

Head of Strategy and Communication Remarks
Eswatini Nazarene Central District Fundraising Dinner
Manzini Metropolitan, 03 October 2025

- Programme Director,
- District Superintendent,
- Pastors,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Members of the Church of the Nazarene,
- The Youth,
- Good evening!

INTRODUCTION

1. It is a distinct honour to be with you tonight. I am here as the representative of the Governor of the Central Bank of Eswatini Dr. Phil Mnisi, but I must first tell you that my heart and deep beliefs come from my calling as a pastor. Tonight, I bring these two parts of my life together, united by one important goal, to invest in our young people.

THEME

2. The theme for this evening is **"Believe in Your Path."** This is more than a good saying. It is a call to live with purpose, to trust the journey God has

planned, and to act with courage. We are raising money for the important youth evangelism initiatives. These projects will help students in local universities and bring hope to those in correctional centres. Our work helps every young person understand and trust the special path God has for them.

3. Congregants, the theme guiding our evening, is a powerful directive that transcends both faith and finance. It calls for intentionality, demanding that we recognise and trust the specific journey God has laid out for us, whether we are managing a central bank or launching a new evangelism initiative.
4. This theme reminds us that true progress begins with conviction. Believing in the path means embracing the vision God gives, understanding that the journey is designed for growth, and acting with courage despite the scale of the task.
5. This commitment to **"Believe in Your Path"** also serves as our mandate for the fundraising tonight. It signifies that our commitment is not based on temporary emotions, but on a deep, abiding faith in the process and the purpose. Just as sound economic policy requires long-term belief in stability and growth, effective ministry requires enduring faith in the spiritual harvest.
6. We are investing in a path that leads to spiritual freedom and positive change, providing resources for mentorship, education assistance, and outreach. Our support ensures that the path for these young people who are often navigating complex challenges in academic and correctional environments is illuminated by the hope of the Gospel, enabling them to

realize their divine potential and, in turn, become beacons who help others believe in their own way forward.

THE POWER OF PURPOSE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

7. Drawing on the powerful findings of a landmark study, William Damon, one of the nation's foremost experts on youth development and author of the award-winning **Greater Expectations**, explores one of the most urgent issues facing today's young people: why so many are **"failing to launch."** Increasing numbers of youth are living at home longer, lacking motivation, struggling to transition into adulthood, and searching for a meaningful life direction.
8. Damon's research reveals a striking contrast: while about one-fifth of young people are thriving; fully engaged in activities they enjoy and developing a strong sense of purpose, roughly one-fourth remain directionless, at serious risk of never reaching their potential. The majority fall somewhere in between, wavering on the edge of engagement. Some are "dabblers," exploring various interests without commitment; others are "dreamers," who have vague ambitions but no concrete plans or understanding of what success requires.
9. **What sets the thriving youth apart?** Damon finds that the key is a well-developed sense of purpose; a clear, motivating vision that gives their lives direction. Through in-depth interviews, he offers insight into the thoughts and feelings of disengaged youth, highlighting their confusion and anxiety about the future. In contrast, he presents compelling portraits of purposeful young people and identifies nine essential factors that have helped them flourish.

10. Ultimately, Damon provides practical and powerful strategies that parents, educators, and mentors can use to help young people discover a sense of purpose; the foundation for a meaningful, productive, and fulfilling life.

THE VISION, THE DOUBT, AND THE COURAGE

Dear family in Christ, every great endeavour, whether it is building a national economy or building God's kingdom, begins with one thing, that is vision.

11. A vision is a blueprint for the future; it is seeing the potential God has already placed within a person or a project. For our youth initiatives, the vision is clear to equip young believers to be beacons of hope in every sphere of influence. The Bible reminds us in Proverbs 29:18: ***"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*** We must constantly hold up that compelling vision for our youth.
12. Overcoming doubt, a great vision is often met with great doubt. Can we truly make a difference in a complex university setting? Can we bring genuine change to a correctional centre? Doubt is the currency of the enemy. But we serve a God of infinite resources and power. As a central banker, I deal with risk every day, but I take inspiration from Isaiah 41:10: ***"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*** Let that be our anchor when the whispers of doubt creep in.
13. The courage to start vision and faith are nothing without action. The hardest step is often the first one, the courage to start. We are not called

to be perfect, but we are called to be obedient. When God called Moses, he hesitated. When God calls us to invest in a generation, we must answer with the courage of Gideon. Our financial commitment tonight is that initial courageous step. It is the action that launches the entire endeavour.

FAITH, LEGACY, AND RESILIENCE

Once we start, we must commit to the journey itself, a journey that is rarely smooth.

14. Faith in the journey, whether in church or work environment, is not a sprint, but a marathon of perseverance and trust. We must have faith in the process of our journey, trusting that God is orchestrating the details even when we cannot see the full picture. Our role is simply to be faithful with the resources and talents God gives us. The prophet Jeremiah captures this beautifully in Jeremiah 29:11: ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***
15. Creating legacy through purpose, we are not here merely to pass the time we are here to create a legacy through purpose. A legacy is not measured in wealth or titles, but in the lives we impact. By investing in youth evangelism, we are not simply running programmes, we are investing in eternity. We are building a spiritual and moral infrastructure that will outlast any of our earthly careers. That is the highest form of purposeful investment.

16. Let me tell you, every successful leader, in the church or the bank, has faced setbacks. Resilience in the face of failure is not about pretending it did not happen, it is about learning the lesson, getting back up, and trusting that your purpose is bigger than your mistake. The Bible's promise is powerful: *"For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again."* (Proverbs 24:16). Our youth need to see us model of resilience.

THE POWER OF SMALL WINS

17. Bazalwane, we must always remember to celebrate small wins. Every journey, whether running a central bank or running a ministry, is made up of steps. Every big victory is built from many small ones. We must not only look at the large, but distant goal also, we must find joy in the progress we make each day.
18. Do not wait for the final grand result to show your gratitude and excitement. Every single life touched by our programme is a reason to pause and celebrate, every student counselled who chooses the right path, everyone in a correctional centre, every young person who finds Christ these are huge triumphs. These small wins are the immediate, powerful proof that our vision is truly working, by recognising and celebrating them is crucial for our whole community.
19. They are like fuel for our commitment, and they give us the spiritual and emotional energy to keep pushing forward when the road gets difficult. They remind us that every investment, every prayer, and every moment of service, no matter how small, is making a real difference in God's Kingdom.

20. The Bible tells us in Luke 16:10: *"Whoever is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much."* This means God cares deeply about our small acts of faithfulness, we celebrate not just the result, but the loyalty and effort shown in the process. We celebrate these small wins to strengthen our faith and inspire us toward the greater vision.

CONCLUSION

21. As I step down, tonight I want to let you know that you have an opportunity to make a tangible, eternal investment. An investment that strengthens our students against the pressures of the modern world and brings the gospel to those who need it most.
22. Let us commit tonight, not just with our wallets, but with renewed vision, courage, and faith. Believe in your path, believe in the path of the Church of the Nazarene Central District, and above all, believe in the path God has laid out for the next generation.

I thank you all, God bless us all!