

The Anglican Church of St. Monica – Mahlazine Maputo

How it came into being

This church started in the residence of a humble couple of peasants (Mr. Lazaro Lazaro Tete and Constancia Jossefa Nhatave), who came from Nhamavila in the province of Gaza to live in Maputo, and Mr. Vicente Tete who used to work in the mines in South Africa. Constancia's sister got married to a seminarian who later on became a priest (Fr. Francisco Manave).



The idea of creating this church appeared in **1982**, when the said seminarian was visiting his relatives, and discovering that the existing parishes were distant he advised them to start having prayer meetings at an agreed time and day, and inform the seminary and Fr. Francisco could seek permission to come and guide the group in conducting services. After they agreed the proposal, they invited Fr. Lucas Martins Macie to come and see the place, and authorise the residence to start working as a church, since the number of participants increased to 4 families.

After a year of assistance to this congregation Fr. Francisco was sent to Chokwe for probation and Fr. Lucas Martins was transferred to Inhambane Province. Then was appointed Fr. Zefanias Uamusse, who was serving the Church of St Philip and St. James in Mavalane, to render assistance on Sunday afternoons at St. Monica.



On **05-05-85**, the Bishop visited the church and it was given the name of St. Monica. From **1982** to **1986** the services were held in this Tete family, opening their house for the use of the church. In May **1986**, the bishop visited St. Monica for the first time in the same house, where he was amazed to see the growth of this congregation, and he challenged them to look for a space where the church could

be built, but at that time it was difficult due to the political system, which had nothing to do with the church.

The visit by His Grace, Archbishop Desmond Tutu on **26-06-87**, who celebrated the Eucharist and met with the Mothers Union made the people of

the area aware of the presence of the church, and the local authorities started looking at the church positively, and became willing to give land. In **1987** we were given the land, where we built a church with corrugated iron, and it was inaugurated on **02-04-1989** by the Bishop of Swaziland, who had come to attend the Synod of Lebombo, accompanied by the then Archdeacon of Maputo, Ven. Gabriel Muianga and the Assistant Priest, Fr. Zefanias Uamusse. From **1984 to 1990**, this congregation was under the church of St. Philip and St. James of Mavalane led by Fr. Zefanias Uamusse.



From **1991**, this church was attached to the Parish of St. Barnabas of Mahotas in Bagamoyo. At the end of 10 years after the inauguration of the corrugated iron building, the building was degrading, and it was felt we needed to start gathering resources for the building of a solid structure, much bigger, though we knew it would take an unpredictable time. So, in 1999, we started to contribute, in order to buy initial material for foundations, and on **05-05-2002** the bishop came to lay the foundation stone. In this effort we counted with supervision and mobilization of resources by our rector. As we said earlier, the building is big, and its

construction is very slow. From the parish we received in 2007 about USD\$1.700,00 in material and money. And in 2008, we received from the parish USD\$1500,00, and from Swedish friends we received about USD\$700,00. In 2009, we received via the Diocese USD\$1100,00 for the building. The local church has and continues to contribute money which is immediately applied to current needs.

We stress that on 22/03/2007, our building made with corrugated iron collapsed because of the arsenal explosion, where a son of the late Vicente Tete died immediately, when he was coming from work.

This church is led by a Catechist, Mr. Carmona Macaringue, and the priest in charge is the Rev. Julião Mutemba.

With this information from St. Monica, we thank all of you who supported us with prayers and money.

St. Barnabas is building a small website to make known what they do. It can be visited at <http://stbarnabasbagamoyo.webs.com/>