have handed in all their reports well in advance of the AGM. This exceptionally wonderful spirit is commendable.

- *The Senior Young People's Fellowship*

We have generally been very impressed with the numbers. There has been a definite improvement from the year 2006 in terms of attendance. However, there is room for more improvement.

- *Couples Fellowship*

This ministry, overall, has not been as active as we would have expected. We are concerned that this ministry did not perform and have meetings as scheduled. We hope that there can be a revolution in this very key ministry of the Church.

- *Women's Ministry*

This ministry has been very valuable in a number of ways. We wish to express our thanks especially in the area of ensuring the sanctuary is clean and beautiful for worship. The flower decorations and arrangements have filled leadership with great joy. We wish to further express our heartfelt appreciation to the women. Their involvement in ensuring that there was enough food at the 2008 Christmas Breakfast Evangelistic Service which was being held for the first time was remarkable, particularly that they were given short notice.

- *Awana (Junior Youth Group)*

This ministry has been enjoying some wonderful times in the year 2007. The Holiday Bible Week last year attracted about 60 children! And it has been a real



success. The concern is to urge the Church members to volunteer to help with teaching. The burden to teach these future leaders, it appears, sadly rests on the shoulders of a few people. We urge members to consider being available to take up the responsibility, especially the men.

- *Electronic and Library*

The elders have been concerned that members of the Church are not borrowing books to read. We believe that this ministry needs a lot of encouragement and hands are required. There is also need to have the sermons recorded.

- *Choir*

The elders are very encouraged by this ministry. However, we would like to see some of the older members of the Church taking part in this ministry.

- *Men's Ministry*

For some time this ministry had suffered. The introduction of a weekly Saturday prayer meeting at 0730-0830hrs in 2007 appears to have revolutionized this ministry. We would like to express our gratitude to the men for faithfully attending this ministry of prayer. As elders we have been very encouraged by this.

- *Sunday Adult Bible Class*

The general attendance and commitment has been very good at these meetings. The elders would like to encourage all of you to continue to avail yourselves at this meeting.

- *Sunday Youth and Sunday School*

Again we are delighted to say that the attendance and commitment has been very encouraging. We urge all our guardians to avail their children and dependants to these meetings.

- *Home Bible Study Groups*

Out of the four Home Bible study groups two of them are doing reasonably well in terms of attendance. We would like to urge members in these affected areas to show more commitment this year to Home Bible study groups as well.

### Church Building

The elders have generally been pleased with the progress and quality of workmanship during the year under review.



However, our slight concern has been that some Church members made pledges which they have not honoured to date. More progress would have been made if members honoured their pledges.

### Membership

The Church membership as at the end of 2007 stood at 112. We had a Joint Baptismal service held at the Lusaka Baptist Church on the 2nd of December 2007, in which 7 candidates went through the waters of Baptism and were accepted into membership. We also received an additional 10 members who came in by transfer of membership. We thank God for these 17 additions to membership.

### Discipline

We are also pleased to report that 4 of our members, who had been excommunicated in 2004, had their disciplinary measures lifted in the year under review.

### Missions

Mr. Samuel Simunika is studying in South Africa for his Bachelor's Theology Degree. The Church has been sharing some of his costs. His studies come to an end this year. It has been clear during the year under review that Mr. Simunika will not be going to serve as our missionary in Solwezi. This followed discussions between EBC and Kabwata Baptist Church. The future of Mr. Simunika is still a subject of great discussion among the elders at EBC, and as events unfold the Church will be informed.

### Some Plans For 2008

- The theme for 2008 at EBC is 'Discipleship and Evangelism.' We believe that this is in keeping with the Lord's command in Matthew 28v19-20. In view of this we purchased some booklets on 'discipleship' from KBC which are given to all who complete the 'Membership and Baptismal classes.

- Every quarter of the year will be punctuated with a month in which all ministries will be involved in

Evangelism. The last Sunday of such a month will be deemed *Evangelistic Sunday* during which all Church members will be asked to invite people they would not normally invite to Church. The Church is further informed that the Sunday prior to evangelistic Sunday will be set aside as a day of fasting for the entire Church. Members will begin fasting on Saturday midnight and will continue through both Sunday services with the fast ending after the evening service. In between the evening and morning services the Church will be fasting and praying specifically for the Evangelistic Sunday.

- The middle part of the year beginning *May through to August 2008* will be the Thanksgiving period. Members are expected to make a freewill offering of monetary or building material over and above the tithe. The money must be clearly marked 'Building Fund' and will be specifically designated for the Building Fund. We are hoping to raise K50 million (or 12 000 US). This money will go a long way in completing the pulpit and office area of the Church. The Building Committee will, in addition to carrying out their fund raising activities during this period.
- The final part of the year running October to December 2008 will be Family Month. During this time we will focus on ourselves as and see what God maybe saying to us as a Church. Such as, "Are there areas we need to change? Or need to address as Church?" We hope to hold a Church Seminar that deals with some area that affects us as Church. We hope Church members can also plan to spend time with their families. We hope to end the year with a 2008 Christmas Breakfast Evangelistic Service in which again will be preceded with a period of prayer and fasting.

#### Other Plans for 2008

1. Due to disturbances we experienced particularly on Sunday when several ministries meet in the sanctuary, the elders would like to use some of the Building Fund money to build three chalets to increase the meeting places for other ministries instead of cramping ourselves in the sanctuary.

2. We would like to improve the water storage system possibly by purchasing a larger plastic water storage tank.
3. We hope to improve on the security of the Church by putting a barbed wire round the Church perimeter. Thankfully one Church member has already donated the wire.
4. There are plans to introduce a Church cleaning Saturday once a year when all members can come out and clean the inside and outside of the Church. This may probably happen during the last quarter of the year.
5. God willing, we hope to start a 'new ministry' – the name will be discussed by the congregant members – to start after June 2008, to address men and women who feel too old for Senior YP and yet too young for Men's / Women's meetings. It will target those in tertiary education of some kind.

#### Challenges

1. We are still concerned that Church members are not looking out for visitors. We need to develop a culture where after the services members are looking out for visitors. We may introduce some methods of reaching our visitors.
2. Visitation among us is still very poor. Most members who do visit tend to visit the SAME members rather than Church members. We would like to see an improvement in this area.
3. We still feel that the Church Evangelistic programs are poorly attended and the participation could be better.

#### Conclusion

Overall, church members have shown some commitment to Church programmes and we believe that this can be bettered. We thank the members for remaining united and we look forward to a better 'Evangel Baptist Church' during the year 2008. May the Lord Jesus richly bless you all – Amen.

---

#### Web addresses:

- SGTS: [http://www.universityofafrica.co.za/schools.php?sub\\_page=11](http://www.universityofafrica.co.za/schools.php?sub_page=11)  
UoA: <http://www.universityofafrica.co.za/index.php>