

Apostolic Faith Church
66 Muscliffe Road,
Winton,
Bournemouth,
Dorset
BH9 1NW



Showers of Blessing

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Important Announcement Concerning the Church in ESwatini

The Apostolic Faith Church worldwide and all the faithful members of this One Body in the Unity of Faith through Christ Jesus are being informed that the Country Overseer for the AFC for ESwatini, formerly known as Swaziland, Rev. Ephraim J Bhembe has since been dismissed from office and from the Apostolic Faith Church effective 16th August 2024, on account of the spirit of rebellion that has overtaken him even after receiving counsel and an opportunity to reverse his stand on these matters. He undermined the leadership and authority of the Regional Overseer Rev. Hercules M. Khumalo and that of the high office of International Chief Overseer, and chose to pursue a path of insubordination and division through the deceptive schemes of the dismissed former National Overseer.

The Regional Overseer - South of Limpopo Rev. MH Khumalo has since appointed Rev TZ Dlamini as Acting Country Overseer until further notice. All must consider this as official notification and serve accordingly as the Lord blesses his work. The Work of the Lord through the Gospel of the Cross of Calvary under the Apostolic Faith Church with its International Headquarters rooted at Bournemouth shall continue going forward and growing in the name of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul declares in Romans 1:15-17 "That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written: "The just shall live by faith."

Revelation of the Word: Understanding the Mysteries of the Body of Christ:- Whom Shall I Send: Serving in the House of God

In the Christian faith, leadership is not merely about authority or position or indeed any personal or self-seeking agenda; it is all about service to God and His people in the Household of Faith. When God calls, He seeks those who are willing to serve and have their hearts in the right place for sacrificial service, and not who wish to acquire prominent positions for selfish ends. The call to leadership in the house of God is a sacred invitation to embody humility, selflessness, and a deep commitment to the well-being, growth and unity of the Body of Christ. This is a fundamental leadership principal rooted in the question God posed in the book of Isaiah 6:8, and He poses the same question to us today: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah's response, "Here am I; send me," exemplifies the heart of a true servant leader – one who is ready to respond to God's call, no matter the cost.

The Call to Serve

Isaiah's response to God's call was immediate and wholehearted. He didn't ask for details, assurances, or accolades or what was in it for him before making a commitment. He simply said,

“Here am I; send me.” This response reflects a deep understanding that leadership in God’s house is not about personal gain but about answering the divine call with a willing heart. In the New Testament, Jesus reinforces this idea when He teaches His disciples, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28, NIV).

Leadership in the church is therefore a commitment to service, often requiring personal sacrifice. It is about placing the needs of the House of God above one’s own and working tirelessly for the growth and edification of the Body of Christ. When God asks, “Whom shall I send?” He is looking for those who are willing to lead by example, to serve others with humility, and to lay down their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

The Heart of a Servant Leader

A servant leader in the House of God understands that true leadership is grounded in humility. Jesus, our ultimate example of leadership, demonstrated this through His life and ministry. In Philippians 2:5-7 (ESV), Paul writes, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men”.

For those called to leadership in the Church, this means adopting the same mindset – one that prioritizes the well-being of others over personal ambition. A servant leader listens, supports, and empowers others, recognizing that their role is to shepherd the flock, not to dominate it. The Apostle Peter admonishes, “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve” (1 Peter 5:2, NIV).

This passage highlights the importance of willingness and eagerness to serve, which should characterise every leader in the House of God. Leadership is not about compulsion or obligation, but about a genuine calling and desire to serve God’s people. It is not a personal entitlement that should be demanded or claimed, but a privilege to serve willingly according to the assignment and guidance dictated by the Word of God and the Church governance ordinances, subject to set Order and higher authority.

The Reward of Service

While the call to serve in the House of God may require sacrifice, it also comes with great reward. Jesus assures us that those who serve faithfully will be honored by the Father. In John 12:26, Jesus says, “If anyone serves me, let him follow me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, My Father will honour him.”

Those who serve well will find that their leadership bears fruit in the lives of others. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, emphasizes the lasting impact of faithful service, “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV). The work of a servant leader is never in vain. It brings glory to God, edifies the church, and lays up treasures in heaven that will never fade, further to the many blessings of the Lord that become evident in our lives in our walk with the Lord and the privilege of continually being in His presence.

And in the day of reckoning, the Lord will say “Well done, my good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Article by Rev. J. Sande – Deputy International Chief Overseer.

