

## Zulu Congregational Church Speakers Note

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Programme Director,

Protocol,

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Amen, sanibonani,

The Zulu Congregational Church is one of the oldest African Ethiopian churches in South Africa, that was founded on the 23rd of March 1896 by Rt Rev Simungu Bafazini Shibe at Denver Zoar Umzumbe, KZN.

It was formed as an independent from the previous American Zulu Mission at The Table Mountain Mission Station in Pietermaritzburg.

Rev Simungu Shibe was selected by the congregation and subsequently approved by the Mission. In 1896, G.J. Pugh, the former treasurer of the NCU, became missionary-in-charge of Table Mountain. Upon his arrival Pugh asked for the Shibe's removal. A large portion of the converts came out openly in support of Shibe.

At the pastors' conference in June 1897 the pastors cited the self-support circular from America as justification for their demand that the congregation at Table Mountain be allowed to select its own ministers. Conflict erupted as the NCU wrote to the American Board of the Reserves requesting Shibe's removal.

The American Board refused to intervene. In February 1898, Shibe travelled to Johannesburg, where along with Fokothi Makhanya of the Johannesburg Church, he was ordained pastor. **John Langalibalele Dube** helped Rev Shibe to form the ZCC. In 1917 one of the best Zulu Congregational Church preachers Gardner B. Mvuyane of the Johannesburg mission ceded from the Zulu Congregational Church and founded his own Church the African Congregational Church. In 1924 Shibe died.

This church has a close link with the African National Congress and the struggle for liberation and independence of a black person.

We are inspired and supportive of this church.

The philosophy of the African Independent Churches has always been part of the African liberation philosophy. Right from their inception, they played a crucial role in promoting a religious philosophy that was based on sound African value systems.

The pioneers of the African Independent Churches include Moses Mangena Mokane, founder of Ethiopian Church, Isaiah Shembe, founder of the Church of Nazareth of Shembe Church, James Dwane, founder of the Order of Ethiopia and Nehemiah Tile, founder of the Thembu National Church.

We are always grateful to be invited by the likes of your church. We urge you to continue with your support of the peoples movement and pray for it instead of cursing it. The ANC belongs to the people, those who curse this movement are cursing the people and history of this nation. They are equivalent to those who crucifying those who died for the struggle of our liberation. Our role as define by Apostle Paul when he spoke to young Apostle Timothy, was to pray for those in position so that there be peace in the land. Pastors and different congregation must pray for their government.

We are prepared to work with you in changing the lives and we must partner in different projects. We have clear programme of Operation Sukuma Sakhe that is taken from the bible in the book of Nehemiah. The project was about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and our duty is to rebuild the walls of eThekweni that were defeated by the enemy. The enemy was apartheid and white monopoly capital. We need to unite and heal our people. Please join us at the ward level and work with our NGOs and Councillors at our nerve centres called "WAR ROOMS."

Thank you for inviting us.

