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Provincial Newsletter of the Anglican Women's Fellowship

"United in Prayer, Service & Love"

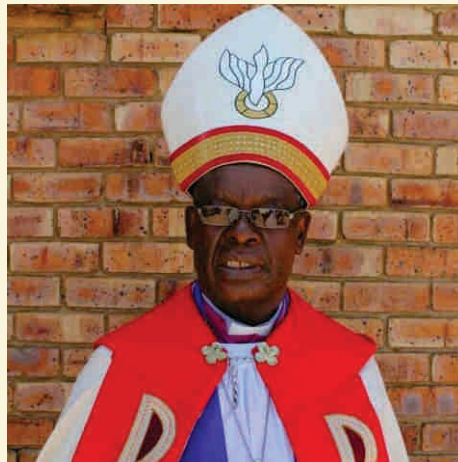
## AWF Liaison Bishop's Message

Dear Friends

Isaiah 41:10 NIV

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ISA.41.10.NIV*

Alleluia the Lord is risen, Christ is risen indeed, alleluia. Salutation in the name of our risen and ascended Jesus our Saviour. I write dear friends at a time when a significant number of people globally are overcome by a sense of fear, and anxiety emanating from factors such as the collapse of the banking system in the US, the persistent conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the war in Sudan, the rising cost of living, job losses and the weak economy. The future for the youth, particularly for those in the third world countries looks bleak. There is no hope that the tide will turn to their advantage, ever. With the implosion of the economies of most countries of the world, society is gripped by a persistent sense of hopelessness. Nearer home in Southern Africa the political and economic systems pursued by most countries have proven that the future and aspirations of our people cannot be entrusted to a few captains of politics and the economy. Poverty and hunger have become the



hallmark of our people. To use the biblical metaphor, in many instances most communities have turned out to be like sheep without a shepherd. It is in moments such as these that I find the words of God spoken through the mouth of Isaiah to be pertinent: So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. ISA.41.10. NIV. In the KJV of the Bible the injunction for us not to fear is used sixty-three times by God. Undoubtedly, God intends to tell us something using these words. (2 Tim 1:7 KJV) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Fear is the opposite of faith.

Dear friends, God exhorts us not to fear because He is with us. He is the God Emmanuel. As Paul would say in Romans 8:28-39, If God is for us, who can be against us? During the raging sea and storms, Jesus pleads with the church to

never, ever give up on hope, to never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid. The church must hear anew Jesus' message in: John 6:20 when he spoke up: "It is I; do not be afraid."

May God be our comforter in times of distress. Remember, we can always turn to God for solace when our confidence is betrayed by what's transpiring around or to us. Let us not forget that God is ready to change our circumstances and to give us peace when we turn to God in prayer and penitence. Jesus' righteous hand stretches to empower God's people daily. Do not forget or lose your faith so that you end up overcome by developments around you.

May God shower you with blessings, love, and peace this Eastertide and beyond. I wish you happiness, love, and faith.

Yours in the love of Jesus

+ Dan Mpumalanga



## From the Provincial President's Desk

My Dear Sisters in Christ.

Greeting in the wonderful, blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Winter is slowly getting closer to our doorstep, as we sit cosily in the comfort of our warm homes, let us be mindful of those less fortunate than us, and do what we can to ease their plight on the homeless, unemployment, hunger, lack of shelter, warm clothes by extending a helping hand to ease their plight where we can assist.

As we are a week away towards the end of Eastertide, and we will all be celebrating the Feast of the Pentecost.



*Pam Mntonintshi*

After our successful 27th Provincial Council held at Imvelo Safari Lodge in Bloemfontein, our new theme- "Reimagining ourselves - Igniting Gods Flame." 2 Timothy 1:6. As believers, we are told to fan the flame that God has placed in us. We are told to stir up the gift that is placed in us, so that we can serve the Lord with all our might. When we do that, we will be able to do so much more for the Lord in His Kingdom.

Our God's powerful presence helps us to reboot our lives, renew our commitment.



### Claiming our Purpose



Words of appreciation to the Diocese of Free State for a sterling job of assisting the province to hosting a well-planned and professional 27th Provincial Council Meeting at a beautiful conference venue.

We thank you for your hospitality and dedication.

Our revised and new constitution was tabled and adopted at Imvelo Safari Lodge in Bloemfontein. We wish to encourage members to utilize the resolutions adopted at the Provincial Council Meeting and ensure that they reflect activities undertaken.

Furthermore, we urge you to use this along with the focus points of the Provincial Council Resolutions:

- Leadership Development.
- Care and Protection of the environment.
- Prevention of Gender-Based Violence.
- Alleviating Hunger.

The council resolution can be used in line with the calendar developed by Action Outreach and Social Responsibility Portfolio, featuring special days and taking part in various celebrations. Also achieved at the council meeting in October was the introduction of the new Portfolio on GBV/SDG and subsequently on the 9th of March 2023, when South African Council of Churches celebrated Women's World Day of Prayer under the theme "I have heard about

your faith" based on the letter to the Ephesians and an invitation to active listening. On the day, Women attendees including our president were asked to soak in prayer and were reminded on the urgency of praying for:

- The restoration of family.
- Prayer for poverty & inequalities.
- Economic Transformation.
- Crime and Corruption.

Having shared the above, allow me to share with you my experience of holding the first Provincial Executive Meeting which was hosted by the Diocese of Lesotho at Hokahanya Inn and Conference Centre in Maseru from 19-23 April 2023.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to our sisters from Lesotho for hosting a remarkably successful PEXCO Meeting- from providing us with a venue conducive enough to accommodate the packed PEXCO programme, including technical equipment and the ever-helpful staff.

I also wish to thank wholeheartedly all the ladies in Lesotho, who ensured that we were transported safely between Bloemfontein Airport and Maseru and for the warm welcoming service held at the Cathedral by Dean Ramabanta Relebake and the Very Right Reverend Vincentia Kgabe.

The different sessions of the programme started with daily Eucharist service by our Liaison Bishop, the Dean Ramabanta Relebake, Father Phoke Nkeli and that followed by daily sessions of Bible studies.

The programme was strategically designed to provide PEXCO members with an in-depth understanding of the AWF training manual, their roles and including training aimed at empowering them with necessary skills that will enable them to execute their duties optimally.

Indeed, sessions provided the framework of wider discussions particularly when reviewing AWF guidelines and certain sections of our constitution that needed more clarifications.

I wish to thank all the Dioceses for their reports showcasing activities, achievements, development and for the wonderful work they do in fulfilling the objectives and the mission of our ministry.

The meeting was very productive after robust and objective discussion, we were able to agree on the issues tabled peacefully.



## Entertainment

On Saturday AWF members took us on an excursion to Lesotho Durham Link, we were welcomed by Doctor Joseph Morenammele who manages the Centre, we experienced the wonder of lakes, boats and wall climbing. This was such a humbling and unforgettable experience interacting with the AWF ladies, singing, and dancing with the Lesotho Diocesan Bishop, the Very Right Reverend Vincentia Kgabe and built friendships.

I was also invited by ACSA to attend the Environmental Network (Green Anglicans Provincial Conference on 3-5 May, held at Lumko Institute, Benoni. One of the highlights of the GAP conference was to learn to plant a tree. We were reminded of the importance of caring for God's creation. In the meantime, continue to ignite God's fire among yourselves. May God bless you as we remain United in Prayers, Service, and Love.

I Thank you.  
Yours in Christ

*Pam Mntonintshi*



### Tree Planting Protecting the Environment

### AWF Office Revamped in Kempton Park



*Towards the end of a prayerful day, the urgency of protecting the environment was displayed by the planting of a tree as shown in the picture above*



*AWF office renovated with new furniture*



## Diocese of Grahamstown's Elective AGM in April 2023

The elective AGM was held at St Saviours Anglican Church in East London. Respective Branches were well represented, and the cluster coordinator, Lungsi Ntlokwana represented the AWF Province and attended to some of the questions raised and other questions were forwarded to PEXCO meeting scheduled for the week following the elective AGM. The AWF chaplain, Archdeacon Zolile Ngewu presided over the elections. The outgoing president's report included highlights which portrayed that members continue to faithfully support different ministries through their treasure, time, and talent. From her report, one could pick up that the outgoing president -Ms Weziwe Busakwe, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, remained to be an inspirational leader with her executive. She was applauded for such diligence. The incoming president also delivered an inspiring speech, which also displayed that new leadership is positioned to provide greater strategic leadership.



*Noxolo Tshangela  
Elected President  
Diocese of Grahamstown*

Below are some of the pictures taken at the elective AGM, also at the induction of new members:



*Newly elected Diocese of Grahamstown Executive with the chaplain Archdeacon Ngewu and cluster coordinator*



*Some AWF members of the Diocese of Grahamstown elective AGM*



*Outgoing President Weziwe Busakwe with 2 Priests that the Diocese of Grahamstown supported at the college*

## PEXCO in Lesotho



*PEXCO members with Lesotho AWF members*



*President with Lesotho ladies*



*PEXCO members working hard during PEXCO meeting in Lesotho*



## PEXCO in Lesotho



*The Bishop of Lesotho and the AWF Liaison Bishop*



*PEXCO members chilling with AWF members from Lesotho*



*AWF PEXCO Member Marianne Lawrence climbing the wall*



## Article about Lesotho Durham Link

Compiled by Doctor Joseph Morenammele

### Introduction

Lesotho Durham Link is a Christian Charity Organisation lawfully registered with the Government of Lesotho (under the Anglican Diocese of Lesotho) but working ecumenically in the country. It is a Link/Partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Durham in the United Kingdom and the Anglican Diocese in Lesotho. It was established in 1986.

### What we Do?

The resource personnel working in the NGO have been consistently providing reliable support services and consultancy to a wide variety of corporate houses either in the capacity of executive or as business partner or consultant. Bottom line of the NGO philosophy is building a long-term business partnership with its clients where interpersonal relationship, reliability, and assured quality are the major building blocks. Depending on the size and field of your organization, we have different products and services to meet your requirements. We provide the optimum and customized solutions made for your organization.

### OUR Mission and vision

Our Mission is to achieve our vision, we mobilize resources through Team Building Programmes, Engagement of Conference Centre, Accommodation Facility as well as Leadership Development workshops.

Our Vision is to see children and youth transformed by the application of God's Word and equipped for a bright future.

### Our keys for development

- Desire for Excellence
- Trust and confidence build-up
- Innovation
- Transparency
- Teamwork

### We believe in

- Motivation
- Collective responsibility and leadership
- Professionalism and ethics
- Adding values to our client needs

### 1. AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Main Strength of APSIS lies in the blend of professionals, specialized and highly focused operation. Increasing customer's awareness is the strength where it excels over its competitors. Our strength lies in our ability to blend current management practice and IT expertise into cost-effective Computer Aided Management Solutions, Products and Services. APSIS understands the need for skill transfer to client personnel. Our offers cover the following major areas:

We train double orphans through our Child Headed Household (CHH) programme so that they can use key-hole gardens.

- 1.1 Exchange Programmes – Lesotho Durham Link supports the exchange of Information, ideas and human resource, especially between Lesotho and United Kingdom. To this end we have had exchanges between Lesotho and Durham in the following areas – Education, Youth Programmes, Adult Visits, Church Human Resources, Leadership Development at country level, etc.
- 1.2 Lesotho Durham Link Since 1987  
Our organisation has been a blessing to Basotho in many ways since its establishment in 1986. It served the nation indiscriminately building especially poor and hard to rich communities in the following areas to mention but a few:

1. Community Forestry Projects – Phamong – Mohales's hoek.
2. Health Centre – Ha Popa in Mants'onyane.
3. Community Education Centre – Mohatlane Berea.
  - Vocational school (welding carpentry, sewing and knitting).
  - Poultry
  - Block making
  - Health Clinic
  - Primary School
  - Church

### LDL Currently (Maseru Site)

Lesotho Durham Link Centre in Maseru is used for quite a number of things today towards improvement of lives around it and in pursue of its Vision & Mission.

- Conference Centre
- Team Building programs.
- Outdoor/ leisure games
- Camp Site
- Picnic & Wedding Site
- Low-cost and luxury accommodation facilities

**Mohatlane Community Centre** – Vocational School, Vegetable Gardens, Layers, Home based care, kits, etc.

### LDL's Track Record of Handling Developmental Projects

Our organisation is committed to supporting especially poor and marginalised children who dwell in the remote areas of Lesotho where they are usually marginalised. To date we have received different small projects from different donors at different times to support these children in their communities or even schools. Donors include the following:

- PEPFAR which is an American based funding for small community projects for relief and sustainability.
- GEF/UNDP which focused at improving environment in communities and schools.
- Irish Aid which supported AIDS Education Schools equipping students with skills and hope to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Cheam Baptist Church which supported community-based agriculture
- St. James Episcopal Church (USA) – supporting leadership development of community church lay ministers.

### Cross Functional alliances

Lesotho Durham Link has been receiving, keeping and passing on funds for different organisations in Lesotho for the good of children and youth in different organisations which include:

- Mission of Insured Salvation Orphanage
- God's Love Orphanage Centre
- Holy Trinity High School – Quthing
- Church of the Resurrection – Maseru
- Diocese of Lesotho, etc

### 2. OUR CONTACTS

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PEXCO members wearing in black as a symbol of solidarity against GBV

## Men and boys can help fight Gender-Based-Violence

Gender-based violence against women and girls is widespread and harmful. It affects society as a whole and should be recognised as a global human rights issue. The fight against gender-based violence has been led for decades by women and women's rights movements.

Men and boys also have an important role to play. Evidence from research has proved that working with men and boys to challenge toxic masculinity and gender inequality has a positive impact in improving the health and wellbeing of women and children, and men themselves.

They should be more aware that they are part of the solution – as well as being part of the problem. Men and boys:

- can create a safe environment for children.
- should stop harmful ideas of toxic masculinity.
- be present in the upbringing of their children.
- understand and practice consent.
- hold each other accountable.

Government has set up Thusong Service Centres as one stop centres for services, and these services extend to women requiring help with reporting cases of GBV by facilitating engagements with SAPS and Social Workers.

- The Khuseleka Centres offer a continuum of services to victims of crime and violence. f. Thuthuzela Care Centres have staff on call to support victims of abuse, rape, and violence.
- White Door Centres serve as immediate shelter for victims of gender-based violence in communities.
- Victims of gender-based violence can call 24-hour toll-free number – 0800 428 428.
- One can also report gender-based violence to 0800 428 428 for investigation and further action. **You can remain anonymous.**