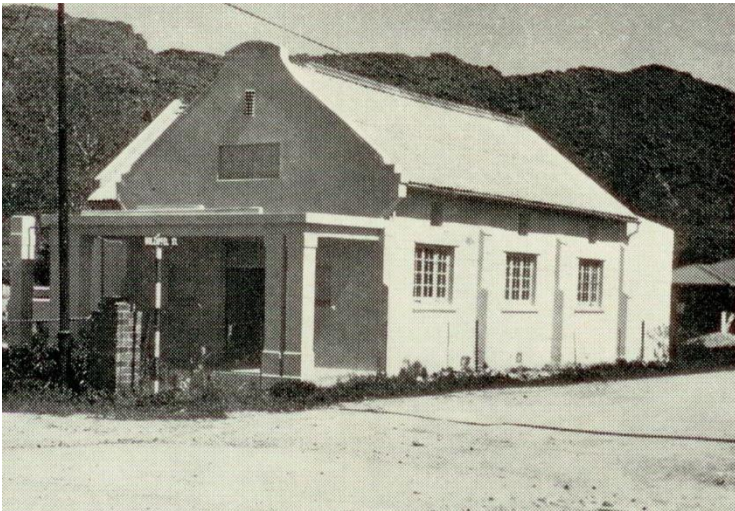


ONTSTAAN VAN DIE KERK

Op die jaarlikse konferensie in Desember 1941 is eerwaarde Johannes David Zekoe aangestel as leraar van die Ebenezer A.M.E-kerk.(African Methodist Episcopal-kerk), Ceres. Geen kerkgebou was nog opgerig nie en eredienste, bidure, Nagmaal, Doop, ontvangs van nuwe lidmate, troues en Sondagskool is gehou in die huis van broer Petrus van Wyk.



Die eerste sooi van die kerkgrond is omgekeer deur dr. Francis H. Gow, superintendent van die kerk. Die kerk het verskeie funksies gehou in die vorm van “Tea Meetings” om fondse in te samel, sodat bouwerk kon aangaan.

Die messelaars was eerwaarde Zekoe, broers Jannie Festus en ander.

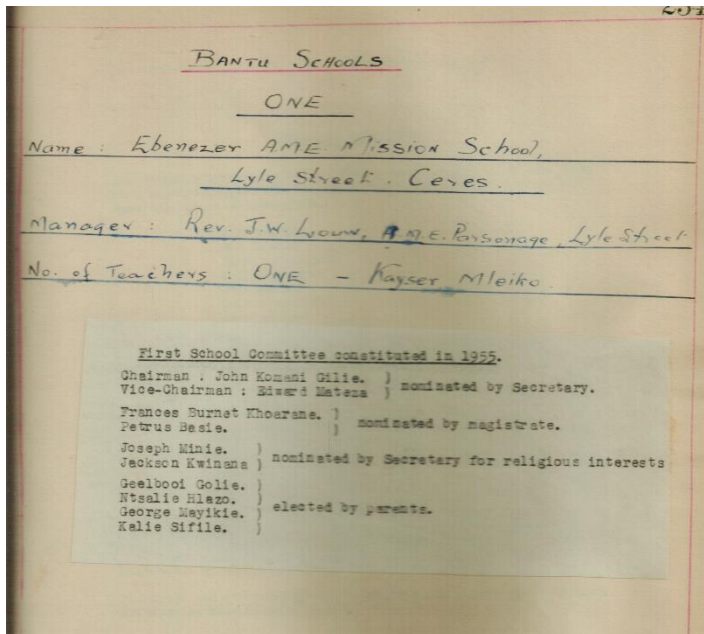
Timmermanne was broer P.A. van Wyk en Seun, wat self die kerkbanke gemaak het.

Die hoeksteen van die gemeente is gelê op 26 Maart 1944 deur dr. F.H. Gow.

Onder leiding van eerw David Clement West is die Laymans league, A.C.E. League en die Raad vir Christelike Onderwys gestig.

ROL VAN DIE KERK IN DIE GEMEENSKAP

Die eerste skool vir die onderrig van Swart mense in Ceres was die skool wat bedryf is deur die Ebenezer A.M.E. kerk. Dit is bygewoon deur kinders van Sakkiesbaai. Ten spyte van regeringsteenstand en -bepenkings, het die skool voortgegaan om die Swart gemeenskappe te bedien. Raadsnotules van 24 Maart 1960 toon dat die getal skoolkinders van Noodkamp (Sakkiesbaai) tot 43 aangegroei het. Na die verskuiwings uit Sakkiesbaai in 1962 het die skool verskuif na hostel S7 in Nduli.



Mnr. Kaiser Mbiko, oorspronklik vanaf Idutywa, het voor die gedwonge verskuiwings by die AME-kerkskool skoolgehou. Hy het in 'n huis agter die kerk gewoon.

In die jaar 1943 is die dagskool te Agtertuin begin. Die onderwysers was mnre. James Belelie en Jochem Nasson.

By die Ebenezer A.M.E.-kerk het Bruin en Swart mense saam aanbid, met mekaar getrou, en sy aan sy 'n laaste rusplek in die A.M.E.-begraafplaas gevind. Apartheid het hierdie situasie beëindig en 'n skeiding tussen die Bruin en Swart gemeenskappe van Ceres afgedwing.

ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH

At the annual conference in December 1941, Rev. Johannes David Zekoe was appointed Minister of the Ebenezer A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) Church of Ceres. At that stage there was no church building and worship services, prayer hours, Holy Communion, christenings, reception of new members, weddings and Sunday school took place in the home of brother Petrus van Wyk.

The turning of the first sod on the church site was done by Dr. Francis H. Gow, superintendent of the church. The church arranged many functions, in the form of tea meetings in order to raise funds so the building could proceed.

The masons were Rev. Zekoe, bros. Jannie Festus and others. The carpenters were bros. P.A.van Wyk and Sons, who also made the pews.

On 26 March 1944 the foundation stone was laid by Dr. F.H. Gow.

Under the leadership of Rev. David Clement West the Laymans League, A.C.E. League and the Council for Christian Education were established.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

The first school for the education of black people in Ceres was run by the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. It was attended by the children from an area known as Sakkiesbaai. In spite of the government's objections and limitations, the school continued to serve the black community. Council minutes of 24th March 1960 record that the pupil numbers of 'Noodkamp' (Sakkiesbaai) had grown to 43. After the removal in 1962, the school moved to hostel S7 in Nduli.

Mr Kaiser Mbiko, originally from Idutywa, was the teacher at the A.M.E. Church School before the forced removal. He lived in a house behind the school.

During 1943 a day school was started at Agtertuin. The teachers were Mr James Belelie and Jochem Nasson.

In the Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church brown and black congregants prayed together, got married and found their final resting place together in the A.M.E. cemetery. Apartheid ended this situation and separation was forced on the Ceres community.



EBENEZER A.M.E. CHURCH (STEWARDS) — CERES, 1965



Front: G. SCHEPPERS (Local Preacher) J. FORTUIN Rev. G. VAN STAVEL P. LINNEKT
 Standing: J. HENVERDIEB J. ERASMUS T. VAN DER MERWE (Oldest Member)

EBENEZER W.M.S. A.M.E. CHURCH — CERES, 1965



Front: Mrs. G. VAN DER MERWE Mrs. A. SAMSON Judge & Rev. G. VAN STAVEL Mrs. J. MARTIN Mrs. C. GATYENE
 Middle: Mrs. R. SCHEPPERS A. LINDHEIT M. FORTUIN T. ERSMAN B. VAN DER MERWE
 Back: S. VERMEULEN H. WATERBOER

IMVELAPHI YEBANDLA

Kwinkomfa yonyaka kwe EyoMnga 1941, uMfundisi uJohannes David Zekoe wamiselwa njengoMphathiswa weEbenezer A.M.E. (Ubhishophu waseWisile waseAfrika) iCawe yaseCeres. Ngelo xesha kwakungekho zakhiwo zecawa kunye neenkonzonqulo, iiyure zokuthandaza, uMthendeleko oNgcwele, ubuKristu, ulwamkelo lwamalungu amatsha, imitshato kunye nesikolo seCawe sasiqhutyelwa kwikhaya lomzalwana uPetrus van Wyk.

Ukuphethulwa kwesoyi yokuqala kwindawo yecawa kwenziwa nguGqr. Francis H. Gow, abalawuli becawa. Icawa yalungiselela imisebenzi emininzi, ngohlobo lweentlanganiso zeti ukuze kunyuswe imali ukuze isakhiwo siqhubeke. Abenzi bamatye yayinguMfundisi Zekoe, obhuti UJannie Festus nabanye. Abachweli yayingoobhuti. P.A. van Wyk kunye nooNyana, nabo benza iipewu. Ngomhla wama-26 kwe EyoKwindla ka-1944 ilitye lesiseko labekwa nguGqr F.H. Gow.

Phantsi kokhokelo lukaMfundisi uDavid Clement West kuManyano lwaba shumayeli, A.C.E. Kwasekwa uManyano neBhunga Lemfundo YamaKristu.

INDIMA YEBANDLA ELUNTWINI

Isikolo sokuqala sokufundisa abantu abamnyama eCeres sasiqhutywa yi-Ebenezer A.M.E. Icawa. Bekuzinyaswe ngabantwana abasuka kwindawo eyaziwa ngokuba yiSakkiesbaai. Phezu kwayo nje inkcaso nemiqathango karhulumente, esi sikolo saqhubeka sikhonza abantu abantsundu. Imizuzu yebhunga yomhla wama-24 kwe EyoKwindla 1960 irekhoda ukuba amanani abafundi baseNoodkamp (Sakkiesbaai) anyuke aya kuma-43. Emva kokususwa ngo-1962, isikolo safudukela kwihostele i-S7 eNduli.

Umnumzana Kaiser Mbiko, ophuma eDutywa, ebengutishala eA.M.E. Isikolo seCawa ngaphambi kokususwa ngenkani. Wayehlala kwindlu esemva kwesikolo.

Ngo-1943 kwaqaliswa isikolo sosuku eAgtertuin. Ootitshala yayinguMnu James Belelie noJochem Nasson.

KwiCawa yase-Ebenezer A.M.E. amarhamente amdaka namnyama athandaza kunye, atshata aza afumana indawo yawo yokugqibela yokuphumla kumangcwaba ase-A.M.E. Ucalucalulo lwayiphelisa le meko kwaye kwanyanzeliswa ukwahlukana kuluntu lwaseCeres.