

# NEWS LETTER

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## THE METHODIST CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE



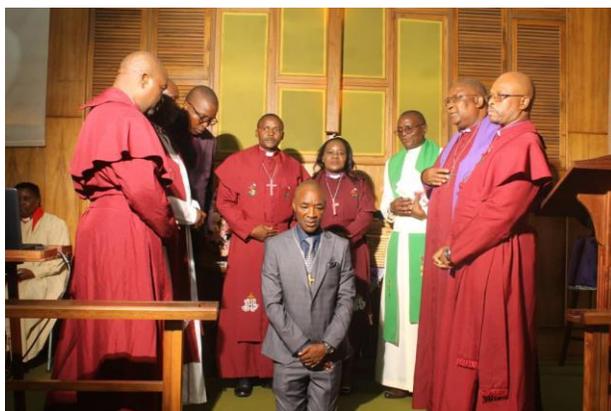
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### Induction service: The rite of passage for the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe Leadership - Gweru and Bulawayo Lay Presidents



The induction services for the Bulawayo and Gweru Lay Presidents were held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 respectively. This was a moment of passing on of leadership from the predecessors to the newly elected leaders of the two Districts. The induction service for the Bulawayo District

Lay president, Mr Munamoto Mupondi, was held at Hillside Society and this saw the passing on of leadership from Mr Majokojoko who had faithfully served his three-year term, and requested to step down due to other commitments. The induction of the Gweru District Lay President Mr E. Hwingwiri was held at Holy Trinity Society and this saw the passing on of leadership from Mr T. Mandeya who also served faithfully his five-year term.

Both induction services were presided over by the Presiding Bishop Rev G. T Mawire and the rites were done in the presence of the Connexional leadership that included the General Secretary Revd L. Molife and the Acting Missions Director Revd Dr. D. Muzenda. Also present were the District leadership led by the Bishops Revd P. Chauya and Revd F. Mafukidze as well as ministers and other lay leaders in the respective Districts.

### **Love and Sacrifice Lies at the Heart of God's Mission**

In the grand tapestry of human existence, the themes of love and sacrifice are woven together, presenting a profound narrative that resonates across cultures, religions, and ages. At the centre of this narrative lies the mission of God - a mission that reveals the essence of divine love manifested through acts of sacrifice. This article explores how love and sacrifice intertwine within the context of God's mission, their significance, and the transformative impact they have on humanity. This article is inspired by the work done by the United Kingdom Fellowship- Ruwadzano/Manyano in Masvingo District.



## **Understanding God's Mission**

To comprehend the mission of God, one must first acknowledge that it extends beyond mere religious dogmas or historical context. It embodies a dynamic call to humanity, inviting individuals to participate in a relationship characterized by unconditional love and the willingness to lay down one's life for others. In many religious traditions, this mission is often articulated through the lens of love - an agape love that seeks the well-being of others, often at great personal cost.

In Christianity, for example, the mission of God is encapsulated in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who exemplified love and sacrifice. His ministry was marked by acts of compassion, healing, and ultimate self-giving. The crucifixion stands as the pinnacle of this mission, where love was demonstrated through the ultimate sacrifice - laying down one's life for friends (John 15:13). This theological underpinning illustrates that the very essence of God's mission is rooted in love, directed toward redeeming and restoring humanity.

## **Love as the Driving Force**

Love is not merely an emotion; it is a profound force that drives action. In the context of God's mission, love becomes the catalyst for change, urging individuals to reach out and serve others. This love transcends boundaries, breaking down walls that divide humanity. It is a transformative love that beckons believers to embrace their communities and the world, reflecting the heart of God.

The call to love one another is echoed throughout sacred texts. In the Bible, 1 John 4:19 states, "We love because he first loved us." This verse highlights that the source of human love is found in God Himself. Understanding that one is loved initiates expressions of love towards others.

## **Sacrifice: A Necessary Component**

Sacrifice, on the other hand, is often viewed with trepidation. In a world that frequently emphasizes self-interest and individual gain, the idea of sacrifice can seem daunting. However, in the context of God's mission, sacrifice is an essential aspect. It can manifest in various forms - time, resources, or even one's life for the sake of others.

The early Christians epitomized this sacrificial spirit. Their willingness to endure persecution, loss, and even death for their faith is a testament to their deep commitment to the mission of God. Acts

2:44-45 illustrates the early church's radical community life, saying that they "had everything in common" and "sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." Their love for one another led them to sacrifice their own comforts for the well-being of others.

### **Love and Sacrifice in Action Today**

In contemporary society, the call to embody love and sacrifice remains vital. The mission of God continues through the lives of believers who strive to reflect these core principles. Numerous organizations and individuals dedicate their lives to humanitarian efforts, advocating for social justice, feeding the hungry, and fostering community among the marginalized.

One can see the embodiment of love and sacrifice in the actions of countless missionaries, social workers, and volunteers who serve in impoverished regions, often giving up personal comfort for the sake of others. Their work is a modern-day reflection of Christ's love and sacrifice, serving as a reminder that God's mission is still active and relevant.

Moreover, the dynamics of love and sacrifice extend to the everyday lives of individuals. Each small act of kindness - whether it's helping a neighbour, supporting a friend in crisis, or standing up against injustice - reflects the mission of God. These actions may not seem grandiose, but they contribute to a larger tapestry of God's love permeating the world.

The United Kingdom fellowship - Ruwadzano/Manyano showed deep love and sacrifice through their generous contribution of eighty pairs of Ruwadzano/Manyano uniforms to Masvingo District which were shared between Mudhengezi and Bhasera Circuits. Uniforms are a source of pride to Ruwadzano/Manyano women and they emphasize unity. The donation in itself is more than just uniforms. It restored the dignity of many women who couldn't afford a decent uniform. It rekindled their interest in the organization and challenged many women to learn to sacrifice for the sake of God's mission.

The act done by the diasporans is not to be taken for granted. They are not dishing out change from their coffers but forfeiting their welfare for the cause of the less privileged. Life in diaspora is coloured by a number of challenges which range from but not limited to: lack of job security; difficulties in securing a legal status; deportation risks; racism and discrimination; emotional and psychological stress; skill underutilization; fatigue as they juggle from job to job; separation from family; and a burden of meeting family responsibilities. These challenges point to the fact that,

they also need help and support. However, despite these struggles they have to endure every day, they dedicate time and resources to preach the gospel of love to people who are not even their blood relatives. That kind of love and sacrifice is the greatest sermon of a lifetime.

### **The Transformative Power of Love and Sacrifice**

Engaging in love and sacrifice not only impacts those we serve but also transforms us. When we prioritize others' needs, we begin to reflect the character of God. This transformational journey can lead to a more profound understanding of God's love for us.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This call entails a radical reorientation of priorities, centering life around love and sacrifice. It is through this commitment that individuals can discover a deeper relationship with God, one that is characterized by authenticity and purpose.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, love and sacrifice lie at the heart of God's mission, revealing the essence of divine purpose: the restoration and reconciliation of creation. As believers navigate their faith journey, embracing these principles fosters not only personal growth but also the flourishing of communities and societies. To the UK fellowship – Ruwadzano/Manyano we say congratulations on embodying the word of God. Thank you very much for being exemplary, challenging our communities to be true believers. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord, who is faithful will forever be by your side journeying with you and your families every step of the way.

**By Revd G. Nyabonda**

## Masvingo District – ‘Out of it sprouts a well of life’

*“But, you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah are by no means the least among the rulers of Judah for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel,”* Matthew 2:6



Bethlehem was a minor town, not one held by a powerful clan. Though minor and insignificant, out of it was born king David and it is also the birth place of Messiah, Jesus Christ. While the town was a humble place, what sprout out of it changed its fate.

In the Methodist community, Masvingo District has not commanded much influence in the few yester years. It has been rated amongst the poorest districts in the Methodist connexion. Being in region 5, highly prone to droughts, the people of Masvingo find it difficult to make ends meet. The District is constituted of 16 circuits 80% of which are rural. Financially the District has always found it difficult to survive. For me what shaped the outcomes of the District was not just its geographical context but a belief that has been engraved in the minds of many believers that, “we are unable and insignificant.”

This article serves to remind the Masvingo District and the Methodist Community as a whole that Masvingo District is not an ordinary and insignificant District. As qualified in the book of Matthew 2:6, being the least does not qualify a person or an organization. What sprouts from within qualifies it.

Masvingo District is home to the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, a UNESCO world heritage site. The ancient stone structures are remnants of a powerful civilization that thrived from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, symbolizing the architectural ingenuity and socio-economic complexity of the Shona people. The ruins are the roots of the name of the country today being derived from the word “Dzimbabwe.” Though, Masvingo is no longer the capital of the nation, it holds a special place to all Zimbabweans. It is the source of the Zimbabwean pride.

As expressed by its historical heritage in Zimbabwe, in the Methodist community, Masvingo District is the hub. It is home to 63 itinerant ministers four of which are now retired. These ministers constitute about a quarter of the ministers in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. That alone is a true testimony of the power, vibrancy, and influence that the District has in the Methodist community. Thus, Masvingo District is indeed a force to reckon with.

Recently, Masvingo District has managed to purchase a state of the art vehicle. Though many Districts have managed to achieve this. The purchase of the vehicle for Masvingo District is special in that the funds were raised solely through the hard work and efforts of its congregants. It was the zeal for the work of God and sacrifices that led the District to such a high achievement. We are proud and thankful to all the people who sacrificed their resources for the mission of God.

Masvingo District is indeed going beyond. It is raising its standards. Today we rise to affirm that we are not the least but we are powered with ability that is bestowed in us by God. Our current achievements testify to this fact. Of note on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2025 the Research and Publications department launched its first publication of a quarterly magazine simply called “The Methodist Magazine.” The magazine is a way of ministering holistically to the world at large through media. The magazine features articles on a number of categories but not limited to: Wisdom/Motivation; Health and Wellness; Gender and Empowerment; Word; Business; Church News; Leadership; Family and Youth corner. The next issue will be published beginning of May. Those who want to contribute or place an advert are free to contact us. If you are yet to grab a copy of the first publication, please do a grab a copy on <https://www.methodistchurchinzimbabwe.org/mcz-masvingo-district-magazine/index.html> or download a copy on <https://bytestudios.co.zw/downloads.php>. The magazine is indeed a must read.

Just like Bethlehem, Masvingo District is by no means the least. Out of it sprouts a well of life. It is indeed here to testify that the church is an oasis of life, love, peace, justice and hope.

**By Revd G. Nyabonda**

### **Walking worthy of our calling...**

*“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,” Ephesians 4:1.*



The development of Marota Primary School, in Masvingo is a true testimony that the Church is walking worthy of its calling. In a space of a year, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) has completed two classroom blocks (four classrooms) and furnished two classrooms with the state of the art eighty chairs and tables. This work has been possible because of the work done by the members of the church both local and in the diaspora. Special mention goes to Rev. J. Makoti for spearheading the fundraising initiatives in the diaspora. The other block and furniture were funded

by Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA) courtesy of Australian aid. The completion of these blocks was only possible through the benevolence of the presiding bishop, Rev. G. T. Mawire. Under his leadership, the church provided funds to roof one block and funded the outstanding work on the MeDRA block. Funding this project was made possible through financial contributions from other Methodist schools. These blocks were dedicated on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February and the ceremony was graced by the Presiding Bishop (PB), General Secretary (GS), Acting Mission Director (MD) and Education Secretary (ES), MeDRA National Director, all Bishops and their spouses, the clergy and members of church, School Development Committee (SDC), and members of the community.

In John's Wesley's sermon number 74, "Of the Church," John Wesley challenges the Church to walk worthy of its calling. According to John Wesley the idea of walking is of very extensive signification. It includes all inward and outward motions, all our thoughts, words and action. It takes in not only everything we do but everything we either speak or think. Walking according to John Wesley is the idea of the church maintaining its active role in the community it exists in spreading a positive impact.

The idea of walking worthy of our calling is fulfilled in pursuing the thrust of pillar number 2 of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe's strategic plan. It speaks of enhancing corporate social responsibility. It is underpinned on fulfilling Matthew 25:35-40.

*<sup>35</sup> For, I was hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me. <sup>37</sup> Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when we saw thee hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? <sup>38</sup> When we saw thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? <sup>39</sup> Or when we saw thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? <sup>40</sup> And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

In walking the journey of faith, the MCZ together with MeDRA has done exceptionally well. They have committed resources in response to the need of people in Marota under Chief Charumbira. The building of the school was a swift reaction to the risk which the children faced when they walked about 10km to school using unsafe routes characterized by disserted roads, forests and mountains. Children were highly vulnerable and were exposed to potential abuse. By building a

school in Marota, the MCZ through its members and arms (MeDRA and other Methodist schools) have brought new life and built a solid foundation for the children of Marota area.

The church is committed to seeing progress of Marota primary school. In addition to building two classrooms blocks and furnishing two classrooms in a year. Through the Education secretary, Rev Dr. D. Muzenda, the church has promised to see through the formal registration of the school this year. This is only possible after building a strong room. Hence, it can be concluded that there is a strong commitment by the church for the development of Marota Primary School.

The MCZ is committed to partner the government in providing education. The government has indicated a shortage of 3000 schools. The church has taken this call seriously. This is engraved in Pillar 5 of the strategic plan of the church: Excelling education services. MCZ is not only committed to structural development but boasts of being a champion in producing quality results with all its schools recording 95% plus, pass rate on Ordinary level results.

Marota school has an enrollment of 130 pupils as at the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. Much is still needed to ensure that the school fully serve the community. There is need for staff quarters, ablution facilities for ECD, fencing, more classrooms and furniture. There is need for all people called by the name of God to walk this path in pursuit of their calling and see the vision of Marota school fulfilled. Let us all walk worthy the vocation of our calling.

### **Following Christ in All Circumstances: Methodist Young Disciples (MYD) Leadership Seminar**



The Methodist Young Disciples recently gathered for a transformative seminar, held from March 21-23, at the serene Rest Haven Retreat in Harare East District. This powerful event drew nearly 80 young leaders from across the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) Connexion, representing 7 out of 8 Districts. The MYD motto, “MYD Follow Christ”, was not only at the forefront of the seminar but also served as our rallying cry, inspiring us to action and reminding us of our commitment to follow Christ and serve Him faithfully. Throughout the seminar, participants engaged in practical sessions on leadership, mindset change, career guidance, and entrepreneurship. These sessions equipped the MYD participants with the tools they need to fulfill their God-given potential. The sessions were led by experienced facilitators who shared their expertise and experiences, providing valuable insights and guidance.

One of the highlights of the seminar was the session on Creating Wealth and Career Guidance, led by Rev. Dr C. Mugaviri who challenged the young people to identify their purpose in life and to develop a plan for personal growth and development. The lessons were eye-opening, and they helped the MYD leaders to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a young church leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Methodism. The seminar was graced by the presence of the Youth Conference Chairperson, Bishop P Simango and the Youth and Children Ministry Coordinator, Rev M Chiwara. Their presence added weight and significance to the event, and their input was invaluable. Notably, the District Youth Pastors from Harare East District and Harare West District also attended the seminar, bringing valuable insights and perspectives to the discussions. Their presence helped to provide guidance and support to the participants. The Ministers-in-Charge of MYD in the Districts played a vital role in guiding and supporting the young leaders. Their presence and input were invaluable, and they provided wise counsel and mentorship to the participants.

The MYD seminar was a resounding success, empowering young leaders to rise up and follow Christ with passion and purpose. The seminar was not only a time for spiritual growth and development, but also a time for fellowship and social networking among young people. We had an amazing time enjoying the beautiful natural beauty and surroundings of Rest Haven Retreat, swimming, and engaging in other fun activities that brought the young disciples closer together.

The MYD are committed to living out their motto, “MYD Follow Christ”, in every aspect of life. Matthew 4:19, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”, serves as a powerful reminder for our mission to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations. We are determined to be disciples who make disciples and to serve God and His people with passion and purpose. The MYD motto aligns perfectly well with the MCZ theme for 2025, "Trusting God in All Circumstances." As we follow Christ, we are reminded that our trust in Him is not limited to specific circumstances, but is a call to trust and obey Him in all circumstances. We invite the church and all young people to join us on this journey of discipleship as we strive to make a positive and meaningful impact in our church and beyond.

**By Rev L Kaseke (MYD Connexional MIC)**

### **Uniting and empowering through education at the Connexional Sunday School Capacity Building workshop.**



On March 28<sup>th</sup> of year 2025, the serene surroundings of Rest Haven became a hub of learning, connection, and empowerment as the Connexional Sunday School executive, under the leadership of **Rev. T. Mleya**, hosted a transformative Capacity Building workshop. Districts including Bulawayo, Hwange, Masvingo, Kadoma, Marondera, Harare West, Harare East, and Gweru arrived safely, ready to engage in a weekend filled with learning and fellowship. Ministers in charge of Sunday School from seven Districts graced the occasion.

The workshop commenced with uplifting opening devotions led by dedicated teachers, setting a spiritual tone for the fruitful gathering ahead. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm as the Connexional Sunday School Minister in Charge provided an insightful address, articulating the purpose and importance of the workshop in nurturing the spiritual growth of children.

Highlights of the program included Rev. P. Chipoka's enlightening lesson on cultivating spiritual growth in young children, which ignited a passion among teachers for fostering faith in the younger generation. Following this, Rev. S. Chiramba shared valuable strategies for effective lesson planning and delivery, equipping teachers with practical tools for their classrooms.

A significant portion of the workshop involved an open discussion facilitated by the Connexional Sunday School executive, addressing the various challenges teachers face in executing their duties. Guided by the insights of Reverends, participants engaged in a constructive dialogue, generating solutions and recommendations to better support Sunday School educators. The esteemed presence of former Youth and Child Ministry Coordinator Rev. N. Zhira and his wife Rev S. Zhira who came as Superintendent of Hatcliffe Circuit, the Circuit that houses Rest Haven in terms of location added a touch of honor to the gathering.

As the sun rose on the following day, the energy was palpable. Teachers enjoyed a hearty breakfast that fostered camaraderie between those from different Districts. Rev. J. Mugunzva kicked off Saturday's learning with an eye-opening discussion on technology - identifying both the threats and opportunities it presents to young people. The District Youth Pastor for Harare East Rev Mutandwa and Harare West's Rev Mudzamiri enriched this session with their participation, further bridging connections among attendees.

Rev. M. Chiwara who is Youth and Children's ministry Coordinator led a crucial lesson on creating safe and inclusive environments for children, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity in fostering a nurturing atmosphere in Sunday Scholars. The learning continued with engaging outdoor activities, offering teachers a chance to unwind and bond over shared experiences. A humorous moment ensued as the Connexional treasurer, when lifted by six other teachers, hilariously resisted being tossed into the swimming pool, providing laughter and lightheartedness to the day.

Rev. T. Mleya's session on Child Development and Psychology offered profound insights into understanding children's needs, behaviour and emotions, while Rev. K. Musarurwa tackled the pressing topic of "Children and Sexuality: Common Trends," raising awareness about vital contemporary issues. Rev W Manyiwa delivered an insightful lesson on Drugs and Substance Abuse as he raised awareness among Sunday school leaders and teachers.

The culmination of the workshop was a vibrant social night, where teachers donned their favorite team jerseys, danced to lively music, and created unforgettable memories. This atmosphere of joy and unity further solidified the bonds formed during the workshop.

As teachers packed their bags and prepared to return to their Districts on Sunday morning, it was clear that the workshop had achieved its goal of empowering attendees with knowledge, skills, and a renewed sense of purpose. The connections made, lessons learned, and shared laughter will undoubtedly echo in their Sunday School sessions, enriching the lives of countless children throughout Zimbabwe.

This Capacity Building Workshop not only reinforced the vital role of education in spiritual formation but also reminded all attendees of the transformative power of community. As Rev. T. Mleya aptly summarized, "Investing in our children's spiritual education today is planting seeds for a brighter future one filled with faith, hope, and the promise of positive change." With such a successful gathering, the Connexional Sunday School Executive continues to inspire and equip those who guide the next generation on their spiritual journeys.

**By Rev T. Mleya (Sunday school MIC) and Licious Mkuni (Treasurer)**

## The 2025 Youth Week: Kadoma District experience of hosting the Connexional Youth Coordinator and the Connexional Youth Executive.



The general African way of socialization is that a home or house that does not receive visitors is a terrible household and one that is not desirable. In fact, to add on to that in the history of the people of faith from Abraham to Solomon, they hosted special visitors and were blessed for the hospitality they provided. John Wesley had a solid tradition of hosting visitors of all kinds and he forged lasting relationships because of his attitude toward visitors.

Such was the privilege of the MCZ Kadoma District between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2025 as they hosted the MCZ Connexional Youth Executive led by the Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator Rev M. Chiwara. To put this into perspective and context, the maximum term limit for office bearers according to the MCZ Standing Orders is 5 years. Thus because the current Youth Executive will after doing their 5 years have managed to visit only 5 of the 8 districts during the prestigious Youth Week which is held in February of every year barring the fact that some may be visited during Youth in Action Week in September. Also, the current crop of leaders in Kadoma District will go down in history as having successfully hosted such a team in their life time. What an honor and a privilege.

The Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator and her team arrived in the District on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> and they hit the ground running there and there. The Youth Coordinator went and preached in Kwekwe West Circuit and they were gladly received by the Superintendent Rev M Mukoki and the Youth Pastor Rev Mukandiwa. The church was set on fire, the vibe and the connection the coordinator had with both the youths and the elderly was soothing and refreshing. She also helped

with the fundraising activities to help the Circuit meet their target. Meanwhile, the Youth President Mr S Sinamani went and ministered in Redcliff Circuit, hosted by the Superintendent Rev K. Ruka-Mazhindu. The service was spirit filled and laden with youthful exuberance. What made it unique was that the preacher of the day was the Youth President. The impression that he left for the church and the youths in general was that young people can do it and are the leaders of today and tomorrow. The way he presented his sermon in humility and yet in confidence was a marvel to behold. In Kwekwe East sekuru and Mbuya Muringi together with sekuru and mbuya Mukamba hosted the team over night, what a joy to be under the shadows of the elders of the Church.

The following day the District youth Pastor Rev T Dhiriza led the team to Kadoma. Kadoma has 2 Circuits and they decided and agreed to have a joint Youth Week service at St Aiden's Society. The hosts, Rev Dr Nyanjaya and Rev L. Lombard, were there in support of the youths. What was amazing about these 2 Circuits was that the youths were well coordinated in hosting the visitors together with their able Youth Pastors Rev Mugova and Rev Chivende. They were the ones responsible for catering, ushering and praise and worship. Special mention to one youth person by the name of Mhondoro, what a young man, loved by the man in that part of the world. The Connexional team had the privilege to be hosted for the night by Mr and Mrs Chiwenga and Mrs Chanakira whose hospitality is second to none.

Tuesday was a special day because for all the places visited this day was spent at one of our High Schools. Schools are an integral part of the MCZ vision as enunciated in the strategic pillar 5 of the MCZ. Moleli is also one of those schools that carry the name of our heroes of faith as the people called Methodist as it is named after Mudumedi Moleli whose works and exploits can be well read in such works as ones by Mujinga, M. The Principal Rev Mutemasango and the chaplain Rev Musiyiwa were at hand to receive the team. It has to be mentioned that the culture of praise and worship being inculcated at Moleli is noble. All students are always in attendance for their services and they have a working praise and worship team and they have their student leadership from the students who lead the Church services. The Youth Coordinator preached and zeroed in on encouraging the youths to focus on their studies more than anything else trusting in God as they journey through. The vice Youth President Ms P. Matemera took time to minister in the morning and she encouraged the young people to aim higher and be morally upright as that will ensure discipline in their communities. She also encouraged them to shun drug and substance abuse.



Kariba was the place that had the honor and the privilege to host the Youth Executive team on the Wednesday. Besides the place being host to one of the biggest hydro power stations in Africa, Kariba is also known for its scrumptious fish. The Host Rev S. Munyoro and Amai not only made sure the team had a feast in as far as fish is concerned, but the youths complimented their pastors' efforts and gave the coordinator and her team best quality fish to carry home. The service was electrifying and the numbers were so very encouraging. The journey made the team realize the truthfulness of the Psalm 19:1 which says that the heavens and the earth declare God's glory and are a showing of Gods' amazing work of His hands. The Kariba scenery and the water body itself is spiritual to say the least. It was a marvel to behold and the Church was edified.

Karoi was the next stop before the combined Chinhoyi East and West Circuits all night on the Friday evening. Of all the visited places, Karoi was on fire in terms of the worship. It was fun and exciting regardless of the few numbers that attended. Rev Muzondo and team then led the executive team to Gogo Hwingwiri whose love and hospitality was a showing of Gods amazing work through people. Even the Connexional team executive were impressed. This set us up for the all-night in Chinhoyi. Throughout the trip the coordinator never got tired in her dispensation of preaching to the young people daily. On the other hand the Youth President Ms P Matemera would take time to explain the youth structure and explain other administration issues that the youths should involve themselves in. the youth president always encouraged the youths to stay away from drug and substance abuse. The team was hosted by Mr Mavhankeni and Ms Makwabarara. The food was amazing and the host ministers the Revds C and S Chikwape together with Rev Mugunzva were very hospitable.

The final lap happened on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb in Chegutu. What an amazing experience. First of all we had the honor of being hosted by our District Bishop and Amai Simango. Bishop Simango also happens to be the Youth Conference Chairperson and thus it was a blessing to rub shoulders with him. The host minister superintendent Rev O. Mavhuka was at hand and hands on. He organized for the Circuit to have a big Sunday just to be with the Connexional team. Together with Rev Hodhera the Youth Pastor they made sure tents were pitched and a massive P.A system set up. This was a well-organized Church service and it showed the effort that was put in making sure the Youth Week in the District ended on a high note.

The visitation by the Connexional team was both humbling and uplifting not only for the youths and their leaders in the District, but also the whole body of Christ in the MCZ community. It left an indelible mark that will forever reverberate years to come. This generation witnessed something that will linger in their memories for years to come and the experience strengthened the youths' resolve to be agents of transformation who trust God in all circumstances.

**By Rev T Dhiriza. Kadoma District Youth Pastor**

## **Story of Change: Wheels of Hope**

In the communities of Kambuzuma and Chiweshe communities are two women who have been carrying the weight of their children's physical disabilities - both literally and figuratively for years. Their children, an 8-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy, have lived with physical disabilities since birth, requiring constant care and support.

For these mothers, everyday tasks such as attending church, participating in community meetings, seeking medical treatment, or even managing household chores have been overwhelming. The physical strain of carrying their growing children on their backs was compounded by the emotional and financial burden of trying to meet the needs of their families. This left little room for employment opportunities, community engagement, or personal respite.

Rudo's plight was noticed by her Minister, who reached out to the Safeguarding and Gender Officer for assistance. Maria's situation came to light through a village headman in Chiweshe in 2022 when we were handing over a wheelchair to Everson now a grade 4 pupil at Shutu Primary School in the same area. Despite efforts to locate her, she remained unreachable for nearly a year. Driven by the Methodist Church's commitment to disability inclusion, a call for support was made to the Craneborne and Greendale MCZ congregations—and the response was swift and heartfelt. Church members generously donated wheelchairs, ensuring that both children could finally experience the freedom of movement.

The recent gift of wheelchairs has transformed their lives in profound ways. Rudo and Maria now speak with heartfelt gratitude about how this simple intervention has lifted an enormous burden. For the first time, they can freely manage their households, participate in church and community activities, and provide better care for all their children.

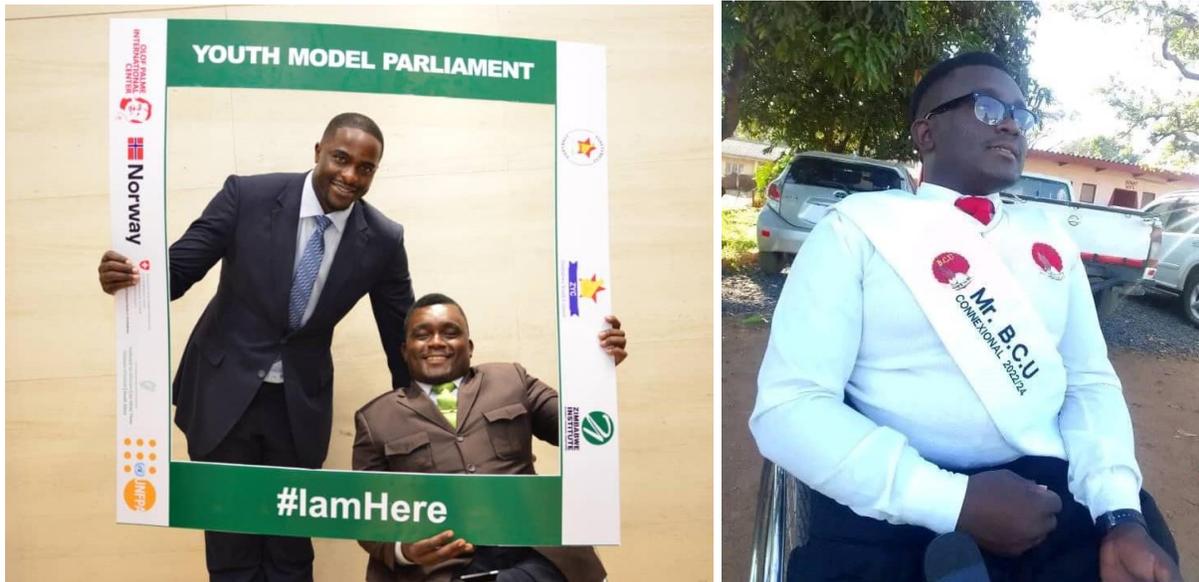
Maria expressed her joy, saying, "I'm amazed by how the Methodist Church identified our need as a family. After years of unfulfilled promises from others, this support feels like a miracle."

The impact on their children has been equally remarkable. With newfound mobility, the children can now interact with peers, watch television comfortably, and rest without discomfort. Their improved quality of life has brought smiles and a renewed sense of hope to their families.

This story is a testament to the life-changing difference that targeted support and inclusion can make, not just for individuals, but for entire families and communities. It underscores the critical importance of listening to the needs of marginalized families and responding with meaningful action.

Rudo and Maria's journey inspires us all to continue advocating for and delivering inclusive solutions that empower vulnerable families, foster community participation, and create opportunities for everyone to thrive.

## ‘Disability is not inability’ the story of Honorable Nyashadzashe Shonhe



As person with disabilities in the society, his parents and society didn't segregate or stigmatize him, they accepted him the way he is. Nyashadzashe Shonhe represents people with disabilities in Midlands committees and was elected by the disabled body to represent people with disabilities in Youth Model Parliament and he is the Midlands Member of Parliament for the disabled in the Youth Caucus. He also represents the community with disabilities, in various initiatives of Non-Governmental Organisations in Kwekwe e.g Plan international.

Nyashadzashe Shonhe was born in the city of gold (Kwekwe) on 30 May 1997 being the first born child of Patrick and Jessica Shonhe with six siblings. Nyashadzashe did his primary education at Chana Primary School and was the only learner with disabilities by that time, despite this he performed so well. He was also part of the athletics team, wheelchair slalom and wheelchair basketball. He participated in the Danhiko paralympic games representing Kwekwe District each year at Danhiko Vocational Training Centre. Nyashadzashe did his Secondary education at Danhiko Secondary School. He was the choir master and the slalom game leader. After Secondary School he proceeded to tertiary education at Ruwa Rehabilitation Centre as well as Danhiko Vocational Training Centre to become a distinguished sign language interpreter. He pursued in tertiary education studying Information and Technology at Gweru Polytechnic.

His music journey began at Chana Primary School under the guidance of the late Bob Nyabinde who was the Headmaster at the time and he used to perform at the assembly. Having a solid

Christian background Nyashadzashe who is a full member of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe testifies that his music career was strengthened in the church. He was one of the founding members of the musical group called the Vashumiri Voices. Gratitude goes to the people who supported them in Kwekwe Circuit. He is also one of the choir directors at his society in Kwekwe. He recorded his first track called “How excellent” in 2022 and did the video in the same year which went viral and was cast on ZBC. With Vashumiri Voices he recorded two tracks. Besides being good in music Nyashadzashe has participated in various modelling competitions in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe youth organisations to become Mr Kadoma District for MYD (Methodist Young Disciples) and Mr Connexional BCU (Boys Christian Union).

# Support persons with disabilities

# creating inclusive space for everyone

Call 08080551 for support

## CONDOLENCES



### **BIOGRAGHY OF REVD IVYN SHUVIRAYI CHAGUDHUMA**

Revd Ivyn Shuvirayi Chagudhuma was born on the 21st of December 1974 in Bikita District of Masvingo Province. He was born in a family of seven (7) children, him being the first born. He did his Primary education at Jaravaza Primary School, and his Secondary education at Chirumba Secondary School. Upon completion of secondary education, he worked in Bulawayo for several years before candidating for ministry in 2016. After training as a full time itinerant ministry he was stationed in Siabuwa Circuit of Kadoma where he served for 1 year before he was transferred to Thekwane High School where he served as a Chaplain for 2 years. By the time of his passing on, Revd Shuvirayi was serving as a Principal of Matjinge High and Primary School of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. The Reverend was married to Nyarai Zindoga, and the couple was blessed with 2 sons, Shain and Ethan. The late Reverend was known as a peace maker both at family and church level. He leaves a gulf which is very diffi cult to fill up.

*Rest in Peace, Mufundisi. Your light will never fade.*