



**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFM INTERNATIONAL, PASTOR FRANK CHIKANE, AT
THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFM HELD AT THE AFM CENTURION, GAUTENG**

25 May 2018

“FORWARD - THE GOING GOSPEL”

The **President of the AFM of South Africa** and the Secretary General of the AFM International, Pastor George Mahlobo;

The **National Office Bearers**, Dr Japie Lapoorta, Dr H Weideman, and Pastor B Petersen;

Dr Isak Burger, former President of the AFM of South Africa;

Members of the **NLF, Pastors**, Brothers and Sister, Ladies and Gentlemen:

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AFM ON ITS 110TH ANNIVERSARY

- Not many churches have had the **privilege** of celebrating 110th Anniversary, especially Pentecostal and Charismatic churches globally.
- As you may know, the AFM is one of the **oldest Pentecostal church** born out of the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California, USA – any older Pentecostal church cannot be two years older than the AFM!
- I **congratulate** you on your 110th Anniversary on behalf of the rest of the AFM International which has a presence in about 35 countries found in the 6 continents of the world.
- I must say that **notwithstanding** the moment when the church “conformed to the pattern of this world” of apartheid and racial divisions (as Paul said in Romans 12:2) I **am proud of this Church** and pleased I was born here!

THE GROWTH OF THE AFM GLOBALLY

- **Birth of the AFM** – Born out of the power of the Holy Spirit (Revival led by the Spirit)
- **Growth of the AFM: *The Acts Way*** (1st Wave): Ordinary converts (Diamonds and Gold rush/Miners from neighbouring States/etc.) becoming witness to what they had experienced (Acts 1:8); ***Organised missions*** (2nd Wave) covering the Southern African region, Kenya (East Africa), Russia, and Nigeria (West Africa); ***Decentralised forms of mission*** (3rd Wave): Individual congregations/Hubs/Lone missionaries/etc. (Belgium, Brazil, Portugal, Mauritius, Russia, India, Pakistan, Fiji, etc.); ***The Zimbabwe model*** (4th Wave): Political and economic crisis leading to migration to other parts of the world – wherever they found themselves they planted the AFM (UK, Ireland, USA, Australia, United Arab Emirates, etc.); ***Discipling the World (on our doorsteps) in South Africa and sending them back to countries where they came from*** (5th Wave): Ethiopia, Eritrea, etc.



UNITY OF THE AFM IN SOUTH AFRICA; 1996

Opened the door for the **development, growth** and **expansion** of ‘mission’ churches, **outreach** to challenging areas, and the **development of the international fellowship of AFM** churches internationally, that is the AFM International.

Need a student to do a **study** on **how conforming to the patterns of the world slowed down the growth** of the AFM on the continent and beyond. We also need to study the positive and negative aspects of **missionary endeavours** during that time.

CURRENT STRATEGIC FOCUS

- Helping to **develop (move) member churches to meet the Henry Venn’s and Rufus Anderson’s “three-self” formula** for indigenous churches (Self-propagating; self-supporting/Self-sustaining and Self-Governing); and ensure that they **develop succession strategies** for growth into the future.
- Pursue **‘reverse mission’** strategies to post Christians countries;
- **Focus on the DRC to reach French speaking Africa;**
- **Focus on Pakistan to reach the Middle East**

DEVELOPING MATURED PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE AFM

Linking up the most **needy** churches with those that are **better endowed**.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER SISTER CHURCHES TO EXTEND THE KINGDOM

We have signed agreements with the following sister churches to cooperate in our work and mission throughout the world where each one of us have a presence:

- (1) 30th Communauté Pentecotiste au Congo (CPCO); and
- (2) The Church of Pentecost (COP).

Those on the pipeline are:

- (1) Ministerio Baptista Cristo e a Vida (Brazil)
- (2) United Church in Brazil; and
- (3) The United Apostolic Faith Church (RSA).

CONCLUSION

I doubt that Thomas Hezmalhalch and John G Lake and their party ever thought that what they had planted would be what it is today. The lesson we must learn is that **small things** (or what we consider as insignificant) – like the mustard seed - **can lead to great things!** I hope that all AFM members can be like Hezmalhalch and Lake and act as missional agents to reach the unreached and the post Christians of the world.