



ECCLÉSIA TODAY

EST 2021



www.ecclesiamagazine.com



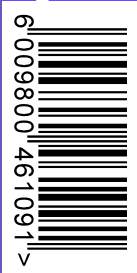
+263 777 430 283

ISSUE 8

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2023

Christian Digital Magazine

Our world changes as we change



Congratulations to new MRC Bishop

CONTENTS



02 EDITORIAL NOTE

04 GOSPEL REVIEW

06 CHURCH &
DEVELOPMENT

08 THEOLOGICAL
REFLECTION

12 TALKING LEADERSHIP

16 THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

19 DISABILITIES & CONDITIONS

21 PROMOTIONAL
FEATURE

ECCLESIA TODAY

MAGAZINE



Ecclesia Today QR Code



MANAGING EDITOR

Kimion Tagwirei

About Us

Ecclesia Today (*meaning Church Today*), is a free digital Christian magazine, published quarterly from Zimbabwe, Southern Africa.

We are inspired and informed to advance the integral mission of the Church (*proclamation and demonstration of the gospel in all areas of life*) by John 10:10, which says that "the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly".

We publish inclusive and contextually transformative articles from various contributors in different denominations and countries.

We welcome new contributions; readers' feedback and suggestions. For enquiries please email the managing editor @ kimion22tc@gmail.com ; Call/WhatsApp +263777430283.

Advertising, Sales and Enquiries

+263 777 430 283

kimion22tc@gmail.com

Ecclesia Today on Facebook

Enjoy reading this edition, and keep with us as we progress. Follow Ecclesia Today on Facebook, and www.ecclesiamagazine.com



KIMION TAGWIREI
CHITANDO

www.ecclesiamagazine.com
+263 777 430 283

Ecclesia Today
Email: kimion22tc@gmail.com

Editorial Note



Ecclesia Today

Our world changes as we change

It is thought-provoking to note that some fellows who are featuring in destructive corruption scandals, theft, murder and related evils are 'Christians', and members of our denominations.

Do we change our identities in different contexts? Should we stand as disciples of Jesus Christ in Church meetings, and do evil in our engagements with the secular world?

Strikingly, the book of James 1:22–25 tells us to *"...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing"* (NIV Online Bible Gateway:np).

Pleasantly, most of us hear the gospel in Church services every weekend. Sadly, instead of applying it wherever we go during the week, we follow worldly voices. While the gospel teaches us to live like Jesus Christ, we tend to be like other people – and eventually fall into evil.

Yet, if we take scripture as our mirror, we must submit to its inspiration, information and direction. Furthermore, when you and I become unwavering disciples of Jesus Christ, we will live as the light and salt of the world as metaphorically depicted through Mathew 5:13–16. In manners that salt seasons, flavours, preserves food and gives us good health, being Christ's disciples similarly embodies Christlikeness, and exemplariness which inspires, informs and transforms the world.

As light dispels darkness and shows ways, resembling it refers to withstanding evil and demonstrating Godliness by upholding righteousness in face of today's theatre of social, political, economic and religious evils.

Just as ignoring a mirror cannot degrade it, neglecting Scripture while respecting the world does not demean it. Thus, the Bible remains the authority and basis of life and our Christian faith. It continues mirroring what is right and wrong, life-giving and deadly.

That way, we have the choice to attend biblical reflections.

Therefore, God can and will change our predicaments when we change our wavering positions. Imagine what will happen to our politics, economies, societies and churches if we become firm hearers and doers of His word!

As Romans 12:2 echoes, we will not be corrupted by this world. Rather, our minds will be renewed by the gospel, discernment and application of His will!

When all is said and done, our lives will change as we change! When you and I decide to take the word of God (above the word of the world) as our mirror – attend to, and live it, we will get transformed and everything will follow.



GOSPEL REVIEW

THEOLOGICAL DILEMMA: ISSUES OF THE CHURCH WITH ROM 13:1-7

... Searching for a theological-ethical framework of engaging the State in Zimbabwe today



By Rev. Dr. Ray Motsi in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Rev. Dr. Ray Motsi is the Principal of the Theological College of Zimbabwe (TCZ) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

to receive fitting respect and honour by both non-Christians and Christians.

The meaning of authority that is instituted by God;

1. It is a common idea in Jewish and other Ancient Near Eastern writings. Proverbs 8:15-16; 2. Sam 12:8; Isaiah 41:2-4. The Egyptian Pharaohs and the Roman Caesars viewed themselves as divine appointees. NT: 1 Tim 2:1-4; Titus 4:1-3; and 1 Pet 2:13-17 human authorities is viewed as God’s servants. God’s sovereignty over all human beings must be affirmed. Bruce (1985) suggested that God is the “fount of all [human] authority” Psalm 62:11: “Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God” John Murray (1967): by ‘they are of God’ “means that they derive their origin, right and power from God” The institution of human authority and public governance is a creation of God, it is not an idea of humankind.

However, Banda & Senokoane (2009) observed that God-intended purpose of the State is to serve God on behalf of its citizens. Hendriksen mentioned that Paul talks of a normal, not an outrageous or mistaken governmental functioning. The State is ordained to rule on behalf of God, not for its own sake, but to bring God’s rule that brings security, prosperity, well-beingness in the nation. Therefore, the State is accountable to God who has ordained it, and it is accountable to the citizens who voted it to power. Judges 16:7 says that there is social chaos where there is no governance. The State must rule with justice and righteousness, promote and protect just stability. The authority of the public office is ordained by God, and those who take up public office occupy an ordained office and therefore fulfil obligations instituted by God. Therefore, be good citizens who recognize and respect the offices as ordained by God. Pay your taxes and honour the king. Do not unnecessarily antagonize the state and give them grounds to persecute the church. Exercise critical citizenship.

What does God say about the Christian relationship with the State? In light of the uniqueness of the current Zimbabwean political context, what should be a Christian moral response to the State in light of what God says about human authority? Romans 13:1-7 is often quoted and misquoted by Christians and politicians alike. Usually, it’s used to whip Christians into uncritical submission to the State. Sometimes it legitimizes the State when doing wrong by presenting the State as a deputy for God, and sometimes demonizing any dissenting voices. Two problems encountered by the Church concerning the State based on Biblical interpretations and ideological needs: “pro-ruling party” and “anti-ruling party.” These positions often result in partisan churches, partisan prophets and partisan pastors. This passage has exerted pressure on Christian and the State for a long time. Togaresi (2004) and Towner (1999) suggested that this text continues to play an important role in modern discussions of the relationship of the Church to the State. How can this text be used in a useful way to both Christians and the State?

Background

Romans 13:1-7 falls within Romans 12:1-15:13. Rom 1-11, describing what God has achieved for his people in Christ. Rom 12:1-15:13 focuses on Christian living, resulting from what God has done through Christ for his people. Romans 13:1-7 indicates that State authority has been instituted by God for good. Authorities bear the sword to punish wickedness and promote righteousness. They have power and right to command and receive obedience, to exact taxes,

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

GOSPEL REVIEW

THEOLOGICAL DILEMMA: ISSUES OF THE CHURCH WITH ROM 13:1-7

The Christian Obligation to God

However, there are limitations to the civil authority when it is compared with God's. Romans 13: 5 states that the State must not violate the conscience of the believer. The issue of the conscientious objection i.e. refusing to obey wrongful instruction for the sake of one's faith and belief is fundamental.

Acts 5:29 suggests that obedience to God is greater than obedience to human authorities. 1 Peter 2:13-14 says that believers must obey the State for the Lord's sake and liberation in Christ. FF. Bruce pointed out that when Caesar claims divine honours, Christians must say no, because Caesar is going beyond the authority delegated to him by God.

1 Cor 6: 1-4 (ESV) proposes that if Christians have a dispute amongst themselves they should not bring it before the courts of Law. The reason is that the state/courts have no authority over the Church. Be that as it may, when the State fails to promote life for all, especially life for the poor and the powerless, the Church must prophetically speak up. Instead of colluding with the ruling elite against poor and powerless masses, the Church must promote God's justice and righteousness. Prophetic role combines advocacy and advisory roles in order for the Church to be light and salt in the world.

Conclusion

Romans 13:1-7 does not call for blind submission to the State. Instead, it calls Christians towards a critical submission that first acknowledges the God of justice and righteousness. At all times Christian submission to the State is subversive – it's not obedience to the State itself but to God. Where the Church is attentive to the will of God, State authorities are actually at the mercy of Christians who can pray them in and pray them out.



Bibliography

- Banda, C. & Senokoane, B. 2009. *The interplay between the Christian sacralisation of human Authority and political repression in Zimbabwe*. *Religion & Theology*. 16:207-245.
- Bruce, F.F. *Romans*. Leicester: IVP, 1985 (revised edition).
- Hendriksen, W. *Romans 9-16*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1981.
- Monsma, S.V. *Pursuing Justice in a Sinful World*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Murray, J. *The Epistle to the Romans*. London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1967.
- Togarasei, L. 2004, 'Let everyone be subject to governing authorities: the interpretation of New Testament political ethics towards and after Zimbabwe's 2002 presidential Elections'. *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in Southern Africa* 85, p-73.
- Towner, P. H., 'Romans 13:1-7 and Paul's Missiological Perspective: A Call to Political Quietism or Transformation', pp. 149-169 in *Romans and the People of God: Essays in Honour of Gordon G. Fee on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday*. Edited by S.K. Soderlund and N.T.Wright. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1999.

CHURCH & DEVELOPMENT

Ecclesia Today congratulates Rev. Dr. Philemon Munyaradzi Chamburuka who was consecrated as the new Bishop of the Methodist Revival Church (MRC) in Harare on 12 March 2023.



REV . DR P.M CHAMBURUKA WITH HIS WIFE AT THE EVENT



REV . DR P.M CHAMBURUKA WITH HIS FAMILY AT THE EVENT



REV . DR P.M CHAMBURUKA WITH AFM OF ZIMBABWE PRESIDENT COSSUM CHIANGWA AT THE EVENT



REV , COSSUM CHIANGWA OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY

CHURCH & DEVELOPMENT



REV. DR. NHIRA, APOSTOLIC COUNCIL MEMBER AT THE CEREMONY

GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY



REV. DR. P.M. CHAMBURUKA WITH GLORY MINISTRIES FOUNDER AT THE EVENT



THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

SHOULD WOMEN BE LEADERS
IN CHURCH TODAY?



BY DR. KELEBOGILE THOMAS
RESANE IN JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Kebogile Thomas Resane is a Systematic theologian, grounded researcher, writer and pastor who is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The question of whether to accept women into leadership or not has plagued the Church through centuries. Denying their leadership is equated with women abuse, often blamed on patriarchy.

Women abuse is claimed to be an inherent feature of every patriarchal culture. Arguments for and/or against women leadership in the Church revolves around hermeneutics – the science and art of interpretation. Our understanding of the biblical texts is complicated by contextualization, which stresses that biblical interpretation is inevitably shaped by the culture in which interpretation emerges. For ages, Christianity is marked with wrestling with the clash of faith and culture. The specifics may be new, but the battle is as old as the faith. The whole Bible shows tendency of male dominance over women, especially in the area of leadership. Male chauvinism continues to gain climax

by appealing to Paul's texts on women, particularly 1 Corinthians 14:34-36 and 1 Timothy 2:9-15. To interpret Paul's theology of women correctly, one must examine this command in light of the culture and situation of the Church that these epistles were addressing. An interpreter must also look to the context in these two texts to conclude if indeed Paul restricts women from teaching, leading, and speaking in the Church. I know one classical Pentecostal Church in Southern Africa that unjustly read these texts selectively, deliberately omitting these portions, because they are very anti-women taking leadership role in the presence of men. Selective adherence to the texts can easily lead to heresy.

J. Lee Grady, the editor of *Charisma Magazine* speaks of ten lies the Church tells women. I highlight these lies and make my own brief commentary on each of them;

1. God created women as inferior beings, designed to serve their husbands: Those of this view are encouraged to radically abandon a theology of male chauvinism. Christ's and Paul's radical acts of liberating women are clear.
2. Women are not equipped to assume leadership roles in the church. Study Jesus cooperation with women closely (Luke 8:1-3). Why did women also receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 and they are prominent through the church age.
3. Women must not preach or teach to men in a church setting. Strike a balance between Paul's texts and his other references on teaching women, the parental responsibility of family education in the Old Testament; and the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. What about Priscilla and Aquila's role in Paul's life, not to mention Timothy's mother and grandmother's (Eunice and Lois) role in his upbringing
4. A woman should view her husband as 'the priest of the home.' Is Jesus not our one and only priest? How many men can testify of the role of women in interceding for them do you know?
5. A man needs to 'cover' a woman in her ministry activities. Theology of spiritual covering is not biblical. Women as redeemed humans do not need superficial spiritual covering as their redemption is complete in and through Christ. There is no gender hierarchy in the kingdom of God.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

SHOULD WOMEN BE LEADERS IN CHURCH TODAY?



*Ecclesia
Today,*
Inclusive &
Transforming
good news

The ‘Spirit baptism’ in Acts 2 is liberally given to all believers including women, empowering them for the planting and growth of the Church.
Holy Spirit - empowered women are effective church planters,

6. Women who exhibit strong leadership qualities pose a serious danger to the Church. In which way as we read daily of men who had become a danger to the Church through immorality, heresy, and abuse? Men and women have received the same salvation from and by one Saviour. This belief is superstitious and women demeaning.
7. Women are more easily deceived than men. Have you calculated the number of cult or heretic leaders to see how many men or women fall into that category? You will be shocked to learn that it is men who are mostly deceived than women.
8. Women can’t be fulfilled or spiritually effective without a husband and children. The myth of ‘incomplete woman’ is theologically questionable. Women cannot be burdened with the sin of Eve, unless we nullify the power of the cross in the redeemed women’s lives.
9. Women shouldn’t work outside the home. What about the virtuous woman

- of Proverbs 31? Consider Paul’s teaching against laziness and slothfulness.
10. Women must obediently submit to their husbands in all situations. The Christian view of husband-wife relationships is one of equality and mutual respect, not domination, control and humiliation.
- Most people who believe in restricted roles for women do not realize that Paul named several women among his “co-workers in the gospel” along with some male colleagues. Paul praised women like Priscilla (Ac 18:2, 18, 26; Rm16:3; 1Cor 16:19; 2Tm 4:19) and Lydia (Ac 16:11-15) who were leaders in the early church. Paul’s evangelistic ministry was one of partnership with women. Paul discusses at length the “spiritual gifts” given to the church (1Cor 12, Rm 12:6-8 and Eph 4:11). Nowhere does Paul say that certain gifts or callings are for men and others for women. All are given by the Spirit as he (Spirit) wills to build up the church.

missionaries, teachers etc. Some denominations restrict women ministry leadership, yet allow women to serve in any area, except pastoral duties such as sacramental ministrations (baptism, communion, funerals, weddings and the dedication of babies), or presiding over conferences or executive leadership. This is nothing than contradiction.

The bottom line is women like men are created in the image of God. As fully human as men, they are expected to partner with men in leading God’s grand plan of reaching the world i.e. the Church. As humans, they are to partner with God to steer the affairs of the Church and the Universe at large. Women and men partner in world evangelization and discipling believers, administering sacraments, and representing the character of Christ in the hurting world. This privilege, responsibility, and joint mission highlight each one’s unique yet equally significant and indispensable set of roles in the family and in the Church.

Calvary Steel

C S

It is finished


483 Greenfield St
Masvingo

Room 14
Chikozho Complex
Opp: Tshovani Pry
Chiredzi


Tell: 0392 264 707
Cell: 0772 877 087
0774 688 957

Email: calvarysteel@gmail.com


Q- TILES




CONCRETE TILES




IBR CHROMADEK
BULL NOSE




IBR CHROMADEK




ARMA TILES




SAFE TOP NAILS



ANGLE IRON




DEFORMED BARS



*IBR CHROMADEK
*IBR GALVANISED
*IBR CHROMADEK-BULLNOSE


*ROLL TOP RIDGES
*DOOR CAPS
*SAFE TOP SCREWS


*CRANKED RIDGES
*ROOFING NAILS & BOLTS
*VALLEY GUTTERS



Advertise your
Business with
ECCLESIA TODAY

Email through kimion22tc@gmail.com
Call/WhatsApp me @ +263777430283





10 ECCLESIA TODAY

ECCLESIA TODAY

DIGITAL CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE



Social Life

Gospel Review

Promotional Feature

TO ADVERTISE

+263 777 430 283
kimion22tc@gmail.com
Ecclesia Today on Facebook

BOOK NOW

TALKING LEADERSHIP

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
EFZ SECRETARY GENERAL



In attempts to advance integral mission, Ecclesia Today publishes ecumenical and denominational leadership profiles in every edition. This bridges gaps of knowledge between leaders and followers. It also enlightens people to appreciate and support leaders towards advancing the gospel holistically. Let us enjoy excerpts of our interview with the EFZ Secretary General, Reverend Trever Masuku (TM) below;

Reverend Trever Masuku

1. **Let's begin with leadership;**

a. (Some readers may be unaware) When did you get into office as the EFZ GS?

TM – I assumed office on the 1st of April 2022

b. What does leadership mean to you?

TM – In simple terms leadership is the ability to lead a group of people towards a common vision.

c. What does it mean to be the GS of the EFZ?

TM – For me I take it as a privilege and honour to be serving the EFZ in this capacity at such a time as this one. It also means being at the centre of what happens within the EFZ and its various stakeholders.

d. What are the responsibilities of the EFZ GS?

TM – There are quite a number of responsibilities but I probably could sum them up as follows;

- Head of the Secretariat
- Along with the President being the Spokesperson of the EFZ
- Implementing the vision of the organization through various programs

e. What is your (EFZ's) vision for the Church in Zimbabwe?

TM – I would say that as the EFZ we would like the Church to

- Rediscover its identity
- Rediscover its voice

- Refocusing on Mission

f. Any successes you have scored since you came into office?

TM – I believe that it's hard to judge yourself especially as this is subjective. But I do believe that in my time we have been able to build up on the foundation that was laid by my predecessors. The fellowship is also vibrant and the members are engaged.

g. Any challenges that you are facing as the GS?

TM – Like many other organizations we do have our fair share of challenges. The main one being that of locally generated resources to be able to accomplish some of the plans that we have.

h. What do you wish churches (EFZ members) to do towards the accomplishment of EFZ's vision?

TM – I guess that would be linked to the previous answer because I would say it we need our members to partner financially with EFZ so as to accomplish the vision. Having said that I would really like to appreciate our members for the support that they are giving already.

2. **Let's talk about EFZ's integral mission;**

i. What is EFZ doing in advancing the integral mission of the Church?

TM – One of the things that we are doing as an organization is that we are very clear that wherever we have

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

TALKING LEADERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH EFZ SECRETARY GENERAL

programming we also minister the Gospel. We have extensive programs around the nation that are in the following areas;

- Water, sanitation & hygiene
- Improvement of livelihoods (through self help groups, community gardens, animal rearing projects amongst others)

So wherever we do any of these we also preach the gospel and encourage the reading of the Word etc.

ii. What has EFZ succeeded in its integral missionary work?

TM – The EFZ pioneered a model that worked so well that one of our international partners took the concept and they have used it in their African and South American Operations.

iii. What are the challenges that EFZ is facing in its integral mission?

TM – I believe that over the years we have been able to overcome the challenges that were there. Maybe we could say one challenge may be getting more churches to understand the importance of Integral mission

iv. How can churches assist the EFZ towards maximizing its integral mission?

TM – By being open to the concept of Integral mission and encouraging their Pastors to get involved wherever they are.

3. Let's come to your profile Rev;

a. Besides being the EFZ GS, what are your other occupations (or have you held before)?

TM – By training I am an Insurance Practitioner and have over twenty years' experience in that field, including close to ten at management level. I am also the current Chair of the Bible Society of Zimbabwe Board (previously I was Chair of the Finance Committee). I am the treasurer of Zimbabwe Peace Project & a Board Member with ZESN.

b. Have your past professional qualifications, and working experience helped you in executing your current EFZ role? (If yes, How?)

TM – This has really been a great help especially in the sense that my training in the corporate world has prepared me for the current role that I have.

4. Let's talk about your family;

a) (Some readers may be unaware, and would love to know) are you married?

TM – Yes I am married and we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary last September 2022.

b) Does your wife play any role in your leadership?

TM – She plays a very important role as she is my number one supporter and she is also a sounding board for any ideas that I may have. I also know that she prays for me and that is one of the greatest gifts that any husband can have.

c) (Readers would love to know) How many children do you have?

TM – I have 4 children (2 boys & 2 girls)

d) Does having a family affect (positively / negatively) your pastoral ministry and leadership?

TM – I believe that they have a positive effect on me as they keep encouraging



Reverend
Trevor Masuku

me to keep going no matter how tough things get.

5. Let's wind up with your background;

i. When were you born? TM – 22nd February 1972

ii. Where were you born? TM – Mpilo Hospital in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

iii. What is the name of your father? TM – Goliath Masuku

iv. What is the name of your mother? TM – Rev D. Masuku (ordained reverend with UCCSA)

v. What is your totem? TM – Zikode

6. Let's end with two parting shots;

a. Any lesson about leadership and pastoral ministry that you have gained, which you wish to share with readers?

TM – There are so many as I have been a leader and been in ministry for so many years. I would probably say that as a leader never stop learning and secondly never become inaccessible to people.

b. What is it that you deem most important in your life that you wish people to know about you?

TM – I love God and I love my family very much.

TALKING LEADERSHIP

SOME PAINS AND JOYS OF BEING A PASTOR



REV.

KIRION MHAZO, IN
HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Reverend Kirion Mhazo is the former Secretary General of Assemblies of God (AOG BTG) church in Zimbabwe. He is currently pastoring AOG Budiriro Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The ministry of a Pastor is not a walk in the park! My view of ministry now is very different from what I thought when the Lord called me over thirty years ago. Pastoral work has its fair share of challenges, pains and moments of joy. When getting into ministry, one will be having expectations, which may not be met at times. One may be expecting cooperation and support from close people, and sometimes from your leadership. However, that may not be forthcoming. There are days that one find themselves without a message for the congregation, not because of sin or lack of prayer. I have come across Pastors who preach other people's sermons which will have been preached in the past because they are desperate to be relevant. Never allow yourself to be under pressure to preach messages which appeal to minds of people or to perform miracles every day. Wait upon the Lord in prayer. There are valleys and mountains in ministry life. The most painful valley

being the leading of a non-growing church, let alone a declining membership of once a growing church. When facing challenges of this nature, some of us usually withdraw from our acquaintances and live in loneliness. This may be because some of our friends are quick to judge and conclude that spiritual and numerical declines are as a result of the Pastor's failure to execute his duties as a servant of God. This assertion, however, may not be entirely true as circumstances differ from one case to the other. Sometimes God allows some of these challenges to befall us in order to keep us humble and that we should learn to always depend upon him. Deuteronomy 8:2-3, "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD". NKJV God requires our humility while we serve Him. It is important for us as Pastors to be able to tell when God is calling upon to humble ourselves before him and when

some challenges are coming our way as a result of our human errors and short comings in ministry. The apostle Paul during his time encountered a multiplicity of challenges but his comfort came from the knowledge that God was on his side and there was victory for him in Christ Jesus. 2 Corinthians 11:24-33, "Five times from the Jews I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I suffered shipwreck. I have been a night and a day in the deep. I have been in travels often, perils of rivers, perils of robbers, perils from my countrymen, perils from the Gentiles, perils in the city, perils in the wilderness, perils in the sea, perils among false brothers; in labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, and in cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are outside, there is that which presses on me daily, anxiety for all the assemblies. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused to stumble, and I don't burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed forevermore, knows that I don't lie.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

TALKING LEADERSHIP

SOME PAINS AND JOYS OF BEING A PASTOR

In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king guarded the city of the Damascenes desiring to arrest me. Through a window I was let down in a basket by the wall, and escaped his hands”.

The governor under Aretas, the king, put the city of Damascus under curfew so that he could arrest Paul but a window, a basket, a wall and brethren were provided for him by the Lord so that he could escape from the hands of the governor. Imagine what joy filled Paul's heart as he walked away from his supposed captors! We do not endure pain all the time as our God enjoys coming to our rescue when it seems as if all hope is gone. I am reminded of the four Hebrew boys in Babylon Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The Lord shut the hungry lions' mouths and appeared in the fire being the fourth man.

It is my considered view that pastoral work has its own seasons just as we have seasons in the natural, summer, autumn, winter and spring. In some parts of the world however, they only have three seasons. This sometimes happens to our lives as Ministers of the gospel that we endure lengthy uncomfortable seasons than our coworkers. I urge you not to complain, wait upon the Lord because your summer will be coming thereafter.

Isa 40:28-31, *“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint”.*

We must ask the Lord to give us wisdom to use our summers to prepare for our winters and our winters to prepare for our summers. There is no season that remains forever regardless of how much we love and enjoy it or how much discomfort it brings with it.

Proverbs 27:23-27, *“Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds; for riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations. When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field; You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants”.*

The command to be diligent was directed to the shepherds and those that deal in cattle, but it is to be extended to all other callings in the Lord's vineyard.

This command intimates,

- That we ought to have some business to do in this world and not to live in idleness. Studying the word of God and praying always makes a Pastor relevant and productive.
- We ought to rightly and fully understand our calling and know what we have to do in the Master's vineyard,

- and not meddle with other people's callings or that which we do not understand. Stay in your lane!
- We ought to have an eye on our flocks and herds, inspect the state of our flocks and our herds. Knowing the state
- of our flock implies that we should look well after them that none may be lost, no opportunity should slip us. Everything must be done in proper time and order so that we may turn our challenges into advantages.
- Being diligent is to take pains to know the state of one's flocks and herds and not just sit but be up and doing: "Set your heart to your herds and flocks, as one in care; lay your hands on your business.

When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered in:

Hay and tender grass are seasonal. In the summer you lead your flocks and herds to green pastures and this is also the time to gather hay for use in winter. There is an opportunity to be ceased and improved, a time when the hay appears; but if you let it slip, your flocks and your herds will not do well in winter.

Look after your sheep and goats, and your sheep and goats will help look after your material needs; "The lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field; you shall have enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and the nourishment of your maidservants."

Both lambs and goats contribute towards the wellbeing of their shepherd despite their different characteristics. Most of us Pastors enjoy working among the sheep and lambs. It is a different story when it comes to dealing with goats! The characteristics of lambs and goats are found among our congregants! We have lambs and goats type of Christians within our churches. For those of you who looked after these animals, you will agree with me that lambs are easier managed than goats. We should be fathers to all kinds, sorts and characters of our flocks and herds.

"Keep thy sheep, and thy sheep will help to keep thee; thou shalt have food for thy children and servants, goats' milk enough and enough is as good as a feast. Thou shalt have raiment likewise: the lambs' wool shall be for thy clothing. Thou shalt have money to pay thy rent; the goats thou shalt have to sell shall be the price of thy field;" [Matthew Henry's commentary]

Servants of the Most High God, let us remain faithful to our calling, for the pains we endure are for a season and they are not there to destroy us. Yes, it might be your winter now but your summer is coming soon and very soon!

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecclesia Today, Inclusive & Transforming good news; John 10:10, "...The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"

About Us

To serve the Global Mission of the church by effectively equipping the saints for the work of ministry both in the church and Society



PROGRAMS

- ✓ Bachelor of Arts Honours In Theology 4 Year Degree Including 1 Year Internship
- ✓ Post- grad Special Honours 1 Year
- ✓ Women's Ministry 2 Year Certificate (3 terms per year)
- Masters Program Pending.....

Contact Us



Phone

+263 776 380 590



Website

www.tczonline.org



Address

Along Gwanda Road
Riverside, Bulawayo
(Opposite NUST)

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF ZIMBABWE



Enrol Today

Ecclesia Today, Inclusive & Transforming good news

ANNOUNCING TOPAZ TRAINING 2023

The TOPAZ Board of Directors is excited to announce the 2023 arrangements for TWO PROGRAMMES as follows:

1. THE FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

Entry qualifications:

- * A person who can read and write in English
- * Holding (or aspiring to hold) any leadership position in his/her church (like pastors, elders or leaders of various ministries such as women, men or children).

2. THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL STUDIES

Entry qualifications:

- * Holder of TOPAZ Foundation Certificate in Pastoral Ministry
- * Enrolment is limited to the first 25 applicants per year.

The above programmes aim to equip pastoral leaders who include Pastors, Elders, deacons and leaders of various church ministries. Our modules are taught in three blocks (08:00 am - 4:30 pm daily) on the following dates:

THE FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY (3 days per block for first two blocks)

- * 28-30 March
- * 25-27 July
- * 6- 7 Dec

THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL STUDIES (4 days per block)

- * 27 - 30 March
- * 24-27 July
- * 4-7 December

VENUE: Domboshawa Theological College (DTC), 78 Fife Avenue, Harare (Cnr Mazoe Street next to the Russian Embassy)

COST:

Foundation Certificate: usd25 per block x 3 blocks = usd75 per year

Advanced Certificate: usd30 per block x 3 blocks = usd90 per year

NOTE: Fess cover food, training manuals, facilitation and venue costs.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: New applicants must register at least a week before commencement of the first block (as long as places are still available) by sending a text or WhatsApp message to the number 0772220084 stating:

- full name
- Telephone number
- Residential address,
- Church membership
- Highest education level attained
- Name and telephone no. of your pastor or denominational leader.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

NB: Alternatively register by coming to DTC (Office no. 8) during working hours and register in person.

GRADUATION: TOPAZ graduations happen first Friday of February every year (only for those who would have completed their modules)

Please encourage your friends and church members to apply as soon as possible to avoid the disappointment of waiting another year if available places get full.

NB: All applicants are required to obtain the permission of their pastors or denominational leaders.

Kindly pass this message to other interested people.

Usasaririra pakadai.

Please stay safe and be blessed.

Rev Dr R. Musasiwa
TOPAZ BOD CHAIR

Ecclesia Today, Inclusive & Transforming good news; John 10:10, "...The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"



**Advertise your
Business with
ECCLESIA TODAY**

Email through kimion22tc@gmail.com
Call/WhatsApp me @ +263777430283

DISABILITIES & CONDITIONS

DISABILITY DOES
NOT MEAN
INABILITY

... LET'S EMPOWER AND SUSTAIN
OURSELVES AGAINST ODDS OF DISABILITIES

*Esau Makwindi is a History and Religious studies teacher at
Mupandawana
High school in Gutu, Masvingo, Zimbabwe*

BY ESAU MAKWINDI IN MASVINGO,
ZIMBABWE



MR ESAU MAKWINDI

Leviticus 19:14, “You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord” (RSV Online Bible Gateway;n.p)

The society plays a huge role in empowering people who are living with disabilities. This is so because some of the words that we use can break other people, such as the following Shona words; “*akaremara, haafambi, haavoni, haatauri*” which can be translated into English as “lame, he/she cannot walk, he/she cannot see, he/she cannot talk ...”

Having a disability is truly a challenge, but the society, and each of us who is living with disabilities should accept our predicament and progressively think of how we can survive.

Disabilities vary from one person to another. Therefore, we are all in different circumstances. It is from the level or degree of disability that one can strategize self-empowerment.

Talking from experience, before I got formally employed, I thought of different ways of empowering myself to earn a living.

Considering that I am in a wheelchair, there are a number of jobs that I desired, but could not do. A wheelchair presented some limitations. In view of that, I resorted to trading in small and light scale that I manage. I could move around easily and freely from one place to another, selling some stuff and somehow, God gave me some customers who supported my ventures.

Eventually, I went to college, trained and today I am a teacher.

This motivated some people, and may motivate others in my predicament today. My example is one of many which confirm that we can do something regardless of our disabilities. I strongly believe that every person living with a disability can find something to do for self – empowerment and sustenance.

Nobody can do everything. Thus, with our different abilities, each one of us can, and must do something for self-empowerment and sustainability.

*Ecclesia Today, Inclusive &
Transforming good news*



- :Maintenance/Variations**
- :Protection/Peace Orders**
- :Debt Collection**
- :Accident adultery damages**
- :Labour cases**
- :Breach of Contract**
- :Property Disputes**
- :Justice and Divorce**
- :Unlawful arrest**
- :Unjust Imprisonment**
- :Protection against double sale of Property**
- :Drafting of agreements**
- :unlimited legal advice**
- :Legal representation in any case requiring the services of lawyer**
- :Will writing**

Get Your Legal Aid Cover Today

contact us at 14 GREENFIELD MASVINGO

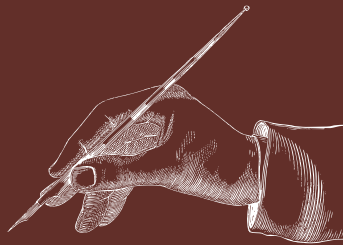
Tell Number +263392262312

WHATSAPP +263773142700

+263773133608

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

NOT JUST A SECOND CHANCE



BY BONGANI DUBE IN HARARE,
ZIMBABWE

In mail from the dark
Comes an order for my soul
Served on a silver platter
My soul falls for it
Like a sheep down to the slaughter house,
It gives in
In mail from the devil
Before the judge
My case is presented
Death by hanging
The judge declares
My soul gives in!
So meekly, it submits!
In mail from light
Comes offers of life!
Against all odds
Everything glitters like gold!
Tragedies turn to testimonies!
In mail from Christ
Comes some ineffable force
Pulling me off rubbles of life!
From death to life,
Off chains to mind-boggling testaments!
Fresh lease of life!
Grace for destiny
My past is erased
My present recreated
My future is promising
Not just a second chance!
Up for countless chances!



Bongani Dube is a Christian mother, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist in the Health sector who loves poetic reflections of life.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE



BY BONGANI DUBE IN HARARE,
ZIMBABWE

MY LITTLE GIRL'S ADVENTURE BOOK

A little girl full of hope
With big dreams of the future
All paths presumed and set straight
All vows sacred and sealed within the heart
A little girl in rags and cracked heels
A little girl with nothing on her feet and in her stomach
Full of hunger and thirst for the things unseen and seen

The little girl dreaming of adventures ahead
She said she will finish her school
Clad in tatters, she vowed to wear the Cinderella
slippers and wedding gown
She vowed to present herself to her master untouched
She dreamt of babies
She dreamt of love and planned trips
She dreamt of snow, that at least she could just touch it
once

My little girl placed on an unfair battle-field
Armed with a slingshot
When her opponents held AK47
But her heart roars like a tiger within her
Pumping full force of a desire to win
The pebble that shudders released from her slingshot
Pushes into the forehead of her opponent
She has to win, she has no choice but to win

See my little big girl now
She lost along the way
Some of her vows broken
Some of her dreams shattered
But she held her head high
She refused to die
Grass grew in her straight paths until they were
crooked
Darkness and clouds shadowed her beautiful planned
sunny days

My little big girl
The adventures of her life
Some never imagined
She met with the devil in person and she fought him
She met with destiny thieves and she fought them
She had babies bigger than the dolls she had imagined
She fought all odds for them
My little big girl still dreams of snow, just so she can
touch it once

That's my little big girl
And her adventurous life!

Ecclesia TODAY

**DIGITAL
CHRISTIAN
MAGAZINE**

TO ADVERTISE

+263 777 430 283
kimion22tc@gmail.com
Ecclesia Today on
Facebook

VOL. 8



Ecclesia Today, Inclusive & Transforming
good news; John 10:10, "...The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy; I came
that they may have life, and have it
abundantly"