

CHAPTER 16

YOUNG MEN'S GUILD REPORT

Rev Ludwe Mdoda

INTRODUCTION

The Young Men's Guild (YMG) is entrusted with the 'Spiritual and Social' development, not only of Methodist per se, but of all deserving people irrespective of their denominations. To undertake this mammoth but God- driven task, the organisation has formulated objectives (outlined below) which ideally synchronize with our Church doctrine as well as policies of our Government.

The YMG has identified this task supra with the firm belief that, through God's grace and assistance, they will accomplish their purpose. This report, which is my last, as I and the Executive committee members, come to the end of the road, aims to highlight some of our achievements as an organisation.

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE YMG

- **Spirituality**

Our organisation functions in an area that is composed of urban and rural districts, the rich and poor. It has been our priority to emphasize a deepen spirituality to members in various ways that respond to their different areas.

We believe that the YMG is truly Jesus' messenger, when each and every member is involved in its mission and service of the Kingdom of God.

Bible studies, discipleship, weekly prayer meetings, evangelical campaigns, home visits, continue as members meet throughout the Connexion. We have seen a lot of people, especially the needy; receive spiritual up-liftment and encouragement in many of these meetings and activities.

- **Evangelism**

In the midst of poverty, unemployment and death, it is encouraging to note that all districts at local level are still working strongly in bringing people into the relationship with our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. As we (the General Executive) visited district, we noted a deep involvement in evangelical campaigns. It is pleasing to see an extension of their mission to prisons and hospitals, which echoes John Wesley when he said, " You have no other duty but to save souls" and go "to those who need you most".

- **Projects**

All district reports, paint a picture of a strong desire to establish projects, with a hope of alleviating poverty and unemployment. Though some of projects that have been established are experiencing problems, pertaining to management and administration, there is a move to improve capacity building of all members who are involved with projects.

The following projects, through-out the Connexion are vibrant:

1. Donations of food parcel, clothes and blankets to the needy.
2. Bursary Fund: that helps children of members our church to attend school at tertiary level.
3. It is becoming a common site to see members of the YMG seriously engaged in building of houses, school class-rooms and painting of structures.
4. Partnership with various HIV/AIDS organisations around the country is constantly formed to assist those affected and infected.
5. Emmanuel Care centre's for those who are abandoned, orphaned, displaced and for the elderly people and children are springing up around the Connexion.
6. Financial assistance is provided annually to the district offices, Young Women's Manyano, Youth, Supernumeraries, Evangelists and Evangelist's Widows.

CHALLENGES

The following are some of the challenges that this organization is faced with:-

1. High death rate of members.
2. Noticeable rate of drop outs and of some leaving to join the Independent churches.
3. To compile all District YMG-History booklets into one book.

FUTURE PLANS

- The Connexional Triennial Conference will sit in Durban, at Natal Coastal District, as from 25 – 29 August 2010 and Rev Linda Mandindi will be inducted into the office of the General President (2010 – 2013). The theme for the his period is “**STEPPING INTO THE WORLD**”
- 2012 will be a year the YMG will complete 100 year as an organisation. This event will be celebrated at each district as a preparation for the Connexional event in 2013.

BEREAVEMENT

Rev Norman Hlatshwayu - KNB YMG District President

A man of God and a leader of the YMG at heart laid down his amour for a heavenly crown that will never lose its brightness. We thank God for his life and for his witness. May his soul, rest in peace.

CONCLUSION

In the light of this report, the entire General executive wishes to express a sincere word of gratitude to the leadership of our church, the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Secretary, Rev V. Nyobole, all district Bishops, the district YMG Presidents and the entire YMG members.

I wish to welcome, with open arms, the in-coming General President, Rev L. Mandindi to this office. May the Lord lead him and his committee members to reach the stars as they move forward with this organisation.