



Executive Commission 2013
News of the Day
 Wednesday, 10 July 2013

After the Insaka Groups, commissioners were treated to a tour to the Big Hole.



It was an amazing relaxing break after a rather busy morning having dealt with some deep and sensitive matters.

The morning started with another thought provoking sermon. Rod focused on Philippians 2:1-16 and spoke about attitude. He asked us to test our mindset towards others illustrating how we need to put the interests of others before ourselves. What is choking the life out of our Presbyteries is our wrong attitude to others. We need to be Kenotic which means to be nothing or to empty oneself rather than be chaotic. He then provided a list to describe the behavioral attitudes associated to these two words.

After devotions we moved into the first Decision Session at the EXCOM. Some important decisions that were taken from the reports on Tuesday are summarised as follows:

- next Assembly is in Limpopo Presbytery in July 2014.
- Looking at restructuring the Central Office in line with the UPCS Vision and Mission.
- Encouraging Presbyteries to take a more pastoral approach in conflict matters rather than using legal processes.
- A census of the UPCS.
- A report on the fraud situation and all that was done to rectify the financial systems in the Central Office.
- More than R 1.5m is to be recovered from the fraud.
- How to address the issue of unallocated deposits by congregations.
- A reminder that ministers must become members of the UPCS Pension Fund and the responsibility of congregations therein.
- The General Secretary was reappointed for a further term of 5 years.



Our tour guide discussing the workings of the original mine

In the second Listening Session the meeting received the reports of the Ministry, Education and Training, Mission and Discipleship, Church Associations and Communications.

We wrestled with certain matters in the report of the Ministry Committee as we addressed a Petition and Appeal. The matters were referred to the Insaka Groups to dialogue.

We warmly received the report from the Mission and Discipleship Committee and was impressed with the enthusiastic work of the Committee. Some matters from the Education and Training Committee related matters raised cause for concern.

Inside the mine



Two comments were heard:
 "The story of the diggings is a fascinating one. We watched an audio-visual of the history from the very beginnings. Fortunes were made and lost and people died. The silence when the lights came on was a measure of the sorrow felt at the exploitation of the black people of the time"

"I left with mixed feelings. I am angry that my father worked here and yet he remained poor when there was so much wealth here"



Special lunch organised by the Mission and Discipleship Committee



The day ended with supper and fellowship. We look forward to what God is going to say and do amongst us on Thursday.

Shalom!