



The African Christian Pulse

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The Campaign for African Dignity

On Sunday 21 August the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique (IPM), a member church of AACC, witnessed the launch of the Campaign for African Dignity. It took place in the Philadelphia Parish in the city of Matola, Maputo province, when more than 250 members were present in the worship service for Thanksgiving.

During the service Rev. Adriano Quelende, Executive Secretary of the Youth of the AACC, said: *“This campaign for African dignity is an exhibition of affirmation of the Church in Africa, and since the launching of the campaign a lot of people have responded positively to the campaign.”* At the end of the service members responded through hymns of praise. A special offering was collected when a special prayer was held for the work of the AACC.

Rev. Adriano also had opportunities to meet with other Church Leaders; the General Secretary of the Mozambique Council of Churches, Rev. Marcos Efraim Macamo and also the United Methodist Bishop Joaquin Nhanal. They talked about the Campaign and the next General Assembly of the AACC that will take place in 2013 in Kampala, Uganda.

Bishop Nhanal said: *“The United Methodist Church in Mozambique is very open to the campaign and an official invitation will be sent to the AACC to come and launch the campaign at one of our annual conferences where representatives of congregations will have an opportunity to hear about this great initiative.”*

Rev. Quelende also gave an interview at Trans World Radio of the Gospel in Maputo where he talked about the campaign and about the AACC work in Africa.



Rev. Adriano Quelende &
AACC Vice President
for Southern Africa Rev.
Felicidade Chirinda
Mozambique
Photo: AACC

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The Great Lakes Region - Focus on the DRC

In the last quarter the AACC had a focus on the DRC, necessitated by the call for accompaniment by the churches in the DRC as well as the imminent elections to be held later this month.

Consultation in Kinshasa, on Governance and Peace, August 2011

The AACC held a meeting in DRC under the theme “Governance and Peace, A Challenge for the Church in DRC” in August 2011. It was attended by over 50 participants in Kinshasa. Issues of Governance and Peace were discussed, with focus being paid to the upcoming elections. Speakers included Hon. Yvonne Uwaysenga, a Member of Parliament from Rwanda that gave great insight into women empowerment through politics, as well as a guest appearance by the head of the electoral committee (CENI), Rev. Dr. Mulunda.

Workshop for Building Capacity for Women in the Electoral Process in Kinshasa, October 2011

The AACC also held a workshop for Building Women’s Capacity in the Electoral Process in October 2011 in Kinshasa that was attended by 50 women.



AACC Vice President for Central Africa Bishop Yemba and Rev. Mulunda after

Rev. Mulunda’s presentation

Kinshasa, DRC

Photo: AACC

Workshop on Empowerment and Capacity Building of Victims of Post-conflict in Eastern DRC, Bukavu, October 2011

In Eastern DRC we held a workshop on Empowerment and Capacity Building of Victims of Post-conflict. In collaboration with the Church of Christ, South Kivu and with the collaboration of the AACC GLEF focal person in East Congo, the meeting ran from October 5th to 8th, 2011 in Bukavu. The Workshop aimed at building the capacity of victims of conflicts in East Congo. It attracted Church Women Leaders from North and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Representatives of the Church of Christ in North and South Kivu as well as participants from Rwanda and Burundi and AACC Staff members from Togo and Kenya.

National Conference for Religious Leaders in Kinshasa, October 2011

On the 25th - 28th the AACC held a conference for religious leaders, in collaboration with World Vision DRC in Kinshasa. The Conference was under the theme “The Role of Religious Leaders in DRC before, during and after the November 2011 Elections” and brought together Religious Leaders & Representatives, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Muslims, Orthodox, Kimbanguists, Church of Christ in Congo amongst others. In total about 90 participants. We also had the attendance of Faith based Agencies. At the end of the conference a declaration was issued calling for peaceful and transparent elections. The Religious Leaders also gave an assurance that they will remain engaged in the election process by undertaking civic education and deploying observers.



AACC Vice President Mgr. Yemba together with the Regional Director of World Vision and other participants

Kinshasa, DRC

Photo: AACC

Theology, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

The Series of theological consultations in 2011 ended with the “Association des Institutions d’Enseignement Théologique en Afrique” (ASTHEOL - the francophone theological Association) meeting held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 21-23 August 2011.

The main achievement of this meeting was that the two branches of ASTHEOL succeeded in getting together. For many decades, the francophone theological association has split and the two branches could not meet together, even though everyone recognizes that having one association is more beneficial to all. Together, we can be stronger.

The following recommendations were formulated in the Final Communiqué

1. AACC should accompany the two branches of the ASTHEOL Central and ASTHEOL West towards a unified association for Francophone institutions. The association may keep chapters in countries.
2. The francophone theologians commit to the creation of an All Africa Academy of theology and religions.
3. The member institutions of the ASTHEOL and staff should participate in the creation of a Theological Education Fund for Africa.
4. Professors and researchers from all member institutions of ASTHEOL should send contributions for the publication of a Manual of Theological Education in Africa.
5. The member institutions of ASTHEOL should produce reflections on the theme of the Jubilee of the AACC: God of Life, lead Africa to Peace, Justice and Dignity.
6. The theme of the AACC Jubilee Assembly must become the focal theme of the next ASTHEOL meeting in 2012.
7. The participants call the Church in Africa to assume their prophetic role as they remain the watchmen/women of Christian values including: human rights, justice, peace, reconciliation and democracy.



Francophone Theologians meeting in Brazzaville in August 2011

Photo: AACC

Ecumenical Conference in Juba

The theme of this conference was “The Mission and Calling of the Church in Sudan” with a sub-theme of “Discerning the way forward together”.

The conference brought together Sudanese & East African Church Leaders, representatives of women, and Ecumenical Partners from around the world, and was convened jointly by the AACC and the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). The Minister for Information of the Republic of South Sudan addressed the meeting.

The Church Leaders reminisced on the challenges & achievements of the past. They made a call for sustained international advocacy and diplomacy in order not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

It was noted that South Sudan needs to have a blue print that gives direction and clarity as to how the Church will work in unity and keep focus on the bigger agenda. This could underline the reality that without peace in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur and Abyei, South Sudan is not in peace.

It was also noted that there was a need to have a particular focus on women as part of the important pillars of peace that keep working for it in the midst of a split leadership of men. Thus there is need to focus on the dignity, justice and voice of women in the North & South, and other practical ways of nation building like education, agriculture, water and food security etc.

The meeting called for the people of South Sudan to work for a focused move from military structures of governance to civil structures. This calls for engagement in the constitution making process, as well as more interaction with neighbours, especially North Sudan as was highlighted by one of the guest speakers Amb. Bethuel Kiplagat.



The Minister for Information together with participants of the conference

Juba

Photo: AACC

Lusophone Youth Meeting in Mozambique

There were 36 young people from Angola and Mozambique that participated in a youth camp on the theme “Fulfilling the Mission” which took place in Maputo, Mozambique on 20- 27 August. During their stay young people from various member churches of the Council of Churches in Angola, CICA, had the opportunity of exchanging experiences in the youth field with young people from the Council of the Churches of Mozambique. The youth from both countries have Portuguese as their common language, and share almost the same history of decades of civil war and they met at this historical youth camp for the first time.

Various topics such as Ecumenism in Africa, the Church in Africa and the Millennium Development Goals, as

well as cooperation between churches in Angola and Mozambique were discussed. The youth visited churches in Maputo and two social projects, a school and an orphanage.

The AACC Executive Secretary for Youth, Rev. Adriano Quelende took the opportunity to congratulate the youth for this initiative, an initiative that should be an encouragement for other young people in Africa. He also talked to the young people about the AACC programs and the participation of Youth in the next general assembly of AACC which will take place in June 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. Rev. Felicidade Chirinda, the Vice President of AACC to Southern Africa visited and addressed the youth.



The Youth Participants in Mozambique

Photo: AACC