

2019 ABC

# *Annual Report*

“The Fellowship of Ministers and Individuals”



# Annual Report

## Leadership

**President:** Stanley Maphosa

**Vice President:** Bhekimpilo Khanye

**Chairperson:** Thabani Moyo

**Secretary General:**  
Bekithemba Wabayi

**Deputy Secretary General:**  
Seirah Ngcobo

**Treasurer General:** Nkosinathi Mhlophe

## MISSION STATEMENT

At ABC we know that we have a calling and aspire:

To mobilise, network and empower the church as well as Christian and marketplace leaders in order for us to be a family of God, Living in His presence, empowered by His Spirit, impacting our community and beyond. We are also a mutual accountability body.

## OUR VISION

To create a platform that is beyond denominational limitations for fellowship, support and capacity building for church leaders and help individuals grow in all areas of their lives.



## ABC

PO Box 740

Florida

Ph: +27117697519

Email: [stanley@abc-felsupcap.co.za](mailto:stanley@abc-felsupcap.co.za)

Email: [office@abc-felsupcap.co.za](mailto:office@abc-felsupcap.co.za)

Email: [supportadmin@abc-felsupcap.co.za](mailto:supportadmin@abc-felsupcap.co.za)

Internet: <https://abc-felsupcap.co.za/>



# Approaching the Breakthrough Point

FROM THE ABC PRESIDENT

A breakthrough point is neither a beginning nor an end. It's the point at which competing paradigms suddenly shift. The old finally gives way to an irrevocable demise as the new experiences a final burst of energy, rising to eminence as the new order of things. At ABC we know we have a calling and therefore aspire to mobilise, network and empower the church as well as Christian and marketplace leaders in order for us to be a family of God, Living in His presence, empowered by His Spirit, impacting our community and beyond. We are also a mutual accountability body. Our vision is to create a platform that is beyond denominational limitations for fellowship, support and capacity building for church leaders and help individuals grow in all areas of their lives. ABC is a movement of movements whose purpose is designed around fellowship, support, capacity building and working as an accountability body for churches.

ABC draws inspiration from ABC Ministries that was formed in 1992 when many ministers of youth groups, who were mainly schoolteachers, decided to work together by organizing camp meetings and conferences during school holidays. ABC Ministries that started as Young Believers in Christ (YBC) then grew to encompass believers of all ages from different Christian or Bible believing churches. Over the years a lot of churches were formed by individual leaders who were part of ABC Ministries. Other leaders and members have become involved in churches and ministries in different leadership roles of note. The

formation of ABC in 2016 in South Africa came as a result of a need for supportive fellowship and capacity building for Christian Leaders. It also came from the need to maintain a network of members who consist of individuals, ministers and churches who share a vision that "we need one another." It is clear that we must look well beyond our denominational boundaries if we are going to host or promote a significant revival in our time. We believe that the church should be relevant to national interests and concerns. We should meet church leaders where they are with an agenda that is beyond all of us combined.

The broad-based initiatives unveiled at last year's annual conference have begun to turn things around, as perhaps never before. They entail our work with the Bible Training Course for Pastors (BTCP). Next year we will be graduating our first cohort of trainees. We have also made input and submission to the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic communities (CRL) Report and are working with Old Mutual and other service providers to address the funeral and pension issues of pastors and church leaders. We have seen how pastors retire or die in misery. We would like to work with the church to bring that to an end. I believe we are just now at the "breakthrough point". We are, of course, still a long way from achieving the outcomes we seek. Success will require more hard work and a redoubling of our commitment to serve the Biblical Community and get served by it also. I heartily commend the leadership who volunteer their time and all our members, supporters and funders who have helped bring this year's success.

# Programs, Projects & Events

## Bible Training Course for Pastors in partnership with Word of Life South Africa

Since February 2019, ABC partnered with Word of Life South Africa to bring the Bible Training Course for Pastors (BTCP) to Johannesburg and surrounding areas. BTCP is a grassroots bible training course that caters for pastors and church leaders who ordinarily cannot be enrolled into mainstream Seminary or Bible College due to time limitations because of work schedules, qualification and the costs. BTCP is flexible with time, cost effective and accommodates anyone who can read and write. Originally developed in the USA, BTCP has been used widely and with success across the world. Twelve pastors and leaders joined the class in Yeoville-Johannesburg. Currently, the group consists of nine learners after three dropouts. They are studying the sixth of the ten modules and are likely to graduate by August 2020. Meanwhile a new class has started in the same place. Mobilization happened in Sebokeng in the Vaal, but the class did not start. Awareness was created in Soweto, Tembisa, Mpumalanga (Moloto), Mamelodi and in Diepsloot. Apostle Mutandadzi Gumbo of Victory Life International Ministries is currently the lecturer of the first BTCP class.



*"All other professions require trained people. I challenge all pastors and leaders to seek Bible training even if it is grassroots like BTCP in order for them to be effective in ministry. I have discovered that the more you learn, the more you discover how much you do not know."*

**Apostle Mutandadzi Gumbo:** BTCP; Yeoville Class Lecturer and General Overseer of Voice of Victory Ministries International

### ABC Website

ABC is consolidating its online presence through the launch of a website. The website was developed as a gift by Pastor Hlalani Ncube of Rapid Presence. Ncube who is a businessperson in the information and technology sector approached ABC with an offer to build this webpage. ABC would like to thank Pastor Ncube the website designer and Mr Yusuf Dulana who will host the website and assist in the updates. Besides the webpage ABC has continued to take advantage of the online presence to share its mission and reach out to church leaders and individuals nationally, regionally, Pan African and globally. The new ABC website is [www.abc-felsupcap.co.za](http://www.abc-felsupcap.co.za). Get in touch with us and contribute to our resources page.

### ABC makes a submission to the CRL Report

ABC in partnership with the Johannesburg Ministers Fellowship (JMF) conducted a consultation session with pastors. Facilitated by Bishop Masilo Munyai of the Christian Judiciary Services, the meeting looked at the proposals of the CRL in regulating the church in South Africa. The proposals come from the report on Commercialization of Religion. Emanating from this meeting a submission was made to the CRL summarizing what the pastors had shared. In a nutshell, the pastors are not keen for government to regulate the churches. In any case, the churches will need to find ways to solve its own problems.

*"I am strongly convinced that the remedy for the societal decay is in the church as Isaiah 2:1-4 predicted. However, we still need to address issues of order and sanity in order for us to be practically relevant in our society"*

**Bishop Bekithemba Wabayi:** Secretary General of ABC and Founder of House of Excellence Church

### Engagement with Old Mutual for Pastors Support in Pension and Funeral Services

Research has found out the following about church leaders in South Africa:

- \*86% of the Pastors have no Pension cover
- \*68% have no medical cover
- \* 70 % have no funeral cover.
- \* 78% have no house of their own.
- \* 46% have their own cars or using church vehicles.
- \* 36% have never been through a seminary.
- \* 67% serving in the ministry without any credentials.

ABC- FMI through its support and capacity building pillar would like to assist and be of service to pastors and church ministers throughout South Africa and beyond as part of its mandate. We have been in discussion with Old Mutual and other marketplace service providers to ensure that the practical needs of church ministers are met. ABC is available to support and make the life of the clergy better from the Apostle to the Zone Leader. While denominations have these services in place, independent churches, ministries and many new churches have no luxury in handling and dealing with these issues well enough. ABC is here to serve the church and be served by the church in this critical area. ABC advises that even if a church has 50 members as followers at the least, it is crucial to consider a pension, retirement fund, medical cover and funeral plan. The family of a church leader should also have a future upon the incumbent's retirement or when gone to be with the Lord. ABC is the only body of church ministers and individuals that exist to protect as well as support their integrity and defending the interest of their calling.

### Christian Leadership Lecture Series

During the year under review, the ABC leadership launched the Christian Leadership Lecture Series (CLLS). The implementation of this initiative in the years to come is deemed to make a meaningful contribution to the church leadership in South Africa and public awareness of the role of the church. The intention would be to ensure that these lectures become a regular feature in the church calendar before or after main conferences.

*"We cannot overemphasize the crucial need to consider a pension scheme, retirement fund, medical cover and funeral plan for the church leader as soon as possible. We have seen weird things happen because of this lack of such planning"*

**Mr Timon Nyatsambo**  
Old Mutual Broker  
(1 Timothy 5 verse 8)

The CLLS form part of the ABC's strategic pillars of fellowship, capacity building and support.

The series comes from a need

for more engagement between church leaders, the institutions that they lead, the public and private sector. The lectures will encourage interactions through dialogues that will promote mutual learning amongst church leaders of different backgrounds, ministry callings and life experiences. This engagement provides a platform for (a) strengthening fellowship, dialogue and linkages between church leaders; (b) developing trust and ensuring confidence by the general public in the manner in which churches, parachurch organisations, ministries and associated organisation are run (c) enhancing engagements between the church, Christian and other media, academics and policy makers; and (d) producing knowledge through an interdisciplinary approach and contributing to greater public understanding of leadership through the lenses of Christianity.

Each lecture will be co-hosted by ABC and a particular church or organization. There can be more than one church co-hosting together with ABC. This maximizes on impact and demonstrates that learning on leadership in an ongoing process. The world is changing daily and various church leaders need to learn and unlearn a lot of things in order for them to be more effective. Learning from each other is a humility that leaders should develop. There are a lot of leaders from within South Africa, the SADC Region, and Africa as well as internationally who have a lot of expertise, experience and the capacity that has not been fully utilised beyond their denominational boundaries. The CLLS will give an opportunity for leaders to ask specific and general questions, network among themselves and identify capacity which they may utilise in future activities. If they have time and on mutual agreement, prominent speakers from the CLLS can find time to speak in local churches and other meetings in the city that coincide with their

visit. The CLLS will contribute to the following:

- Leadership development for church leaders in Gauteng and beyond;
- Increase and strengthen leadership interests for young people, women and men for greater church and societal outcomes
- Foster partnerships with churches and organisation based in South Africa, Southern Africa, African and globally through the leadership lenses; and,
- Host Christian leadership lectures by local, regional and international speakers on topics of church and societal importance.

ABC proposes to take advantage of the many in-country and external experts that visit South Africa as guests to their churches, conferences or other meetings, organisations, visiting family and on holiday to co-host the CLLS and/ or panel discussions in partnership with churches that have invited them. Such collaboration will have benefits for both ABC and the partner individual or their organisation and since it is relatively inexpensive to implement is a win-win situation for all. The added benefits include:

- Creation of collaborative networks between the church leaders and experts in business, youth leadership, and children's church, non-profit organisation among other ministries
- Creation of a platform that enables the church leaders to serve as goodwill ambassadors of the ABC and the church in South Africa when they return to their home countries; and,
- Enhancement of the profile of the visiting church leaders and their work with their ministries and other work that they do in South Africa and beyond

## PLANS FOR 2020

- Conduct an Employment Summit in partnership with churches for young people during the Youth Month
- Increase venues of the BTCP across Johannesburg and beyond
- Engage other Bible Colleagues or Seminaries for diversity in the capacity building work of ABC
- Increase partnership with churches and similar organisations
- Register ABC as a Non Profit Organisation (NPO) and start to reap the benefit of recognition
- Update the leadership structures to include more youth and women representatives
- Actively engage with and on behalf of the church in advocacy, community development and disaster risk reduction work
- Conduct the Annual ABC Conference

## Challenges for 2019 and Beyond

- I. Budget constraints
- II. Lack of NPO registration to legally solicit for funding
- III. Lack of full-time workers or volunteer with more time to move the organisation even further forward
- IV. Our zeal to participate also varied from one leader to the next.

ABC is now a Member of the Rainbow FM Community. This will enable ABC to contribute to the Christian media space in South Africa greatly



**ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST - FELLOWSHIP OF  
MINISTERS AND INDIVIDUALS ABC-(FMI)**

*“ABC commits itself to transparency with funds and ensures that we fulfill our vision and mission. ABC is good soil for individual, private sector and churches to make contributions that will impact lives for generations to come.”*

**Nkosinathi Mhlophe  
ABC Treasury General**

## Roll of Contributors

### 2019 - ALL GIFTS ARE EQUALLY VALUED

Lynette du Plessis and family
Seirah Ngcobo and family
Nkosinathi Mhlophe and family
Khulumani and Busi Dube
Stanley and Soneni Maphosa
Mr and Mrs Vezisizwe Bhebhe
Other contributors chose to be anonymous
Offerings collected during the ABC Meetings



## *Postscript*

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By reading through this annual report, we hope you have reached the conclusion that by working together with a durable strategic plan, we can impact the world. ABC has brought focus and a platform for the church to leverage on human, financial and other resources in order to strengthen the role of the church in South Africa. Our history has taught us that revival is beyond individual leaders, denominations and organisation. There is power in collaboration and stewardship. Our mission is both global and local. The church should strive for excellence and work with others to serve the community.

Thanks to all those who have gotten ABC this far, and to those who will join us in our future endeavors.