

Border Baptist Association Report 2021

BBA is situated in the former Ciskei and Transkei areas in the Eastern Cape with five sub-regions. Most of our churches are in the rural areas and about 85% of them are black churches. As a result, the high rate of unemployment and poverty is the major challenge that affects our churches and pastors especially during this period of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Executive

Rev S Gumenge – President, Rev VB Tukuta – Interim Admin, Rev D Shezi – Ex-President, Mr. S Landu – Treasure, Rev O Abdul – Consultant, Rev T Dunge – Consultant. Additional members – Rev R Ihlenfeldt, Rev M Ntozini, Rev M Mngcozelo. Mr. Yapi – Man's Dept, Mrs. Gumenge – Women's Dept, Miss Bata – Youth Dept, and Mrs. Charlie – Children's Ministry.

Challenges

The most serious challenge that affected our churches is the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic which stretched from last year to date. The untimely passing on of our pastors and church members for instance, Rev KK Mgolombane, evangelist Mr. M Fulumeni, Mr. Hessel, the two ministers' widows, Mrs. Booï Beula and Mrs. Jongilanga Mabel. This have affected us both spiritually and emotionally. Also, the series of restriction levels announced by government retarded the functioning of the church in so many ways, such as the inability to hold BBA AGM, church and association activities and the giving was affected.

Achievements

Although we have experienced miseries, there are some achievements we celebrate:

We have managed to support financially the pastors who were in dire need, in partnership with Baptist Union, plus minus 15 of our pastors benefited.

The association have initiated the program to place pastors in churches with none, and further give them monthly stipend to keep them going. The BBA assists as it forms partnership with involved churches on fifty-fifty basis. The main aim and objective of this program is to on the one hand, place pastors with no churches while on the other cater for churches with no pastors to be attend to.

We have a church plant that is being planted by one of our senior pastor in East London area, as an association we are busy gather a support for this church plant.

Lastly, in our special members meeting the churches have unanimously agreed that the AGM must be held on the first week of November during which elections will take place, adoption of the new constitution as well as new structure.

What we have learn

In the mist of the contemporary challenges such as Covid-19, financial constrains and inability to gather we have managed to witness the Love of God.

