## **Apostolic Faith Church- Zambia and East Africa**

## A visit to Western Province

Last weekend I travelled to Western Province with Rev B. Kalimina one of our board members and four other brethren (Bro Robert Mainza, John Chiyuni, Malikwe Pelekelo from Lusaka and Bro Steven Moonga from Copper belt Province). The purpose was to visit the brethren and to physically see and hear the challenges that these branches are facing that has hindered the Gospel from growing in that region. For more than 30 years since the Gospel started, there are only 3 branches in the entire province.

On Friday day 6<sup>th</sup> March, we left for Kaoma about 400Km west of Lusaka. We arrived evening time and were welcomed by the brethren and the pastor, Bro Shadreck Kahyata. We had a revival service that was taken by Bro Mainza with the theme, 'The Effect of Sin' and how we can return to our Maker. A total of 23 were in attendance including 8 passers-by who walked into the service. This branch acts as the headquarters of the province and because of that in the past few years Lusaka headquarters assisted to build their church although it has not yet been completed. The attendance is quite very minimal. There only 3 appointed workers in Kaoma and this has contributed to the stuntedness of the work there. Although there have been several revival meetings that have been held in the past years, it has not been easy for people to be established and grounded in the doctrine after revival meetings. Most of the people have not received the 3 Christian experiences. Thus, Kaoma is faced with two challenges; lack of workers grounded in doctrine and financial resources to help establish the Gospel in new areas.







**Kaoma Branch** 

On Saturday morning, we drove 31 Km to Kamuni branch north of Kaoma, where we were welcomed by the minister in charge Sis Mary Kahyata (the elder sister of bro Shadreck Kahyata), some brethren and the elementary children. The elementary children sang a song 'Tambukeni' meaning welcome in the Luvale dialect (a language spoken in that area). We had a Bible teaching which was taken by Bro Kalimina titled, 'On our way to grace. Reading from Ezekiel 18:21, 22, he mentioned how the blood of Jesus avails for everyone and everywhere. In the afternoon, Bro Pelekelo took the message from Matthew 8:1-4, an invitation for all to rise up and follow Jesus. A total of 41 people attended this service and the hunger for more of God's word could be seen as they sung congregation songs in their dialect and as they tarried in prayer at the altar. This branch seems to have more people than the 2 other branches. The church here faces the same problems with those in Kaoma. This branch also lacks a proper structure for worship. Amazingly they still meet in a grass thatched structure which has been standing since 1984.



Kamuni Branch

Late afternoon on Saturday, we drove to Mongu, 200Km west of Kaoma and arrived in the evening. We were received by Sis Sitende Mufaweli, the daughter of the pastor in Mongu branch. On Sunday morning, we had Sunday school taken by bro Pelekelo which was taught in Lozi language, a dialect commonly used in Western Province. The devotional message was taken from Ezekiel 22:30 with the theme 'Standing in the gap'. The Spirit of God encouraged us to respond to God's call in these last days. In the afternoon, we had a revival service taken by Bro Moonga on 'The spirit of repentance.' Reading from Luke 15:17, he mentioned how God's mercy is received when we repent by citing examples such as the prodigal son, the people of Nineveh and Samson. The highest attendance in these 2 services was 30. After the revival service, we went to view the church plot that was acquired in the new location earmarked by the local authorities there. Mongu also faces similar challenges and has only 2 workers.



Mongu Branch

On Monday we drove back to Lusaka.

Our 3 immediate plans to help revive the work in Western Province is to start sending missionaries every quarter that can be going to encourage the brethren. The brethren with 3 Christian experiences in those branches will be identified who will be taught, trained and commissioned to assist in various roles in the churches. Our long term plan to assist the churches financially is to acquire some pieces of land that can be used for cassava and cashew nut production since Western province has the potential for those two crops.



Mongu Branch Kamuni Branch

Our prayer is that the Lord will win more souls in this province as it is a spiritual fertile ground.

In His Service,

## **Boniface B. Banda**

District Superintendent
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