



THE
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The East Voice Gazette is the official youth newsletter of the Great East Conference Young People's Division (YPD). It was created to provide a meaningful platform where young people can share their experiences, leadership journeys, personal achievements, and testimonies of faith within the church and their communities.

The newsletter aims to inspire, inform, and connect young people across the conference by highlighting stories of service, personal growth, and commitment to the work of the church. It serves as a space where the voices of young leaders can be heard and where their contributions to the YPD are recognised and celebrated.

Through this publication, young people are encouraged to reflect on their spiritual journeys, share their leadership experiences, and motivate others to actively participate in the mission and vision of the Young People's Division. By sharing these stories, the newsletter promotes unity, encouragement, and collaboration among members of the conference.

The East Voice Gazette celebrates the passion, resilience, creativity, and faith of the young generation who continue to shape the future of the church. It stands as a reminder that the voices of young people matter and that their leadership, ideas, and dedication play a vital role in strengthening the YPD and the wider church community.

What is The East Voice Gazette?

Called to Serve: My Journey in YPD

By Tshimologo Moloisane

My name is Tshimologo Moloisane, and I currently serve as the Connectional YPD Associate Editor. I come from W.M. Ndlazi Memorial Temple AMEC in Diepkloof, under the United Area 5.

My journey with the YPD began long before I officially became a member. From a very young age, I had the privilege of being exposed to the organisation by attending various YPD events. Even though I was not yet a robed member at the time, I attended episcopal, conference, area, and local events and meetings. These experiences gave me early exposure to the culture and spirit of the organisation. Because of this, when I eventually made the decision to officially commit myself to serving within the YPD, I already had a glimpse of what the journey would look like. I cannot point to a specific day or moment when I joined, but I can confidently say that when the time came, I felt it deeply in my heart and chose to follow that calling.

Serving in a Connectional office was never something I had originally planned for myself. In fact, I often say that I believe God gently nudged me in that direction. If it had been entirely up to me, I would have happily served in the background and quietly exited the organisation one day without much notice. I am naturally an introvert and someone who is comfortable serving behind the scenes. However, when God calls, we must answer. In August 2019, God revealed to me that I would become the Connectional YPD Associate Editor. From that moment, I believe He began preparing me—spiritually, mentally, and emotionally—for the responsibility that would come with that role.

Like any leadership journey, serving has come with its own set of challenges. One of the greatest challenges I have experienced is trying to maintain a balance between school or work, church responsibilities, family gatherings, and spending time with friends. Achieving a perfect balance between all these areas is nearly impossible, and sometimes certain parts of life may receive more attention than others. This is something many of us will continue to navigate throughout our lives. For that reason, I have learned the importance of keeping a personal calendar and prioritising responsibilities according to what matters most at a particular time.

One of my fondest memories in the organisation dates back to 2016 when I was still an Allenstar. During that time, I was invited to attend the 19th Episcopal District YPD Executive Board planning meeting under the leadership of the now Reverend Masike. I was deeply passionate about being an Allenstar, but even more passionate about the growth of the Allenstar ministry. I was concerned that once young people transitioned into the Youth Auxiliary age group, we might experience a decline in participation and attendance.



Because of this concern, I wrote a letter to the president sharing my thoughts and ideas. He later invited me to present those ideas to the executive board. Months after that meeting, I had the incredible privilege of seeing some of those ideas being implemented within the district and conferences. Experiencing that at just 13 years old remains one of the most meaningful moments of my journey.

As I reflect on my journey, my greatest prayer for the young people in this organisation is that each of them develops a personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ. It is important that we learn to hear and discern the voice of the Holy Spirit, who is our promised Helper and Guide, as written in John 14:15–17. When we truly know God for ourselves, we begin to understand His plans for our lives and the purpose He has called us to fulfill, as reminded in Jeremiah 1:4–8.

I encourage every young person to use their God-given gifts and talents for the glory of God and for the benefit of His people. My hope is that each of them will remain deeply rooted in God so that they can stand firm in who God has called them to be, even when challenges arise—because they will. Yet, along with those challenges will also come many victories. As the Word reminds us in Isaiah 40:31, those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Even the trials we face serve a purpose, strengthening and growing us as written in James 1:2–4.

It is my prayer that every young person continues to walk boldly in faith, trusting God with their journey.

Yours in prayer, Impact, and Empower!

Faith, Resilience, and Purpose: My Academic Journey Through YPD

By Neoyame Menoe

My name is Neoyame Menoe and I come from D.M. Robinson Khutsong in Area 2. One of my greatest academic milestones has been obtaining my Bachelor of Laws (LLB) in June 2025. Reaching this point in my journey is something I deeply cherish because it represents years of faith, perseverance, and personal growth.

I joined the YPD in 2014, and since then the organisation has played a significant role in shaping both my spiritual life and my academic journey. Throughout the years, I have had the honour of serving in several leadership positions. I served as the Local YPD Secretary for nine years, a role that taught me discipline, organisation, and responsibility. I also served as the Local YPD Worship Director for one year, where I had the opportunity to contribute spiritually within the organisation.

My leadership journey continued when I was elected as the Area 2 YPD Secretary, where I served for two years. Later, I was elected as the Area 2 Editor of the YPD Newsletter and served in that position for a year. After graduating from the organisation, I also served as the Area 2 YPD First Vice President for one year. Each of these positions contributed to the person I have become today. Serving in the YPD—especially in administrative roles such as Secretary—played a major role in preparing me for the professional workplace. Today, as a Candidate Attorney, I draft legal documents daily. Because of the administrative and organisational skills I developed while serving in the YPD, I was able to excel almost immediately in the responsibilities expected of me in my profession. The YPD did not only shape my professional abilities; it also taught me something even more valuable—resilience and patience. Through my journey, I learned to believe deeply that everything happens in God’s perfect time. At moments, some of my dreams and achievements felt impossible, especially during what felt like long waiting periods. However, I have come to understand that those moments were not denials, but simply delays in God’s timing. By the grace of God, I now wake up every day to the job I have always dreamed of.

Just two months after graduating from the organisation, I was called for an interview for a Candidate Attorney position, a job that I had prayed for for many years. When that moment arrived, I felt overwhelmed and even questioned whether I was ready for such a blessing. I doubted my ability to succeed in such a noble profession. However, my experiences in the YPD had already placed me in situations that pushed me beyond my comfort zone and helped me reach my greatest potential. Through those experiences, I learned to believe in my abilities and to trust that I am where I am because God has declared me worthy. Today, I carry with me the lessons and grace I received through the YPD, and I stand in a place I once only dreamed about. In many ways, I feel that I am living the dreams that generations before me hoped would one day become possible. Like many journeys, mine has not been without challenges. Sometimes, even within spaces where we pray together, we can unintentionally discourage one another. There were moments in my YPD journey where I felt that opportunities to use the gifts God had given me were limited. However, those experiences taught me resilience. The same determination I used to overcome those challenges within the organisation is the same strength I now apply in my everyday life and career.



One of the achievements I am most proud of since graduating from the YPD is securing my Articles of Clerkship and becoming a Candidate Attorney. For this, I give all glory and honour to the Lord Almighty.

If there is one message I would like to share with young people, it is this: many of us are afraid to take on new opportunities because we doubt our strength. Sometimes we underestimate our ability to balance academics, work, church responsibilities, and personal life. But the truth is that our strength comes from the One who lives within us. Dreams do not come to us on their own—we must go after them. No matter how heavy the burden may feel, you are capable of achieving your goals.

Above all, I will always remain grateful for how the YPD restored and strengthened my faith. Whenever I felt like I had fallen, this organisation helped lift me up again. Today I am who I am, where I am, and what I am becoming because of the God I have praised and worshipped through this organisation. By choosing to love and serve the Lord in my youth, I am now reaping the seeds that were planted during those years. For that, I will always remain grateful to the YPD for the role it has played in transforming my life.

Greenblood forever.

From YPD Leadership to Entrepreneurship

By Palesa Motaung

My name is Palesa Motaung, and I am the female founder of Thuto Tiro Supplies Pty Ltd and Sweet and Salty Pty Ltd. Through my work, I strive to create opportunities for self-development and employment, especially among young people in the YPD. One of my passions is helping young people discover business opportunities by filling the gap where information about entrepreneurship is often lacking. My journey in the YPD began in 2010 when I first joined the church. From that moment, I immediately began my journey as a YPD member. My role at the time was simple, yet meaningful, because I always had a passion to be different and to grow in whatever I was involved in. Throughout my years in the organisation, I gained valuable experiences that helped build my self-esteem and confidence. I still remember one particular YPD event where the theme was “Born to Lead and Called to Serve.” That theme spoke deeply to me, and in that moment I realised that I was born to lead—not only in church but in every area of my life.

In 2016, I was awarded Best YPDer of the Year. It was not because I was the most talented or the best performer, but because I was consistent in striving to be my best. That journey was not always easy. I remember performing a poem during one event and forgetting my lines. I was so embarrassed that I ran off the stage. Fortunately, the judges gave me another opportunity to return and continue. At that moment, although I feared humiliation from the audience, I realised that I had the power to redeem myself. That experience taught me an important lesson about resilience and believing in myself even when things do not go as planned. The YPD has played a significant role in shaping the way I approach my business today. Through the leadership structure of the organisation and the various offices I served in, I learned what it means to lead effectively. As John C. Maxwell once said, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” Serving in different leadership roles helped me develop the confidence to lead not only within the church but also in the business world.

One of the most valuable lessons I learned from the YPD is how to deal with challenges. In our organisational structure, when we report on our work, we are expected to present not only the challenges we face but also recommendations and possible solutions. I have applied the same principle in business. In any work environment, challenges will always exist—but for every challenge there must also be a solution. My responsibility as a business owner is simply to work towards finding the best solution. Interestingly, I started my business while I was still in high school. I noticed a gap and decided to create a profitable opportunity for myself. Many YPD events can be expensive for young people, and because I was passionate about attending these events and growing spiritually alongside other young people, I created a business opportunity that would allow me to support myself financially while still participating fully in the organisation. Although I was not born and raised in the AME Church, I chose to become a member willingly. Because of that choice, I have always remained committed and steadfast in my service within the YPD.

My personal values are rooted in purpose and principles. Through my experiences in the YPD, I developed confidence in my decision-making abilities and learned the importance of emotional intelligence. Leadership within the YPD often requires working with many different personalities, and that experience taught me how to manage my own emotions while also handling interpersonal challenges with maturity and understanding. In my business journey, I have not faced many major challenges yet, except working with what I prefer to call “different clients.” Some people may refer to them as difficult clients, but I prefer to approach them with understanding. My experience serving as a Communication Secretary at both local and area levels taught me how to communicate clearly and professionally. I also apply organisational policies and agreements in my business to ensure clear expectations, secure payments, and protect the business.

So far, I am proud of several achievements in my entrepreneurial journey. I have been able to purchase more equipment for my business and officially register it with CIPC. I am currently working on obtaining the necessary documentation that will allow my business to operate as a certified food stall. Another achievement I am proud of is finally marketing my business on social media after months of procrastination.

Being recommended and recognised by other conferences within the 19th Episcopal District to offer my services as a young business owner has also been a major milestone for me.

To young people who may be thinking about starting a business, my advice is simple: start now, even if you feel unsure. Nothing is unachievable as long as you dream and work hard. The same effort you put into school or work should also be applied to your business. If you work consistently for six months, you will begin to see the growth and development of your efforts.

Start a business based on your passion, and the profits will follow. The most important thing is to solve an existing problem within your community. While having a stable income is important, the freedom to create your own wealth is something truly powerful.

Always be willing to learn new skills that will increase your value as a business owner. Personal development and branding are some of the most valuable investments you can make in yourself. Lastly, use your time in the YPD to build meaningful connections that can help your business grow while you are still navigating your path.



My Journey of Faith, Love, and Leadership in YPD

By Sis. Magauta Sekoto

My name is Magauta Violet Sekoto from Robinson Temple in Vosloorus. I served as the YPD Area Director for the Bold & Believing Area 3 from 2009 until 2020. During my time as Director, I had the privilege of serving alongside several Area Presidents, including Bro. Thembinkosi Kumalo Snr, Sis. Zama Mngomezulu, Sis. Reitumetse Kraai, Sis. Connie Ramothibe, Bro. Lehlohonolo Magane, Sis. Karabo Moloi, Sis. Catherine Phuthinyane. Together, we worked hand in hand to guide and support the young people in our area. Interestingly, before becoming a Director, I had never served in any leadership office within the WMS. I was chosen by the Area WMS to take on the role of YPD Director. At the time, it came as a surprise to me, but I accepted the responsibility with humility and faith. What motivated me to take on this leadership role was my deep love for the YPD and my love for children. These two things became the foundation of my service and guided me throughout my journey as a Director. Over the years, I saw the YPD in our area grow into a strong and loving family. The young people had great respect and love for one another, and their communication was always strong. Their bond was beautiful to witness because whatever they did, they did together with love and respect. Whenever challenges arose, they would come to me as their Director and we would try to solve the problem together before involving the WMS. We truly worked well together, doing the Lord's work hand in hand and without conflict.

I have many memorable experiences from my time as Area Director. When I first became a Director in 2009, I was actually very shy and unsure of what I needed to do. I felt clueless at times, but I allowed myself to become a friend to the young people in the YPD. By building friendships with them, I was able to understand each of them better, including their strengths and weaknesses, so that we could support one another. The love they showed me helped me grow and become the person I am today. With time, I became more confident and comfortable around them. One of my biggest fears at the beginning was being responsible for other people's children, especially when travelling to events. I worried about being accountable for each and every one of them. However, those young people showed me that they were truly about their Father's business. They were respectful, well-behaved, and never gave me any stress during events, which helped me overcome my fears.

One thing that stood out for me was the way they treated each other. They never judged one another based on their home background or financial status. Instead, they supported each other like true brothers and sisters in Christ. We made sure that no child was ever left out. If there was a child who loved church and wanted to attend an event but did not have the funds, we would raise money to make sure that child could attend without feeling excluded. Inclusion and love were very important to us. Of course, leadership comes with many challenges. However, I believe that the best way to overcome any challenge is through prayer. In leadership, you must always remain rooted in prayer because through prayer you can overcome anything.

The YPD has shaped me both personally and spiritually. I can proudly say that I am who I am today because of the YPD. Through this organisation, I learned how to be a faithful and responsible leader. I am now able to participate in problem-solving and decision-making in my community and at home without feeling shy. Spiritually, I have grown and matured. I can now stand in front of people and testify about the goodness of God. I am comfortable praying and sharing the Word of God. Even at home with my family, we are able to sit together, share scriptures, and talk about the greatness of God. I truly believe that without the teachings and experiences I received from the YPD, I would not be the person I am today.

To the upcoming and new Directors, I would like to offer a few words of advice. First, make God the center of everything you do and remain rooted in prayer. Second, never compare yourself to others. Instead, have a willing heart that is always ready to learn.



As a Director, you must remember that you are like a mother to every YPDer. Treat each child equally and love them as if they were your own. Never be the cause of a child's pain. Respect is also very important. When you respect the young people, they will respect you in return.

Communication is key, especially between you and the President. Allow the children to be themselves while guiding them in the right direction. When correcting them, never embarrass them in public. Instead, sit them down privately and speak to them with love and understanding.

Looking back at my journey, I hope my legacy in the YPD will be remembered as one of love, care, and guidance. I hope that the young people I served will always remember the importance of unity, respect, and faith.

My final encouragement to all YPD members and readers of the gazette is simple:

Make God the centre of your life.

Tell Your Bible Story

By Sis. Masego Kgetjepe

I would like to greet you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please listen closely as I share a wonderful story—
A story from the Bible that shows God's great glory.

Long ago there lived a faithful servant of God named Moses.
God chose Moses to help His people who were suffering.
They were called the Israelites, and they were treated badly in Egypt.
God wanted them to be free and live in peace.

God spoke to Moses and said,
"Lead my people out of Egypt."
Moses obeyed God and bravely went to speak to the king.
At last, the Israelites were allowed to leave,
And they journeyed together toward a new land of hope.

Soon they reached a great sea called the Red Sea.
The water was in front of them, and danger was behind them.
The people were afraid and did not know what to do,
But Moses trusted God and prayed for help.

Then God showed His amazing power.
Moses lifted his staff over the sea,
And the waters parted into two great walls,
Making a dry path through the middle.

The Israelites walked safely across the sea,
Step by step on the dry ground.
God protected them and led them forward,
Showing His love and care for His people.

When they reached the other side, they were safe.
The people were filled with joy and thanked God,
For He had saved them and guided their journey,
Just as He had promised.

So remember this story, today:
When life feels difficult and the road seems hard,
Trust in God with all your heart,
For He will guide you and never leave you.

Leadership Wall



Closing Message

Being part of the Young People's Division is more than attending meetings or events. It is about building character, strengthening faith, and supporting one another as a community.

Young people are encouraged to take active roles in leadership, community service, and spiritual growth.

When young people work together with faith and dedication, they become powerful agents of change within the church and society.

The East Voice Gazette celebrates the voices and achievements of young people within the Great East Conference.

As we continue to grow as leaders, students, entrepreneurs, and servants of God, may we always remember the importance of faith, unity, and purpose.

Let this publication inspire many more young people to share their stories and contribute to the work of the YPD.

Together, we continue to build a strong and faithful generation.

Thank You!



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• GAZETTE •

BY:

The **GREAT** East Conference
Associate Editor

*The Incredible
Sis. Boitelo Moloji*