

THE EVANGELICAL VOICE

The Newsletter of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe



#PrayRegisterVote Campaign



On Friday the 16th of February 2018, Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) launched its #PrayRegisterVote Campaign in Harare. The Campaign is an initiative that essentially seeks to encourage Christians to be part of the election process by engaging at the very least in 3 specific actions which are; praying, registering and voting.

Objectives

- ① To compliment the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) in mobilizing and empowering the evangelicals and Pentecostals to actively participate in the 2018 harmonized electoral processes,
- ② To create a platform for networking electoral stakeholders and the clergy for sharing electoral related information,
- ③ To push for all stakeholders to collaborate towards ensuring 2018 harmonized elections are credible, free, fair and peaceful

This is part of the broad effort by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCDD) goal of preventing the risk of a violently contested election, as part of the Journey of Rebuilding Hope, Confidence and Stability towards the Zimbabwe We Want.

The concern

Our research revealed that many Christians, evangelicals in particular, shun civic and political engagements for various reasons including:

- a theology of disengagement "we are in the world but not of the world",
- the tag that politics is dirty,
- we simply pray as God ordains leaders,
- levels of violence,
- perceived inherent unfairness in the process resulting in perception of predetermined outcomes among other reasons.

We believe that if Christians actively pursue their faith and its full expression, becoming the salt and light they are, society will be different, our elections will be different, owing to the values that Christianity teaches. Faith without works is dead. It is critical to understand that while God establishes the system of authority, it is us people, through whom He works, hence we are saying lets pray but also in faith go out and be registered

In this edition...

#PrayRegisterVote	1
Easter the Great Love Story	4
International Womens Day	4
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in Zimbabwe	5
CCMP	6
Upcoming Events	8

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. This is digest of news and stories from the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe. Be prepared to be informed, inspired and encouraged.

The Vision of EFZ is "A Fellowship of Evangelicals fulfilling the Great Commission to impact the nation in all aspects of life" and the Mission Statement is "To mobilize, empower and network evangelicals for the accomplishment of the Great Commission in Zimbabwe".

EFZ has six core values, which guide the behavior and conduct of the fellowship. These are Christ-Centeredness, Love, Faithful Stewardship, Respect and Integrity, Excellence and Relationships.

Contact Us
Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe
2 Maitland Avenue,
Arcadia, Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel : +263 4 772 234/5
Mobile : +263 774 136 567
Email : efz@africaonline.co.zw
Web : www.efzimbabwe.org

[facebook.com/efzim/](https://www.facebook.com/efzim/)
[@EFZZIMBABWE](https://twitter.com/EFZZIMBABWE)

as voters and come voting, we all exercise our right to choose leaders and even to be chosen to become Councilors, Parliamentarians, Senators and the President.

Context for the #PrayRegisterVote Campaign

Indeed, there is a time for everything under the sun. We are in the season of leadership renewal through elections. The time we are in is one characterized by calls for eligible voters to come out and be registered under the Biometric Voter Registration Process being administered by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Moreover, we are informed that 5 310 734 people have been registered representing 73.5% of total eligible voters.

While this may represent a huge achievement, the actual work begins, that of ensuring that these millions actually turn out to vote when the time comes. In the previous election, slightly over 49% of registered voters actually participated (especially considering the total presidential votes cast). That is why this campaign #PrayRegisterVote is crucial.

Value of Elections

While it is noted that elections can be very divisive, can be manipulated it stills remains true that they determine our future. They remain the legitimate process of power takeover or forming government.

- Leaders become leaders through elections - If you choose not to vote, others will vote for you
- Elected leaders make laws and policies that affect us/you, be part of the conversation on policy - They have authority over your daily living
- Elected leaders are there to represent our/your needs and protect your rights
- Voting affirms individual equality as each man has one vote

With this in mind, the EFZ has been working with and through local churches to conduct civic education, theological reflections, establishing information kiosks and facilitating that eligible voters acquire necessarily proof of registration to enhance their participation.

#Pray

Guided by 2 Chronicles 7:14 which reads,

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will heal their land

And 1 Timothy 2:1-3 which reads,

I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and

giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all who are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.

It becomes clear that as Christians, we must Pray for our elections. We will be praying for the following;

- For peace, healing and restoration
- For honesty and integrity in the process and those administering them
- For godly righteous leaders to emerge and shepherd the nation as servants and stewards, holding authority in-trust of Jehovah God



#Register

While it is not mandatory for anyone to be registered and actually vote, as the EFZ, knowing that voting is,

- Our patriotic duty, we urge all eligible voters to uphold it
- Our civic responsibility, we urge all eligible voters to be faithful to duty
- Our godly response, we urge all eligible voters to be nation builders
- Our constitutional right, we urge all eligible voters to use it to protect it
- Our voice, we urge all eligible voters to be audible enough and be heard
- Our power to elect leaders, we urge all eligible voters to exercise this power wisely
- Is your secret, we urge all eligible voters to vote freely
- A BIG Decision, we urge all eligible voters to ENJOY it



Evangelical Fellowship
Of Zimbabwe



**IF MY
PEOPLE**

HUMBLE, PRAY, SEEK & TURN

"I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND"

2 Chronicles 7:14

#PrayRegisterVote

**Pray
Register
Vote**



follow us On:   

**"the Journey towards the
Zimbabwe we want"**

Vote 2018

This campaign remains relevant knowing that registration is still open and ongoing in the 10 provinces and 63 districts manned by ZEC till 12 days after nomination court begins seating.

#Vote

All efforts of this campaign must yield in better turn out during voting season. We are mindful that one does not simply wake up voting; there are campaigns and canvassing of popular vote that precedes. It is important for believers to follow the debates, the manifestos, the discussions and expressions of intent by those aspiring to lead us politically.

As the EFZ, recognizing that voting is a secret, our faith teaches us that we must consider people into leadership who are willing to be a SERVANT, a STEWARD and a SHEPHERD of Gods people.

This campaign shall join all other stakeholders and groups to ensure that the political and social environment is conducive for such free expression. We shall deploy monitors and election observers throughout the process.

Summation

The Church is God's instrument and agent for the outliving and expression of His Kingdom, marked with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. As the salt of Zimbabwe, we are to HEAL and PRESERVE that which is good. As the light of Zimbabwe, that cannot be hid, we are to INSPIRE and LEAD the nation towards godliness and be well pleasing to God our Maker.

Next steps includes working with the champions and church leaders in

- Civic Education and Mobilization
- Lobbying for critical reforms
- Dialogue and Engagement with stakeholders
- Monitoring the electoral environment
- Prayers and intercessions
- Observation of elections
- Engagement and Advocacy (post election)

It is time to be counted! It is time to break the four walls of the church building, going into the country, preaching the gospel of love, peace, healing and righteousness while teaching the nation the ways that leads to RESTORATION, REVIVAL and Prosperity-the ways of the Lord.



BIBLICAL TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE SEMINAR (BTLGS) FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Starting Time:

8:30am

Dates:

23 - 25 April 2018

Venue:

ALMA

Programme
Facilitators:



Dr. Dwight Mutonono



Dr. Laura Maleya Mautsa



Hon. Dr. O. Muchena

BACKGROUND

Biblical Transforming Leadership and Governance Seminars are designed to spearhead the positive transformation of African society through infusing good morals, values and ethics into African Leadership Practice. **Part A** is three days and **Part B** is three days and these seminars are designed with practical transformational interventions as an outcome of each. This Professional Seminar series is designed for leaders in government, business, education and the church.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED: Part A

- **Character** - Pursuing personal and public integrity
- **Calling** - Clarifying and committing to life calling
- **Competence** - Acquiring new knowledge, attitudes and skills needed for leading change
- **Community Building** - Building - Building a community of like-minded change leaders
- **Creative Leadership** - Designing best creative course of action towards best creative vision
- **Capacity Building** - Increasingly building resources and infrastructure needed for leading change



BANKING DETAILS:

Stanbic Bank - Minerva Branch
Account Name - ALMA
Bank Account - 9140001779175
Ecocash - Merchant Code Number 61309

INVESTMENT:

\$60 per delegate covering training materials,
Certificate of Participation & Refreshments

FOR REGISTRATION CONTACT THE EFZ OFFICES:

2 Maitland Avenue, Acadia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Contact Person: Clara Chiseko
Tel: +263 4 772234 **Cell:** +263 772 340 578 **Website:** www.efzimbabwe.org

CONTACT US: Africa Leadership and Management Academy (ALMA) • 33 Marlborough Drive, Marlborough, Harare
Email: Martha.Mutonono@transformingleadership.com • **Tel:** 08677 174237 • **Cell:** +263 772 239 537 • **Website:** transformingleadership.com

Building Leaders of Integrity



Easter, the Great Love Story

So yes, what have you planned for this year's Easter holidays? It's 4 days indeed and lots can happen in that time. Well, before you make concrete plans, let me share with you the spiritual meaning with earthly impact of Easter. It is a time of love, great love. It is a time to show love and a time to feel loved!

Key verse:

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends". - John 15:13

Jesus was speaking to His disciples, the ones He now called friends. He had loved them that's why He chose them, that's why He allowed them to be part of His life and Him being a part of theirs. He had loved them even to tell them of their Father, not the earthly one but the Heavenly One, their Creator and Maker. He had loved them that He left Heaven for Earth for their sake and that He was prepared to even die for them, that they might live and live longer.

But what had they done to deserve this kind of love? The answer can shock us all, NOTHING, they had done absolutely NOTHING!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you..." - John 15:16

Having loved His friends to the point of pouring out or laying down His life, He had ONLY ONE REQUEST to them - *"...love one another as I have loved you"* - John 15:12.

My sisters and brothers, this season of Easter is a Season of Love. There is no greater law than the Law of Love.

Whom should we love you may ask? Again, the scriptures give answers in Mark 12:29-31.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
Love the Lord your God with all your soul,
Love the Lord your God with all your strength,
Love your neighbor as yourself.

Parts of those consisting our neighbors are,
Those you/I/we regard as enemies,
Those who curse you/me/us,
Those who hate you/me/us,
Those who spitefully uses you/me/us,
Those who persecute you/me/us (Matthew 5:44).

Yes, Easter reminds us to love them as we love ourselves and as we love the Father God. May the Good Lord grant us the grace and the desire, to love Him more with our All and to love them (our neighbors) even better for the scripture says we can't say we love the Lord whom we have not seen yet hate the brother/sister we see daily. Love is the force that binds evil and wickedness.

When we love the Lord our God and love our neighbors, Jesus declares, "You are not far from the kingdom of God". Such knowledge makes one closer but such practice makes one a citizen of the Kingdom of God. For the Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

We may have differing political inclinations, ideologies, preferences and associations, We may have differing denominations, doctrines and practices,

We may come from different regions or provinces or cities, towns, districts and villages, We may be of different skin, creed, tribe or linguistic

YET,
We remain ONE people, ONE nation, and ONE country under God, the Maker and Judge of US ALL.

God loves you, God loves me, and God loves us. May we love one another as this season is about love. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have an everlasting life.

Blessed Easter to you all!
May God bless Zimbabwe!

Amen!

Pastor Blessing Makwara
General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe
Executive Secretary of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations



International Women's Day

8 March has been declared as a day for commemorating the International Women's Day, and the United Nation has since 1975 observed this day every year. This year's theme is #PressForProgress!

One of the key tenants for acquiring progress towards sustainable development is to appreciate the role of women in society and its critical spheres such as the Church, community and work places. As commonly accepted, International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around and it gives us an opportunity to remember the importance of acknowledging that women's rights needs to be recognized and implemented, not just internationally but more particularly locally. It also gives us an opportunity to recognize women's achievements at large. The growing international women's movement, has been strengthened by key global United Nations women's conferences, which has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to building support for women's rights and participation in the social, political and economic arenas.

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" focusses on Gender equality and women's empowerment. This has advanced in recent decades according to the UN 2017 SDG report. Progress in enrolment at all education levels has been observed, yet wide gender disparities exist in some regions and countries at higher education levels, and Zimbabwe is no exception. Maternal mortality has declined and skilled care during delivery has increased. Progress has been made in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Childbearing among adolescents has decreased. However, as the UN report shows, gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities.

Zimbabwe is to be applauded for outlawing Child marriages in 2016, but more action needs to be done to actualize this great stride, and the Church has a critical role to play in this regard.



Dr Shingi Munyeza
President of EFZ



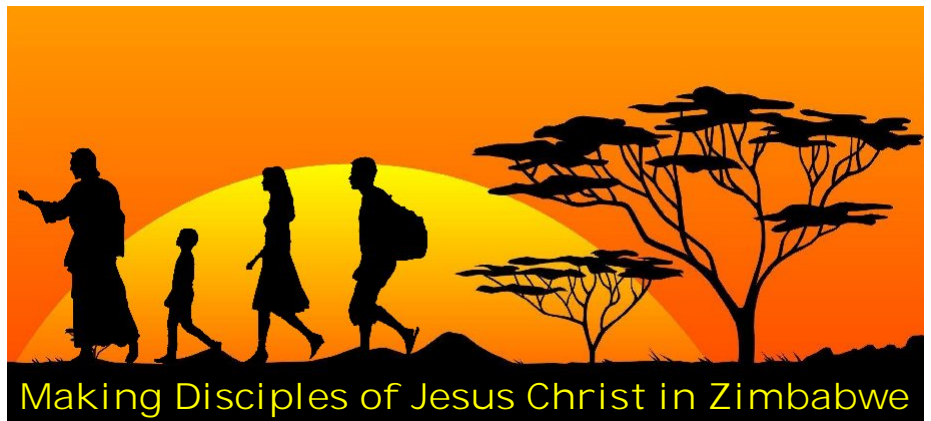
Pastor Blessing Makwara
General Secretary of EFZ

As we celebrate our Mothers and the Girl Child this year, the Church is reminded and encouraged to:

- Live her calling as the Salt of the earth and Light of the world in matters of promoting gender equality and women empowerment in all spheres, beginning particularly within Church structures (Matthew 5:13-16)
- Play a leading role in promoting the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment through Godly advocacy which upholds sound biblical principles which recognize the importance of all humanity. "But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6)
- Continue to reflect and press for a Theology and Worldview which promotes progress and development through equal opportunities and participation of all humanity irrespective of gender prescribed roles. Women were never created as substandard. "God saw all that he had made, and it was good..." (Genesis 1:31)
- Lastly, the Church should celebrate and applaud the women in leadership positions in the Church, Nation, Business, Work place and also celebrate the critical roles that women play in the home.

To all women, as we commemorate International Women's day:

EFZ recognizes and cherishes your importance, commitment and dedication to God's holistic and transformational agenda. Apart from pursuing your spiritual path, arise and press for progress in all areas of wellness! This is an act of determination, focus and intentional participation in all spheres of life, political, economic, social, technological, legal and otherwise! **"Arise...AriseDeborah..."** (Judges 5:12)



At the last Annual General Meeting in November 2017, a theme was launched which will run from 2018 and beyond. It is a call to all member bodies to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ in Zimbabwe".

The Fellowship's vision is to fulfil the Great Commission to impact the nation in all aspects of life and this is done through mobilizing, empowering and networking evangelicals for the accomplishment of the Great Commission. It must therefore be emphasized that the sole purpose of the Church is to see souls being saved and the kingdom of God being advanced. In order to do so, the Church should have a strong emphasis of discipleship which empowers every believer to occupy all spheres of society so that we can be true to Matthew 28:18-20.

ONE important thing to remember is – We are not called to make CONVERTS BUT DISCIPLES

CONVERTS VS DISCIPLES

1. Converts are believers who live like the world. Disciples are believers who live like Jesus.
2. Converts are focused on their values, interests, worries, fears, priorities, and lifestyles. Disciples are focused on Jesus.
3. Converts go to church. Disciples are the church.
4. Converts are involved in the mission of Jesus. Disciples are committed to it.
5. Converts cheer from the sidelines. Disciples are in the game.
6. Converts hear the word of God. Disciples live it.
7. Converts follow the rules. Disciples follow Jesus.
8. Converts are all about believing. Disciples are all about being.
9. Converts are comfortable. Disciples make sacrifices.
10. Converts talk. Disciples make more disciples.

Retrieved from: <http://relevantmagazine.com>



Did you know the following about Cancer?

1. Cancer can be prevented
2. Cancer can often be cured if diagnosed early
3. Early detection and treatment saves life
4. Globally, More people die from cancer than TB, HIV & Malaria combined
5. Majority of the cancers in developing countries are infection related (HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B & C)
6. Most common cancer in male is prostate
7. Most common cancers in female are cervix and breast
8. Reasons for cancer increase in Zimbabwe are adoption of westernised diets; HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases

Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP)



The Lausanne Conference of 1974 noted that a huge gap existed between the Evangelical Church and the mainline protestant Church globally. There were two extremes that dichotomized the gospel and these needed to be reconciled.

The Evangelical Church majored on spiritual side of evangelism that is, preaching, praying, exorcizing evil spirits and anointing the sick with oil telling people that God needed them in heaven while on the other end the mainline orthodox focused on social action i.e. they built mission schools, hospitals, universities, colleges and participated in humanitarian aid initiatives like politics, governance issues, promotion of peace and justice. Since then, leaders began to reflect more and more on the sufficiency of the gospel of Jesus Christ. His gospel addressed the spiritual and physical need of humanity. He demonstrated extensively that God cared for the natural and physical needs and well being of humanity as much as He did for the spiritual needs and the well being of mankind. Out of the Lausanne Convention came out the Lausanne movement which is largely the proponent of Holistic- Integral Mission. The 2010 episode of the movement which was attended by approximately 4000 Church leaders in Cape Town, South Africa concluded with a new commitment for; "The Whole Church, Preaching the whole gospel to the whole world," and thus the global church was charged to expend its energies in Integral Mission.

From 2012, EFZ started implementing the Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP), which is a bible-based participatory tool that helps the Church operationalise Integral Mission. CCMP seeks to empower people to holistically transform their situation using locally available resources. The process encourage maximization of community's potential and fight against dependence syndrome as it strongly advocates for the use of indigenous resources for sustainable transformation.

The process recognize the local church as God's agent for transformation thus it starts with the empowerment of the local church to understand and outwork her Integral (spiritual and physical) mandate for her immediate community. Through a series of community meetings people come to discuss about their community, gather information, analyze and make informed decisions for a change. Through CCMP the community is capacitated to better understand her situation and take charge of her own development and improve her living standards holistically instead of waiting for external assistance.

Since the inception of CCMP in EFZ, implementation of the process has been through 30 communities with 30 main facilitators (the majority being church leaders). Through the process, Church and Community have been capacitated with skills on facilitating Church and Community Empowerment, strengthening community systems, disaster preparedness and mitigation as well as social accountability. Some of the notable transformation observed include:

- a) Improved self confidence-perceiving oneself as made in the image of God
- b) Establishment of new assemblies in new communities where the church is under represented
- c) Unity and love among various denominations in the community
- d) Provision of social services by church and community such as building of infrastructure such as schools, waiting mothers shelters, provision of piped water and establishment of roads
- e) Improved household income and food security
- f) Improved access to services provided by government and other service providers like civil society

These are some of the testimonials we got from members implementing CCMP.

...Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP)



One of the new classroom blocks built at the new site

Testimonial 1

For 20 years, the Irisvale community has been bickering over the site of a new school. Consequently over 140 students each year were learning in a structure that was a former horse stable which is poorly lit and ventilated. Because of the environment the school used to be shunned by the qualified teachers and sadly the community cannot count even a handful of students who attended the school and passed with good grades. With the advent of CCMP, the Church engaged the community and together mobilised local resources (financial, material and human) and constructed two new classroom blocks and a toilet at a new site. One teacher at the school testified that "The Church has demonstrated leadership by partnering the community in building the school. The new school has salvaged our dignity and we now call ourselves Irisvale Secondary school teachers with pride."

Testimonial 2

"Ever since I was born again I become concerned with developing my spiritual life but never bothered about physical development in my life" stated Mrs Mukoka. She fervently believed that a Christian should be a spiritual person since Christianity is all about going to heaven. CCMP helped her understand that as Christian, one should lead a holistic life where both physical and spiritual aspects flourish. "As a family empowered through CCMP we realised we can have dominion over diseases and for the first time we have built a toilet at our home in a bid to avert some sanitation related diseases like typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea among others" she stated.



The toilet built at the Mukoka home

Conclusion

CCMP is proving to be a potent tool that can help the church outwork her salt and light mandate. Through CCMP the church and community can together walk the journey towards sustainable development.



The Alpha course is a 15-session practical introduction to the Christian faith. It gives everyone an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed environment. It is a tool designed for all churches and organizations to disciple and evangelize believers.

Typical Alpha session includes:

- Time for fellowship.
- Time of Talk
- Time for small group discussions

Alpha Products

1. Alpha for KIDZ (KIDZ ABC)
2. Youth Alpha
3. Standard Alpha
4. Alpha for Catholics
5. Alpha @ Workplace
6. Prison Alpha
7. Alpha for Forces (Police and Army)
8. Senior Alpha

Topics covered on Alpha are:

1. Is there more to life than this?
2. Who is Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus die?
4. How can we have faith?
5. Why and how do I pray?
6. Why and how should I read the Bible?
7. How does God guide us?
8. Who is the Holy Spirit?
9. What does the Holy Spirit do?
10. How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
11. How can I resist evil?
12. Why and how should I tell others?
13. Does God heal today?
14. What about the church?
15. How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Family Life Courses

1. Marriage Preparation Courses
2. Marriage Course
3. Parenting 0- 10 years
4. Parenting 11-18 years



Follow up Courses

1. A life worth Living
2. Challenging Lifestyle
3. God @ Work
4. Searching Issues
5. Caring for Ex- Offenders

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Office 04-772234-5 | Tonderai - 0773 080 940 | Farai - 0776 385 436
Gilbert - 0773 506 937 | Sharon - 0772 860 477
www.alpha.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Biblical Transforming Leadership & Governance Seminar for Women in Leadership

Dates: 23 to 25 April 2018

Venue: ALMA, 33 Marlborough Drive, Marlborough, Harare

Investment: \$60 per delegate (covering training materials, certificate and lunch)

Thinking Theology Seminar

Dates: 8 to 11 May 2018

Venue: ZESA Training Centre

Investment: \$30 per delegate

National Day of Prayer

Date: 25 May 2018

Venue: Harare - TBA

Stadium Worship

Date: 26 May 2018

Venue: Glamis Arena

Heads of Denominations Meeting

Date: 20 June 2018

Venue: Harare - TBA