



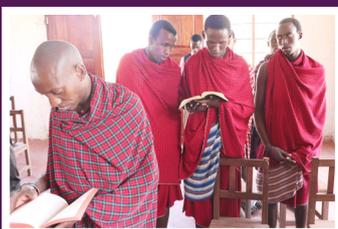
# Mission Echo

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

## UEM African churches celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Reformation



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*A 500s like shape drawn by Sunday school children of South District of ECD in National stadium, Dar es Salaam*



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# EDITORIAL

## UEM African churches celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Reformation

**D**EAR readers and UEM member churches, this is to inform you that the Mission Echo is issued twice a year. The purpose of Mission Echo is to share information from our member churches and our joint activities as implemented by the UEM Africa Regional office.

With this version entitled “UEM African churches celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Reformation”, you will find joint program activities and different events that happened in our member churches within the period of six months.

It is important to remind the readers that, as it appears on the title of this Mission Echo, the year 2017 will be unforgettable for all Protestant Churches around the world but particularly for the UEM member churches for its commemoration of reformation. This is why most of the reported activities and events are related to the 500 years of reformation event started in 1517 in German by Dr. Martin Luther.

The Protestant churches celebrated five centuries of the Church under main theme that



reads: we are redeemed by the grace of God, Salvation is not for sale, creation is not for sale and human being is not for sale.

It is my hope that despite the challenge of prosperity gospel preached and heard in many African countries whereby Christians are told to give a lot of money in order to get more blessings, our African UEM member churches will remain faithful to **Missio Dei** and continue its mission of sharing the Good news that focus on “**Christ alone, Grace alone, Faith alone and Scripture alone**”

**Rev. Dr. Nagaju Muke**

# UEM African member Churches celebrate 500 years of Reformation

It was a remarkable day when all Christians from all congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT/ECD) celebrated the 500th anniversary of reformation. This event took place on 5th November 2017 at Tanzania National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The day was marked by a joyful service with songs, dances, sermon and speeches. Children of Sunday school from South District of the Diocese, made a very unique show, when they drew a 500s shape-like en-parade. They did the same amazing work by drawing words of the theme: salvation is not for sale, creation is not for sale and human beings not for sale. In addition to the celebration, there was a confirmation of a big number of 5000 youths. This confirmation is very unique in



**Bishop Dr. Alex Malasusa of ECD launched a memorial tower of reformation year at Ubungo Parish.**

the history of many churches.

The day was also marked by heavy rain, however, the congregants were happy, praised God and stayed in the stadium till the end of the service.

A week before the mentioned event, the Bishop of ECD Dr. Alex Malasusa launched a memorial tower of reformation year at Ubungo Parish.

**BY ZACHARIA OSANGA**



**Some of 5000 youths who got confirmation.**



**ELCT-ECD congregants**

## North Western Diocese

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**S**INCE August 2017, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania North-Western Diocese (ELCT/NWD), has been commemorating the Reformer Martin Luther and teaching the congregants about the history of Protestantism during various events.

Special campaigns such as a blood donation campaign benefiting the health centers of the diocese were organized. On 28th October 2017, many congregants from different parishes of the NWD met at Bukoba Cathedral to celebrate the 500th year's anniversary of reformation. Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshahara of NWD led the service together with the Chaplain of the Cathedral, Rev. Edson Lugemeleza. Bishop Dr. Benson Bagonza from the neighboring Karagwe Diocese preached about the power of faith and what faith



***Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshahara planting a tree together with NWD partners from Denmark.***

can achieve.

NWD's partners were also present and joined to celebrate this joyful event. Detlef Pflaumbaum from the Church District of Recklinghausen, which has been in partnership with the District of Magharibi since many years back, conveyed greetings on behalf of Church Official Dr. Ulrich Möller

from the Westphalian Church.

Addressing the congregants, the former head of ELCT, Bishop Emeritus Dr. Samson Mushemba, said that, The Reformation celebrations provide both opportunities and challenges for the Protestant Christians of today.

"What distinguishes us? How do we spread our faith to the world? Do we hide behind all the problems in the world?" Questioned Bishop Emeritus Dr. Mushemba.

At that eventful day, the Christians in the North-Western Diocese (NWD) did not hide but demonstrated that they are Lutherans wearing yellow polo shirts with Luther's portrait. The UEM community was visible as well: A choir from the Baptist Church in Central Africa (BCA) had come from Goma in Eastern Congo and together with choirs from the NWD, they livened up the eight-hour celebration.



***The Christians in the North-Western Diocese did not hide and demonstrated that they are Lutherans wearing yellow polo shirts with Luther's portrait.***

**BY ULI BAEGE**



*Planting trees in Garden at PIASS during Reformation event.*

## Rwanda: Protestant churches (CPR) celebrate 500 years of reformation

In Rwanda the ceremony held at the Protestant University of Rwanda (PUR) formerly, Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS), where Mr. Abel Dufitumukiza, Lecturer at the PIASS, sent information on how the Reformation Day was celebrated in Rwanda.

“Here we stand: It is by God’s Grace!” This slogan, associated with Martin Luther, was repeated during the celebration day of 500 years of Reformation at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) on 31st October 2017.

Present were lecturers sent by international organizations to PIASS, the Vice Chancellor

of PIASS, Rev. Prof. Elisée Musemakweli; the General Secretary of the Protestant Council of Churches in Rwanda (CPR), Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage; Director General of Bureau National de l’Enseignement Protestant, Rev. Samuel Mutabazi pastors and workers representing different Protestant Churches, PIASS teaching and Administrative staff and all theological students.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor of PIASS reminded the participants the obligation of the entire Protestant Community to remember where it has come from and think about what it has been doing for God’s honor.

For him the celebration is about turning back to the Lord and to play an active role

to set free individuals and communities who are spiritually, socially, economically and politically oppressed. During the discussions, participants came back to the proliferation of protestant churches all over the globe, and in Rwanda in particular which for some is a result of Reformation but the church representative recommitted to continue to promote ecumenical spirit among protestant family.

The General Secretary of the Protestant Council of Churches in Rwanda commented on this phenomenon as a response to the Great Commission (Mat. 28.18-20) but he emphasized the obligation and duty of the members of Protestant Churches to prevent this plurality from straining back the freedom and unity that people could enjoy.

He showed his disappointment with some Protestants who misinterpret the Reformation process for their own personal interest. “We are tired of the commercialization of the gospel on the basis of any means”, said participants.

Apart from the presentations and discussions on pre-Reformation figures and movements, the Reformation itself and the Churches born from it operating in Rwanda, the day was marked by planting trees in the “Reformation Garden” at PIASS as an expression of the deep conviction that Christians should be characterized by responsible thoughts and acts for the present and the future, a symbol of ecumenism and commitment to the protection of environment.

**BY REV. DR. JOHN KABANGO**

# DRC: Church of Christ (ECC) celebrates 500 years of reformation

**F**our UEM members in the DRC (ECC, CBCA, CDCC and CADELU) are the same time members of the Church of Christ in Congo. In the following it is reported by the 1st ECC Vice President, Bishop NYAMUKE Asial U'bul Idore, how the 500 years of the Reformation were celebrated by those Churches in the DRC.

The Church of Christ in Congo celebrated the Protestant Reformation not as a monument but as a Spotlight before us that has to guide the church to advance God's Kingdom until the return of Jesus Christ. Except what is being described below, many reflection events have been organised in different congregations to commemorate

the Reformation we are identified with from long until today.

The Reformation year 2017 of the Protestant Reformation has been marked by many events through the world to give honour to the reformer Martin Luther and his 95 theses which were fixed on the Wittenberg door on the 31st October 1517.

The DRC, through the Church of Christ of Congo and her member churches has not been spared from these events.

Considering that the Christ Church in Congo is the fruit of the Reformation and incarnates the Protestantism in the DRC, Protestant Churches in Congo have taken the following resolution and declaration. Churches in the DRC:

**1.** Praise God for having main tained His Church in the

authentic faith in Jesus Christ through the ages.

**2.** Recommend to all Biblical and theological organisations to organise conferences, reflection days and academic final works around the 95 theses of Martin Luther.

**3.** Recommend the church Diaconia and Development departments of to organise and implement activities related to the celebration of the Protes tant Reformation in all prov inces and churches in the DRC.

**4.** Encourage churches in the DRC to send a delegation to Europe in October 2017 to co-celebrate with sisters and brothers



*Church of Christ (ECC) celebrates 500 years of reformation.*

# DRC: Church of Christ (ECC) celebrates 500 years of reformation

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### The following conferences have been organised:

15th February 2017: the 1st ECC Vice President, Bishop NYAMUKE Asial U'bul Idore, has conducted a self-evaluation and a reflection to have lessons learnt from the past to be able to have a basis for the future of the Church of Christ in Congo.

It was discussed how the entire world celebrates the life of a man, Martin Luther, but the question is; What will happen to the current ECC Church leaders after 500 years?.

What leadership will inherit churches and provincial ecclesial grouping of the Christ Church in Congo?

The Church of Christ in Congo was finally invited to restore the authority of God's word in all congregations to avoid that non biblical practices for which the father of the Reformation fought for be repeated in our church.

From 5th to 6th May 2017: at the Protestant University of Congo in Kinshasa, scientific days have been organised under the theme: Martin Luther and the Reformation, 500 years after.

### From 11th to 13th May 2017: the 50th National Committee discussed on the following themes

- The social reflection and the protestant ethic

since the Reformation: by Prof MUSHILA Nyamankank Alexis.

- Relation between the Church and the State through the ages: by Dr MILENGE Mwenelwata, 2nd Vice President of the Church of Christ in Congo.
- The Church of Christ in Congo and the State (the Politics): Approach for a church which is the same time evangelical and ecumenical in a country in a perpetual conflict: by Dr MILENGE Mwenelwata, 2nd Vice President of the Church of Christ in Congo.

### From the 14th- 19th August 2017: General Synod of the Church of Christ of Congo in Kinshasa.

- 500 years of the Reformation and its fruits in the protestant ethics
- Relations Church-State: Protestant Perspectives by Prof. Dr. h.c. Christoph Stückelberger.

### On the 26th October 2017, at the Shalom University of Bunia:

- From the Protestant Reformation to the Congolese Reformation: Perspectives of a mission evaluation by the Rev Dr Fohle Lygunda li-M.

### Significance of Martin Luther's Work

Martin Luther is one of the most influential figures in Western history. His writings were responsible for fractionalizing the Catholic Church and sparking the Protestant Reformation.

His central teachings, that the Bible is the central source of religious authority and that salvation is reached through faith and not deeds, shaped the core of Protestantism.

Although Luther was critical of the Catholic Church, he distanced himself from the radical successors who took up his mantle.

Luther is remembered as a controversial figure, not only because his writings led to significant religious reform and division, but also because in later life. He took on radical positions on other questions, including his pronouncements against Jews, which some have said may have portended German anti-Semitism; others dismiss them as just one man's vitriol that did not gain a following.

Some of Luther's most significant contributions to theological history, however, such as his insistence that as the sole source of religious authority the Bible be translated and made available to everyone, were truly revolutionary in his day.

BY REV. DR. JOHN KABANGO

# Maasai decided to be converted to Christian faith



**T**HE Maasai tribe who have kept their traditions for years, gradually seem to have chosen to follow Jesus' ways, after changing the way they celebrate their festivals.

In ELCT-NED some areas are occupied by Maasai tribe that normally lives in forest and the related environment. Normally the tribe used to celebrate peer age ceremony every year for youth to become elders in their society. It is traditional to celebrate peers ceremony to change one's status to another and one age level to another after some years pass (initiation).

But the ceremony is associated with taboos and other matters related to witchcraft since it is lead by witch Doctor as guest

of honor during the ceremony and 100 cows are contributed to facilitate the event and among those cows, 50 are given to the witch Doctor as a payment or gift. The main goal of the event is to prepare youth to become elders and bless them as they take part and responsibilities of eldership in the society. This year on 27th July, it happens something very strange when Maasai Leaders (Olgwenani) decided to celebrate the event in Christianity ways.

The day was covered by joy when about 10,000 male and females' youth became elders from Moran (Youth) status to become elders. Bishop Dr. Stephen Munga accompanied by District Pastor Rev. Yambazi Mauya and other Pastors blessed more than 10,000 youth to become elders

within the Maasai Community in particular Saunyi Ward in Gomb-ero Mission Parish.

The decision of using church to bless youth in this area was resulted by regular seminars and evangelical meetings conducted in this area by using different Pastors and evangelists from in and outside the Tambare Deanery. During the event, the Bishop Dr. Stephen Munga, thanked and appreciated the decision reached by the elders and leader of the community to follow Jesus Christ as our Savior than to depend on Witch Doctors who lying our people and take their possession without blessings from God. He added by saying that; It is a curse to serve other gods than our living God.

**BY REV. YAMBAZI MAUYA**

# UEM empowers rural pastors

to remoteness of the area of Ministry



*Pastors from Rural areas welcomed by Bishop Nathan Amooti (second left) of EAR Cyangugu.*

Following many challenges that face rural pastors when fulfilling their duties, The UEM organized a six day workshop held in the Anglican Church of Rwanda (EAR Cyangugu), where twenty participants attended.

During the workshop that took place between 11th and 16th of September, three basic topics were discussed and it was realized that pastors working in the rural areas face many challenges that sometimes discourage them and their families.

The focus of the workshop was to share successful stories and challenges faced in the mission rural areas and the topics presented were; Mission strategies and the rural churches, Mission and discipleship, and Entrepreneur skills.

UEM rural churches capitalize on this factor of hosting social projects addressing the basic needs (health, education, improved hygiene, basic human rights etc.) of the community that attract the attention of the whole community, especially in the remotest areas of the world.

After an enriching discussion and listening to the mentioned topics presented by different fa-

cilitators, the following challenges were raised;

- Shortage of Pastors' residence in many rural Parishes
- Distance from one sub parish to another main Parish
- No transport moving from one point to another very difficult during rainy season
- Gap to the family due

■ Lack of awareness on church development/ ownership

■ Christians don't contribute anything for church

Despite all the identified common challenges, participants realized that the mission work done by the first missionaries started in the rural areas. This means that the churches in the rural areas are the mothers of all churches in the big cities. It was also reminded that missionaries' strategies in rural areas provided education centers (schools), health centers and church buildings.

But they also learnt various local languages and translated bibles in local languages in order to spread the Gospel. In addition, it realized that there are new strategies of doing mission in the rural set up. These include the vision and action plan of the pastor for his/her parish which should be shared and known by all congregants.

The pastor is still a social agent, responsible of educating the community to design a strategy by defining where they come from,



*Pastors from Rural areas during workshop in Cyangugu Rwanda.*

## UEM empowers rural pastors

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want to go and reflect together on finding means to reach their goals.

- Find the causes of challenges faced in the church and find ways to overcome the situations. Involve people to understand their challenges.
- Make strategies to address these challenges and plan together with Christians and church elders
- Empower people to different issues regarding their development
- Prioritize demands/things to do according to the needs
- Search for partners and work close with them
- Work hard towards objectives set
- To find their resources and available opportunities around their local areas in order to achieve their goals and vision.

The Participants were so inspired with the knowledge they acquired during the workshop and thanked UEM for having organized such seminar of pastors from rural areas. It was recommended to ensure a regular follow up to assess the achieved results.

**BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE**



*Participants of the female pastors' workshop in Dar-es-Salaam*

## Female Pastors' workshop

From 27th to 31st August 2017, UEM Africa Region conducted its Joint Program entitled "Female Pastor's Workshop" in Dar es Salaam. Seventeen (17) female pastors from UEM member churches including: CBCA, CDCC, CADE-LU, EAR, EPR, ECD, NWD, KAD, NED, ELCB, RCSA.

The aim of this meeting was to bring female pastors together so that they may share their experiences of successful stories and challenges faced in their pastoral ministry. Through this sharing, it was realized that women pastors' leaderships are questioned and not accepted easily in their communities due to gender biases and cultural influences which question women power. On the other hand,

women pastors are only accepted due to their performances.

The following topics were discussed. Women and the church: Challenging gender prejudice amongst female pastors, Gender Equality: A question of culture and Gender based Violence. The facilitators emphasized that gender is a social construction which has to do with social-relationship of women and men and how they relate to each other.

It was mentioned that gender construction creates problem because it does not distribute power equally between men and women. Therefore, gender construction should be deconstruct in order to build just societies.

In conclusion, participants rec-

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# Female Pastors' workshop

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ommended the following:

1. To encourage workshops/seminars for women in order to empower women's groups and working collaboratively with them.
2. To promote learning experiences and exchange program of female pastors between CBCA and other UEM member churches who have already ordained women.
3. To introduce gender courses/programs in the theological institutions of UEM member churches and provide trainings of pastors

who are already in the ministry.

4. To inform women department leaders of the UEM member churches about the activities and plans related to women done in the UEM.
5. To do a follow up of the implementation of the recommendations suggested during the workshops and seminars organised by the UEM in Africa Region.
6. To translate UEM Gender Policy into the local languages and transmit it to all UEM member churches so that it can be known by many women pastors and other church

members.

7. UEM is thanked for its contribution and many works done towards female pastors. However, during this workshop, it was observed that the number of women pastors is decreasing in some UEM member churches. Therefore, pastors and church leaders are called to encourage women in their respective churches to study Theology.

8. UEM member churches should read signs of the time in addressing issues and concerns related to women.

Presented by Rev. Dr Nagaju Muke the Deputy Executive of UEM Africa Region

**BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE**

## UEM Africa regional office welcomed the new Programme Officer

**T**HE UEM Africa Regional Office welcomed the new Programme Officer Mr.

Zakaria Mnkai from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania North Eastern Diosece (ELCT/ NED).

Mnkai is a father of three children, formerly worked with International Christian Organization known as World Vision in different capacities specifically program facilitation community empowerment areas for 6 years He assumed his



*The new Programme officer Zakaria Mnkai from right with former Programme officer David Wafo.*

roles and responsibilities from 1st August, 2017 in Dar es Salaam office assisting Rev. Dr. Nagaju Muke the Deputy Executive Secretary for Africa Region. He replaced Mr. David Wafo from the Evangelical Church of Cameroun (EEC). After 6 years of service, the former program officer Mr. Wafo is thanked for his contribution in UEM and paved the way to the new staff to accomplish the goals and strengthen the mission work in Africa region.

**BY ZAKARIA MNKAI**

# UEM Africa Regional Board Meeting

From September 1st to 3rd 2017 the Africa Regional Board Meeting of UEM took place, Tanzania. Nine (9) delegates of member churches in the Africa region from Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Namibia, Rwanda, South and Tanzania met in Dar es Salaam, hosted by the Easter Costal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT/ECD) at New Africa Hotel.

In Addition to the ARB delegates, UEM Africa regional office co-workers Rev. Dr. John. W. Kabango, Rev. Dr Nagaju Muke, Zakaria Mnkai, Rev. Dr. Kahongya Kambale and the General Secretary Rev. Volker Martin Dally were present.

Bishop Dr. Alex Malasusa welcomed all participants, especially the UEM guests. He indicated some challenges the ECD is facing, especially in Pemba and Zanzibar, where Muslims are almost 99%. But the ELCT- ECD has succeeded to initiate an Interfaith Center in Zanzibar, facilitating people to live together regardless their faiths. He also briefly introduced UEM supported projects in ECD and expressed his thankfulness to UEM for the support and cooperation with ECD. Bishop Dr. Alex Malasusa wished a warm welcome to all participants and a successful ARB meeting.

Before closing the opening session with a prayer, the ARB



*Delegates of Africa Regional Board Meeting of UEM hosted by ELCT-ECD.*

Chairperson, Bishop Mothusi J. Lethage of the ELCB, gave his greetings to the participants and thanked the ECD Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa, the choir (Kwaya Kuu) and ECD members for leading the worship, for their welcome and hospitality and being present to welcome the ARB members. He then invited the ARB members to proceed in the meeting room where they started the agenda by sharing news from their respective churches.

During the sharing news session, the General Secretary of UEM Rev. Volker Dally reported that the working atmosphere in Wuppertal UEM office is currently very good, that few people got sick compared to previous years, a good sign that Co-workers are

working with more confidence and a resulted cooperation.

The UEM General Secretary, the Rev. Volker Martin Dally also presented the new development in UEM. In the field of evangelism for example, the new concept is now put in practice with a good feedback. He shows that in the joint program, learning English is a must in order to participate in joint program.

As far as advocacy is concerned, he informed that the Germany government pays always attention on what is written by UEM. But also, the visa problem have been discussed at all levels to make the process easier.

As one of the new programs in UEM, the General Secretary informed ARB about the Peace

# UEM Africa Regional Board Meeting

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Summer School which was organized in Germany in July 2017, in order to enrich people from different churches in different topics. It is also noticed that in Theology Education from the German point of view, something has changed. It is discovered that theology in Africa and Asia is not lower than in Germany, but it is rather different.

The next new project is the Master of divinity which will start at the Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal/Bethel, whereby Latin

course will not be requested to the candidate. Therefore more participants will be eligible for this training. This change came in the same time, where some churches require more a bachelor in Diaconia, rather than a Master degree. Rev. Volker Dally shared with the board about the discussion on the orientation of partnership during the international conference on partnership.

The conference noticed that a new orientation is needed, because so far, partnership turns mostly on projects. In this case the money pressure can be on

the church who receives financial support. The new concept could be skill oriented. Means built on specific thematic and involving the three continent.

The International Evangelical Conference Centre in Wuppertal and Bethel have new names. There are now called:

- UEM Training Centre Wuppertal- Global Learning in Ecumenical Perspective and
- UEM Training Centre Bethel- Global Learning in Ecumenical Perspective- International Diaconia.
- On a long term basis, as much as possible and depending on financial possibility, UEM will be thinking to develop a plan for UEM Africa and Asia regions to also have Training Centres.



*General Secretary of UEM Rev. Volker Martin Dally, shares UEM news with delegates of Africa Regional Board.*

After sharing news from churches, the previous minutes was read, discussed and approved.

The following step was the presentation of report of Africa Regional office. The Rev. Dr. John Wesley Kabango presented the report about UEM support to African churches. The support consists on: joint programs, the donations from the German partnership groups (yearly budget support, long term co-workers, short Term Co-workers), scholarship program, occasional support

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*Executive Secretary for Africa Region Rev. Dr. John Wesley Kabango presenting something during Board Meeting.*

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to churches from Pension Funds and medical assistance for Pastors in need. UEM yearly project support to church projects, collection of Emergency funds from German Churches in situation of disasters. It is underlined that joint programs are very important for their content and there is a lot of money invested in it.

He shows how the African churches contribute to the UEM budget too, through the annual membership fees and the UEM United Action Campaign. It is however still observed the imbalance between the received support and the contributions from African Churches.

The issue of lack of report has been raised. It is explained that some churches receive money from UEM for implementation of programs or projects, but some-

## UEM Africa Regional Board Meeting

times they don't send reports of what have been done with received money. He informed the board that, one of the consequence of this situation, is the lack of information to the donors and consequently, unfortunately this can lead to stopping a financial support to the church that doesn't send reports.

On the other hand, he raised the issue that some churches do not receive south-south volunteers. For this issue, the board shows the necessity for each church to receive a volunteer who they really need.

Therefore, ARB decided that the UEM Africa Regional Office constitute a database of human resource needs from all member churches, whereby a volunteer who fill a desired profile can be sent to the church that applied. Both North-South, South-North and South-South are useful to churches and they need a lot of attention and care from the receiving churches.

African Churches are invited to make available placement for South- South volunteers.

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# UEM Africa Regional Board Meeting

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Rev. Dr. John. W. Kabango introduced the UEM United Action Campaign, aiming at fundraising from the UEM Member Churches in Asia and Africa.

This is to implement the 2012 General Assembly decision to increase UEM ownership by member churches in Africa and Asia.

This task is also facilitated by the UEM-Ambassadors who have been appointed by different churches. As recommended by ARB their training on fundraising skills is planned in 2018.

So far, it is appreciated how African Churches tried their best to raise funds although in 2015 and 2016 the target was not reached. It was reminded that the deadline for 2017 is almost at the end and that there is need of a report to present to the forthcoming UEM Council in October 2017.

As the end of the year is approaching, the Rev. Dr. Kabango informed the board that the 2017 churches' contributions are still too low compared to the expected target.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT IN UEM:

Rev Volker Martin Dally, UEM General Secretary introduced the UEM budget and mentioned that UEM is currently addressing the experienced structural deficit. For this reason, it is seen how future UEM work could be improved but it requires an increased budget. Currently UEM is

seeing how to do something positive and different from the past.

The contribution of all UEM member churches is estimated at 55% but is noticed less donations. That is why UEM is encouraged to find creative ways in designing proposals, as in Germany it is generally becoming difficult to secure funds for Christian organisations. The positive development is that donations from the United Action Campaign are growing.

The new outlook is to have new concepts especially involving more young people, to design new fundraising concepts for inheritance in Germany and to keep an emphasis on a good reporting on received funds from UEM.

As a fundraising strategy, UEM is working closely with possible donors, one way is looking forward to convince many old people without children, who can give their properties as heritage for the mission work. Volker Dally suggests to UEM member Churches in Africa and Asia to double their membership fees in order to increase the UEM budget.

The great challenge is that membership fees have been the same since many years while the costs are growing every year.

If we are to achieve UEM goals, UEM African member Churches

are asked to consider increasing their annual financial contributions to UEM. The UEM General Secretary stated that the Africa Region is expected to play a big role in financially supporting the organization.

The Rev Volker Martin Dally underlined the importance of providing more scholarships to women whenever they apply. It is also acknowledged that the number of women in decision making positions is still low. This is a consequence of the structure of many churches which are still male dominated. When it comes to the vote and decision making, women are in a minority position. This problem needs to be addressed.

After hearing and discussing all UEM reports and especially the explanation given by the UEM General Secretary, ARB decided that after being informed on UEM support to member Churches and the need for more financial means to reinforce the UEM Budget, from 2018, ARB invites all African members to double their membership fees contributions.

Membership fees will be revised after four years.

ARB meeting was closed by the prayer led by Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshahara, after a short word of thanks from the UEM-General Secretary, Rev. Volker Martin Dally.

BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE

## Celebration of 10 years Jubilee of SEKOMU

**S**EKOMU began as a constituent University Collage, SEKOCu, under Tumaini University 28th October.2007. Almost five years later, i.e on 30th September, 2012, the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU), granted SEKOMU permission to transform into fully fledges University, SEKOMU. The main Campus of SEKOMU is located in the Village of Magamba, Lushoto District.

In January 2012 and October, 2014, teaching Centers were opened in Tanga City and Bumbuli respectively. SEKOMU is a private University owned by North Eastern Diocese of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (NED-ELCT). It was first University to be opened in Tanga Region. The name of the Institute derives from Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Ignatius Kolowa (1933-1992), the first African Bishop of the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, who also became the second Head of ELCT.

The impact of studying at this University should be visible in your own life and in the way you view, treat and work with everyone, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

SEKUCo was started with the purpose of training people who will have the intellectual, practical, emotional and spiritual readiness



**Former President of Tanzania, Benjamini Mkapa planting a tree at SEKOMU, during the 10 years of Jubilee held in October.**

of serving the society, starting with those who are at the bottom of the social pyramid.

Everywhere, there is a need of teachers, Lawyers, Health workers, Researchers, and other professionals who have mindsets that drives them to carry out their duties, in ways that empower people affected by physical, sensory, mental, emotional, social and

economic barriers. Even after, after evolving into SEKOMU; the Motto “Acquire knowledge, serve with compassion” continues to guide students studying education, Law, Natural Conservation, Eco-Tourism, Mental Health and Rehabilitation, Theology, Clinical Medicine, Business Administration and Computer Science. Therefore,

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# Celebration of 10 years Jubilee of SEKOMU

## From Page on 17

to the SEKOMU; the knowledge acquired should first and forever transform you.

Meanwhile, on 28th October, 2017, SEKOMU celebrated Jubilee of 10 Years of existing, after its opening in 2007. It was a happiness day and every thing started by arrival of guests which was brighten up by the team of trumpeter players.

During official opening event and a word of the day led by Bishop Steven Munga in the Benjamin William Mkapa Auditorium, his sermons was led by the words of God from Psalms 103 and Leviticus 25:11;14;17;19;23;23.

He explained that, this Jubilee should remind us to eradicate poverty, to signify that God eradicated misery of his children., to build common ownership, to

care for the creation: Caring the good environment that God has given us and ending of slavery: Announce independence, if your neighbour is not to pay his debt, you are called to proclaim peace to him. He added by saying that, God spoken to Israelites but today he speaks to you.

Furthermore, the Bishop Rev. Stephen Munga by asking questions about the Jubilee; what does the jubilee mean for us, what does Jubilee mean for us as SEKOMU? He answered by saying that, Jubilee is to announce the independence and to teach, to proclaim liberty so that the fruitage of our work will go throughout the world to spread the great work that God has commanded us, Universities are a trumpet that publishes independence.

After his sermon, the Bishop

Rev. Dr. Stephen Munga thanked the former President of Tanzania his excellence Benjamin William Mkapa for his willingness to be a guest of honour and agreed to initiate tree plantation campaign project in the Diocese.

Rev. CATERIN the representative of the United Evangelical Mission conveyed the greetings from the UEM General Secretary Rev. Volker Martin Dally and using this chance to encourage the leaders of SEKOMU to make efforts for the good progress of in all sphere Institute development despite the various challenges the mentioned.

Mkapa congratulates NED's 1 million tree planting campaigns

FORMER President of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa congratulated North Eastern Diocese (NED) of ELCT for its campaigns of planting 1 million trees for the year 2017/2018.

Just at his arrival his Excellence Mr Benjamin William MKAPA former President of Tanzania and the Guest of Honour, he began with tree plantation a tree as a sign of launching a campaign of planting one million trees in the Diocese 2017/2018. Third phase president, who was the guest of honor at the 10 year jubilee of Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU) owned by NED said that, the project of planting trees is a good example showed by Church to the society on how important it is to conserve the environments.

During that event, he encouraged community members to respond to the program which highly encourage promotion of nature and environmental conservation within the Diocese and Tanzania at large.



*Celebration of 10 years Jubilee of SEKOMU*

**BY ZAKARIA MNKAI**



*Participants of ONE FOR THE CLIMATE conference.*

## UEM proposes solar power project to overcome climate change challenges

**C**LIMATE change has been a challenge to the world. Many political and religious leaders search a solution on how to overcome this problem and build better future.

The UEM is not left behind to face this big challenge. By playing its role, the UEM has proposed the solar home systems which are expected to cover two years with around 1000 units in both Churches of Rwanda, Presbyterian Church in Rwanda (EPR) and Anglican Church in Rwanda (EAR).

Three days workshop held in Dar es Salaam from 4th to 6th September 2017 with the theme “One for the Climate”. This workshop was a follow-up of another one which took place in 2016 in Kigali. UEM

member churches in Tanzania, DR-Congo and Rwanda participated.

For UEM Africa Region, climate change is one of the agenda to be discussed and addressed from household to the national level. As result of this workshop, feasibility studies done in both Tanzania and Rwanda on the assessment of the viability of renewable resources was considered as mechanism and strategy towards climate change action in all UEM member churches.

During the workshop, a proposal of solar energy was also introduced and presented by Mr. Edgar-Boess Werner from German and Mr. Richard Madete currently working for the Anglican Church in Rwanda. They also gave a report of the “Feasibility Study on Options of Using and Financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency done

on Church buildings in Tanzania and Rwanda”. After their presentation, participants highlighted the importance of the use of solar panels on church buildings such as guest houses, schools, universities and hospitals. For this reason, there a need to raise awareness among church partners who wish to invest and support the due project.

The training of energy technicians will be felicitated by UEM and the monitoring as well as the evaluation of the projects will be done annually. The main facilitation activities have been planned by UEM JPIC and Africa Department in the 2018 goals and activities.

Participants also highlighted that, it is necessary to start with pilot projects soon as possible. They further recommended that, the preparations of documents such as Memorandum of understanding business plan etc... should possibly be finalized towards the end of the year 2017 so that the implementation phase of proposed pilot projects could start early 2018.

**BY REV. DR. KAMBALE KAHONGYA**

# Partnership: Pastor's Exchange Program



**Pastor Ezechiel Bahimba from NWD who is received by pastors and Bishop Nathan Amooti of EAR Cyangugu Diocese who stated that "the pastor Ezechiel is in good hands and all is well with him".**

**B**earing in mind that partnership is not only giving and receiving money but also sharing experiences and skills and learning from each other. Therefore, in connection to UEM week celebration, Africa department has organised exchange programme for pastors. The program took two weeks from 1st to 14th June 2017.

This exchange enabled pastors to learn and share their experiences from any aspect of the visited church. The following list shows how the exchange was arranged. EEC sent one pastor to CDCC; ECC sent to EEC; CADELU sent to EPR, NED sent to CBCA (Vice versa), CDCC sent to CBCA, NWD sent to EAR/CYANGUNGU (vice versa), KAD sent to EAR/BUTARE (vice versa) and ELCB sent to RCSA.

The theme of the week is "Self-Reliance and Resource Mobilization" focusing on a Biblical text taken from Exodus 4:2. It says "What is that in



**ELCB Pastor is received by the Rhenish Church in South Africa**

your hand? God did not give Moses additional resources but rather affirmed and used what was already in Moses' hand". Working questions: "What is in your hands that God can use", to put it differently, what can and God do with what you have to create what you need'.

In addition, Bishop Nathan believed that the exchange program is very important because there is a lot the people of Cyangungu can learn from both KAD and NWD. For this reason the team of ten heads of department from your Cyangungu diocese visited KAD and NWD starting on 6th to 12th of June within the framework of UEM south-south partnership. The visit covered guest house management, children and women ministry, hospital and university. In his message addressing to bishop of Benson Bagonza of KAD and Dr Abdnego Keshomushahara of NWD, Bishop Nathan stated that "I realized that you people started before we did start and there things that helped you to get where you are that we can learn from, mistakes made that we can avoid, successes gained that we can emulate etc". The UEM Africa regional office is thankful for the cooperation of member churches in strengthening South-south partnership.

**BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE**

# Church of Christ in Congo elected new President



*Rev. Dr. Prof Andre Bokundoa Bo-Likaba*

**R**ev. Prof. Andre Bokundoa Bo-Likaba, is elected to be the third President of Church of Christ in Congo.

A PhD holder in Biblical Sciences at Sheffield University in England, he succeeds Bishop Marini who replaced the first President Bishop Kokeleale.

Apart from being a President, Prof. Bo-Likaba will be also a Legal Representative of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) and assisted by two

elected Bishops, Mgr Nyamuke the first Vice President and Mgr Milenge the second Vice President.

The ECC offers a central administration and a spiritual forum for 64 member churches in the DRC and it operates through a national synod and an executive committee. The two entities are assisted in their tasks by a national secretariat.

The ECC brings together Lutheran, Reformed, Mennonites, Methodist, Baptist and Pente-

costal churches.

A new President married to Mrs. Daki Bokundoa and the couple has 6 children.

#### **STUDIES CARRIED OUT:**

- Theological Faculty at Protestant University of Kinshasa
- Bible and Archeological Studies in Jerusalem/Israel
- Phd in Biblical Sciences at Sheffield University, England

## EAR Kigeme Diocese elected new Bishop

The Synod of EAR Kigeme Diocese, one of the four dioceses of the Anglican Church of Rwanda (EAR), a member of UEM has been elected the new diocesan Bishop who will replace Bishop Augustine Mvunabandi who is going to retirement by the end of 2017.

Bishop Elect is the Rev. Assiel Musabyimana, with the UEM facilitation, the dioceses of EAR Kigeme has a trilateral partnership with the



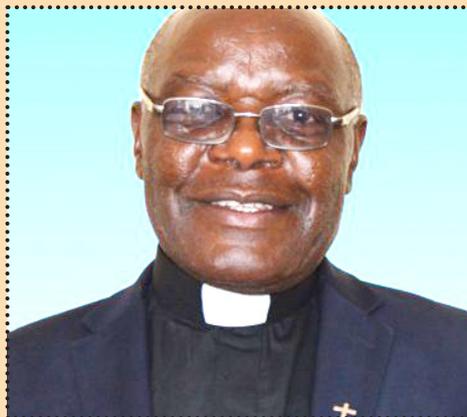
*Bishop Rev. Assiel Musabyimana*

EKiRLennep and the Javanese Church GKJTU. Church leaders from the three churches, had already partnership visits in EAR Kigeme and EKiRLennep. They are planning another visit to Java, Indonesia. The consecration of the Bishop elect is planned to take place on the 14th of January 2018, in EAR Kigeme Diocese. UEM wishes a good retirement time to Bishop Augustin Mvunabandi and a blessed work to the Bishop Elect Rev. Assiel Musabyimana.

## CBCA elected new Church President

It was on 26th August 2017 when the 38th General Synod elected four leaders of the Baptist Church in Central Africa (CBCA).

It is important to be reminded that the mandate of the new elected leaders covers five years. The delegates were so thankful for the former president of CBCA Rev. Dr Kakule Molo and congratulated the new president Rev. Dr



*Bishop Rev. Dr Dr Samuel Ngayihembako*

Samuel NGAYIHEMBAKO for his new position. Rev. Dr Samuel is the president and legal representative of CBCA and works with the Deputy president Rév Martin Kilumbiro, Church Treasurer: Mr Pascal muna-ka and Church Administrative Secretary is Mr. Kam-bale Sondirya Christian.

UEM congratulates the CBCA for peaceful election.

# South-South volunteers



*Michee is assisting Pre-form one students to understand basic skills of Information Technology at Lwandai Secondary School in ELCT-NED*

**U**EM Africa Region is pleased to welcome four volunteers to serve the African UEM member churches from October, 2017 to next year October, 2018. The South-South Volunteer program is conducted in order to foster exposure, intercultural learning and various ecumenical experiences between churches of Africa and Asia.

UEM Africa Region strengthens South-South partnership program by sending Youth from Members

Churches to share knowledge, skills and values they have to their fellow Christians in African member churches. From October, 2017 the office facilitated and supported three Volunteers to go for their placement for one year service.

**Michee Wabomundi** Kakule is also from CBCA- Democratic Republic of Congo serves in ELCT-North Eastern Diocese (Lushoto Tanzania) particularly at Lwandai Secondary School, working as ICT

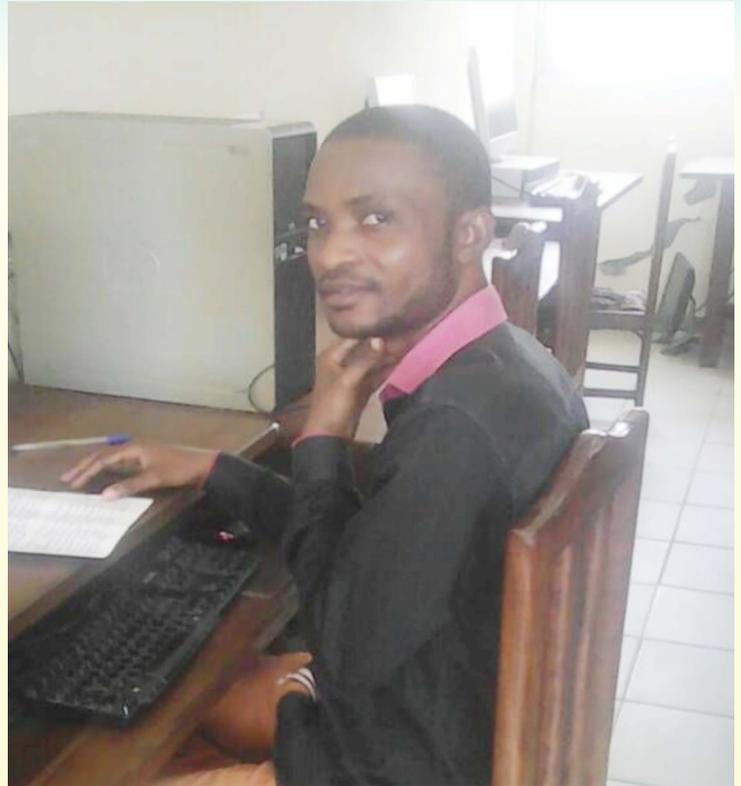
officer assisting Secondary School students the important of information technology, specially how to utilized computer as helpful tool in this changing world and life.

Updating computer laboratory by analyze and install new version antivirus and fix some computer it was among our realisation across this short period. And assisting teaching staff and other non-staff to input data in system and related matters based on institution objectives.

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*Aganze is in front the class facilitating Land resources utilization and management matters in ELCT-NWD*



*Loola is entering data at CAFRAD in ECC Cameroon*

## South-South volunteers

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**Aganze Cimusa Valentin** is from CBCA-Democratic Republic of Congo serves in ELCT-North Western Diocese (Bukoba Tanzania), in Human Rights desk as Co-Facilitator for community development matters including conflict resolution, towards sustainable development, providing advices to community members on matters related to resources identification and management child advocacy and climate advocacy issues.

**Loola Alela Alain** is from CADELU- Democratic Republic of Congo serves in ECC with CAFRAD Cameroon. He is an ICT officer helping CAFRAD Institute with information Technology matters. Entering data and updating computers and other related matters.



**DEDEK PUTRI** from the GKPS in Indonesia (Asia) is received by the ELCT\_ East Coastal Diocese where she will teach English course at Mukuza. Secondary school.

UEM is thankful to all the receiving churches who open doors and received the young volunteers to contribute for the building God's Kingdom

**BY ZAKARIA MNAKAI**

# Evangelism campaign done by EPR

**L**IKE other mainline churches, The Presbyterian Church in Rwanda (EPR) faced many challenges in its mission. This includes the shift of some the EPR members to new Pentecostal and charismatic churches, decrease of church members, issues of prophecy, healing and deliverance.

In response to these challenges, the EPR has initiated new strategies for Evangelism such as house fellowship (Itorerory'ibanze) in order to strengthen and teach its church members. This has shown a positive impact on church growth.

In addition, the EPR has started the Evangelical Campaign known as "NdatumaNde" which is done every year. This year, the campaign held on 9th to 13th August 2017 in Gisenyi Presbytery.

EPR as a UEM member opened the door to other UEM member churches to join hands for the new ways of evangelism. In this line,



*President and Vice president of EPR during the NdatumaNde.*

the Evangelical choir of Kimara parish of ECD and a choir from CBCA Goma were invited to participate and present their songs.

Initially, the evangelism campaign done by EPR was considered as individual church activity. However, the invitation of other UEM member churches makes it to become a joint program and help in strengthening exchange program. The UEM Africa region has supported this evangelism campaign and the DES of Africa region was invited to attend and preach on Sunday 13th August 2017.

During this evangelism campaign, Rev. Dr Pascal Bataringaya the President of EPR reminded the audience that the year 2017 is the year to celebrate 500 years of reformation.

All Christians were called to remember that salvation is given by the grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not something to be bought or paid for.

He cautioned people on the importance of reading the Bible which helps to respond to false prophecies and teachings.

**BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE**



*Evangelism campaign done by EPR at Gisenyi Stadium Rwanda.*

From 6th to 11th August 2017, the Youth for Children workshop of UEM Africa Region took place in Kigali at ISANO centre of the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda.

The aim of this workshop was to train youth on their roles to support and protect children. 12 participants from Africa member churches includes: EPR, EAR, KAD, NWD, NED, ECD, ELCB, RCSA, CBCA, CDCC, and CADELU. The workshop focused on the biblical understanding of the importance of children, Holism in child protection, Child abuse and effects and healing memories for the child affected by abuse.

During the workshop, it was mentioned children were created in God's image and are gifts from God. The Bible offers numerous references describing children and issues relating to children.

To highlight just a few Scripture passages that provide a biblical understanding of the importance of children, justify our Godly anger over their abuse, and motivate our long-term commitment to their protection.

- God commands us to intentionally and consistently teach our children. Consider Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

- Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14). So if the Kingdom of God belong to children then they have a kingdom right to be protected.

Having highlighted on God's heart for children and child protection, we also reviewed what we have mentioned to be an ideal environment for holistic child growth and development. The main question that lead our workshop was to understand "How can the church protect

# Youth for Children



*The Youth for Children Leaders from UEM member Churches in Africa Region during Child Advocacy Workshop in Kigali.*

children holistically?"

For the children to be developed holistically, all children have the right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. This includes: physical protection, spiritual protection, social-emotional protection and mental protection. For this reason, a Child-friendly and protective church environment is a transformational approach of doing children's ministry.

Protecting children from abuse is an adult responsibility. Everyone is concerned about and takes action for children. Hence youth have a crucial and privileged role to support and protect children from abuse.

## **COMMITMENTS.**

All participants were committed to the following:

- Advocate and create awareness on child' rights and protection to relevant stakeholders (church leaders, Sunday school teachers, teachers, parents, etc.) at national levels
- Use instruments in place on child protection to seek legal redress

when children's rights are violated

- Use the pulpit to speak about child protection in sermons and through awareness creation
- Pray for the welfare of children and their families regularly
- Train and equip children, families, the community, church leaders and those involved with children on child protection and safeguarding
- Create case management, reporting and referral mechanisms for addressing abuse cases
- Develop relevant teaching curricula that cater for the well-being and safety of children at home, school, community and church.
- Finally we are committed to be an agent of change by receiving relevant information concerning the well-being of children and passing it on as necessary to children and anyone involved with children.

**BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE**

# NED introduces entrepreneurship training to youths

Unemployment is a huge problem facing many youths in Tanzania, some experts explained that, lack of entrepreneurial skills which is necessary support to help them realise their dreams and ambitions, is the main reason why the problem still exist.

The church in ELCT-North Eastern Diocese (NED) in response to this situation has embarked on economic empowerment through capacity building and also initiated Village Community bank (VICOBA) groups among women, men and youths in the parishes.

The youth department is one of the departments under the social services directorate of NED. The youth coordinator coordinates all the activities in this department.

There are 47 congregations or parishes in NED and each congregation has its youth leadership,

which is comprised of the chairperson, assistant chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

This year 2017, the youth department elected new leaders at sub-parish level to the diocesan level.

The new leaders at parish level had raised their need for leadership and small-scale entrepreneurship skills (including knowledge on VICOBA) and gender issues. The elected leaders lack leadership skills since some of them have never been leaders before in their youth groups. Due to this, most of them felt incompetent and lack of confidence in their new positions.

Out of the 47 parishes in NED only 8 are situated in urban centres, the rest are in the rural. The issue of unemployment has caused many youth from rural to migrate to towns and cities in search of jobs. Many of them later returned home discouraged and

disappointed.

The guest of honour on the official opening of this workshop was Rev Dr Eberhardt Ngugi, Assistant to the Bishop, also launched the Handbook for Guidelines and Procedures for youth work in NED. During this session, the following aspects were discussed:-

- The church needs to focus more on youth empowerment programs to ensure its development, since empowering the youth can make a significant contribution towards the church and society.

- With knowledge and skills, networking and joint efforts is an important element that should be emphasized in overcoming barriers to youth entrepreneurship/empowerment.

- Participants were motivated by the topics and felt responsible for the sustainability of the church and its future. One participant stated that "Since the future of the church lies in our hands, the church should involve our pastors in involving all youths in our parishes to participate in church programs".

- The partnership between NED and UEM: One of the main focus area of the supporting partner is development. Through this programme the supporting partner has enabled NED to conduct this workshop for youth leaders-capacity building for economic empowerment to overcome poverty among the youth.

Since the participants are newly elected leaders, the youth coordinator will continually do follow



**Rev. Dr. Eberhardt Ngugi presenting leadership concepts to newly selected Youth Leaders of North Eastern Diocese of ELCT.**

## NED introduces entrepreneurship training to youths

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ups in the church districts to support the youth leaders in passing the knowledge acquired to other youths in the congregations.

Pastors' parish reports to the District pastor include participation of youth in church development and involvement in VICOPA.

At the end of this training, Youth Leaders appreciated the NED leaders for the support and priorities to Youth in the Diocese. However, the following way forward were agreed.

1. Youth in Parishes must be involved in Youth's projects from initial stages; this will help Youth to participate fully and create resources ownership.
2. The Diocese to involve Youth leaders in all matters pertaining Youth project development at all levels
3. Youth Leaders must identify different available resources within their parishes for Youth development and participate in its control and management
4. There should be regular meeting to reflect various resolution made during youth meetings and their development at large.

**BY REV. JOYCE KIBANGA**

## Karagwe Diocese inaugurates University College Buildings



**K**aragwe Diocese of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, celebrated the opening of the Karagwe University College (KARUCO), at the event that took place in October 28th which was shined by many success stories achieved by the Diocese, since the idea of establishment of the college was conceived and implemented by Karagwe community members.

It was not easy to have the idea of establishing University College with limited resources and many commitments in the Diocese. But commitments of the Diocesan leaders and Christian's community made the goal happen.

Historically Karagwe is one of the seven administrative districts of the Kagera region in Tanzania. The District covers an area of 7,716 Km Square and is located in the

North western corner of Tanzania. It borders the republic of Rwanda in the west, the District of Ngara and Bilaharamulo in the South and Muleba, Bukoba and Misenyi to the East.

The District is endowed with different natural resources; however, majority of households remain to be at poverty line. Apart from producing practical oriented graduates and entrepreneurs, the proposed university is envisaged to be nuclear for attracting other development oriented initiatives and would have a wide economic impact within district and neighbor regions.

The idea of establishing KARUCO is influenced by economic, social, and cultural characteristics as well as by the formal structure of the Government and other features of the political system in the country.

The country faces the need of creating high skilled workforce

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## Karagwe Diocese inaugurates University College

### From Page 28

and creating new opportunities for the growing population and reversing exodus of youth from rural to urban areas. With this in mind, one area that is given priority by the Government is the provision of tertiary education.

Both the education and agricultural policies in Tanzania support the private organization and social groups to establish higher education institutions. This project therefore supported at a district, regional and National levels.

It is anticipated that at full capacity the number of students will be 300 thousands at the early stage. For a time being a number of both public and private universities in Tanzania has increased in recent years. Therefore, about 35 universities and university colleges in the country by the end of 2012.

This means, the enrolment of students in the universities has automatically increased. However, this increase has not focused on Agriculture and related fields.

Currently, there is only one university with agriculture, forest, and livestock development con-

centration, namely Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). The mission of SUA is to promote development through trainings, research and provision of services to the public and private sectors in environmental friendly manner. However, resources limitations and constant policy changes reduces their effectiveness and impact to the minimal level.

The establishment of the second university with concentration in Agriculture and related fields in Tanzania is essential, and thus

why Karagwe Diocese came up with this idea to establish university collage.

### WHY KARUCO IN TANZANIA?

As mentioned earlier, the purpose of this project is to positively respond to the Tanzania Government policy on agricultural transformation. The mission of the university would be to engage its students and professors in relevant, timely and effective university students through research and enquires, focused on promoting tertiary education and producing skilled agricultural workforce.

The aim is to contribute to the Government efforts towards poverty reduction and promoting establishment economic development through agricultural sector and efficient use of natural resources.

**KARUCO has long term strategic plan for the future development and attainment of its goal as follows:-**

- A.** To contribute to the implementation of the exiting plans of promoting the quality of food and cash crops production in Tanzania
- B.** To contribute to promotion of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSA) activities in all Eastern and Central Africa
- C.** To facilitate the implementations processes of the millennium development goals and targets
- D.** To contribute to the implementation of the National Policy on Poverty Reduction that stresses the importance of utilizing efficiency the abundant natural resources towards poverty reduction.

**BY ULI BAEGE**

# Youth climate action day

Church in Rwanda (EAR) Shyogwe Diocese has organized and conducted a youth conference which took a place at Hanika Parish from 2nd to 5th, November 2017. The EAR/Shyogwe set the following objectives:

Rwanda's energy balance shows that about 85% of its overall primary energy consumption is based on biomass (99% of all households use biomass for cooking), 11% from petroleum products (transport, electricity generation and industrial use) and 4% from hydro sources for electricity. In April 2016 about 14% of the total population had access to electricity from the grid and the government has started a roll-out programme to rapidly increase this to 16% (350 000 connections) by 2018 and 60 % by 2020.

Nevertheless, there is substantial deforestation of 1.87% (50 sq. km) per year in Rwanda though the situation seems to be reversing. The main driver of deforestation and soil erosion is the demand for fuel wood and food. With a population growth rate of over 2.8%, there is a growing gap in food production. Increasingly, steeper and higher upland areas are being cultivated. This is leading to considerable soil erosion which is damaging local ecologies that are supporting agricultural production systems and ecological services such as water capture, recharge and cycles, as well as carbon cycle.

Apart from demand for food, the use of biomass for energy also drives local deforestation. Firewood is the main energy source for more than 98% of rural households comprising 91.4% of population, while charcoal is used by 1.3% of rural households, covering 1.2% of total population. In urban areas, biomass places a similarly large role in meeting domestic energy needs, with more than 52.5% and

39.9% of urban households relying on firewood and charcoal respectively as their primary source of energy. To this end, the Anglican

- Educate stakeholders(youth) on practical actions to take to mitigate or eradicate environment pollution causal effects,
- To build long-term channels susceptible to set up, coordinate and develop nature conservation youth clubs, in Schools and in communities
- To promote climate change benevolent outreach teams
- To campaign for a reinforcement of Environmental conservation regulations throughout the country.

## Planned and realized activities

- Mobilizing 500 youth from different parishes so that they can take practical actions to mitigate climate change related problems.
- Organizing and conducting a three day seminar for youth leaders in order to equip them for practical actions of environmental protection
- Planting 2000 trees in Hanika parish to serve as a role for environmental protection
- Encouraging the youth in 11 parishes made up Hanika Archdeaconry to plant trees in their parishes and family fields so that at least 3000 trees are planted by the end of 2017.
- Church and community mobilization to raise awareness about the issues of climate change and the need to mitigate the problems of environment degradation.
- Monitoring and evaluation done through parishes whereby pastors will correct necessary.

BY REV. DR. NAGAJU MUKE



*Bishop Jered Kalimba of EAR Shyogwe planting trees with youth.*



## Rhenish family strengthens relationship

“The church put down roots along the Rhine, and sowed seeds in the world” -- this verse from a hymn of the Chinese Rhenish Church (CRC) in Hong Kong represents the evolution of Rhenish missionary activity.

For the third time in six years, the Rhenish family within the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) community is coming together. From 16 to 20 November, they exchanged memories of their common past and ideas on new forms of cooperation.

The churches in South Africa and Hong Kong emerged through the work of the UEM’s predecessor, the Rhenish Missionary Society, founded in 1828.

This time, the CRC invited representatives from the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland (EKiR) and the Rhenish Church in South Africa (RCSA) to Hong Kong.

Church Elder KK Chan welcomed the delegates with an invitation to make themselves at home. “I am glad to welcome you all here as part of the Rhenish family. Our meeting has three objectives: First, to deepen our relationships;

second, to think about partnership projects for the future; and third, to be aware that we are part of a global movement.”

Leon Chau, General Secretary of the CRC, presented the church’s diverse work in Hong Kong. Attendees also visited some projects during the five-day meeting.

Discussions focused on current challenges such as maintaining social and welfare services, dealing with juvenile delinquency, and observing the anniversary of the Reformation.

Three UEM partnership representatives from Wuppertal attended the Rhenish churches’ meeting, as did Julia Besten: the director of the UEM Archives and Museum Foundation is one of the founders of the group.

“While preparing for this meeting in Hong Kong,” said Besten and adding; “I read over my speech from 2009, which I gave to mark the 180-year anniversary of the arrival of the first Rhenish missionaries in Cape Town, ‘I am convinced that this new contact to the RCSA will not be so quick to break.’ And look, here we are today, connected across three continents.”

The encounter was particularly intense for Luske Aysen, from Cape Town, she has been a South-South volunteer with the UEM in Hong Kong for the last six months, and the meeting marked the end of her stay.

“Hong Kong is simply mad! I am so, so grateful for our church partnership, which made my experience here possible. I would like to continue to do my part for this Rhenish association in the future,” she said. Brenda Sass, chair of the women’s division of the RCSA, reported on her church’s Esther Project; “Women from the congregation reach out to young people and encourage them to actively engage in the work of their church. This work also offers points of connection for our partnership and for cooperation with the UEM.”

Many talks were also on the agenda, as were visits by congregations and church diaconal institutions to sites such as a senior centre and a home for the elderly. The CRC funds both facilities. Participants discussed how differently their respective societies deal with pensioners, and where the commonalities were.

In the Lutheran theological seminar, Kin Pan Wu spoke about the Rhenish heart of his church; the pastor is currently completing a doctorate at the university in Bonn. He lectured on how the first missionaries worked in China and how they brought the gospel to the Chinese culture in the process.

He also translated the unofficial anthem of the CRC, “Rhenish Heart”, into German, to celebrate the meeting of the three churches.

High Consistory Member Barbara Rudolph tweeted about the meeting: [https://twitter.com/barbara\\_rudolph?lang=de](https://twitter.com/barbara_rudolph?lang=de).

## Joint UEM meetings with the RCSA and URCSA leaders in Cape Town

**O**n the 8th September 2017 was a joint meeting held between the UEM delegation and about twenty RCSA & URCSA leaders in Cape Town, South Africa. The talks and visits were in the framework of the UEM follow up after the RCSA was accepted by the last year UEM General Assembly to be a full member and the URCSA as an associate member.

The Moderators of both churches committed to ensure that UEM work is promoted in their churches. Participants to all meetings feel like they will make meaningful contributions to the UEM Communion by sharing their time, resources and talents.

"The two churches have a lot of historical background with the United Evangelical Mission in Wuppertal" confirmed the two church leaders in South Africa. They believe the international mission experience of UEM member churches will bring a lot of learning experiences and new insights to their churches.



*The Rev Dr John Wesley Kabango seated left side followed by Gen. Secretary Rev. Volker Martin Dally with other Leaders of RCSA and URCSA in South Africa.*

The RCSA and URCSA leaders in Cape Town ensured the UEM General Secretary, the Rev Volker Martin Dally that they are committed to UEM as a communion of Churches in three continents.

From the UEM Africa Board commitment of doubling the African Churches' financial contributions in 2018, the UEM General Secretary called upon for a real financial commitment of UEM member churches in being an engine for social transformation in the today's communities in need.

UEM through her Corporate Identity encourages the mission and responsibility of member churches which includes both the proclamation of the Gospel and its demonstration through the social

work. From Jesus, we learn that the truth is to be proclaimed with authority and lived with grace.

Rev Volker Martin Dally said; "It is UEM experience that the church must constantly evangelize, professionally respond lovingly to human needs, as well as seek the welfare of the people in the community." By living out the implications of the gospel, the missional church offers a verbal defense and a living example of its power.

Before travelling back to Germany, on Sunday 10th September 2017, the UEM General Secretary and the Africa Executive Secretary ended their visit program by preaching respectively in the RCSA and the URCSA Congregations in Cape Town.



# Mission Echo

## **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

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