

ANOTHER DIMENSION

OCTOBER 2023



The Methodist Church
of Southern Africa

“HURRY UP BECAUSE WE ARE LOSING YOUNG PEOPLE!” BISHOP MANDINDI CHARGES WESLEY GUILD EXECUTIVE

The first ever Wesley Guild Connexional Executive was inducted at the City Mission Yase Thekwini Methodist Church, by the Connexional Children and Youth Unit Coordinator, Rev Phezile Koekoe as tasked by the Presiding Bishop, Rev Purity Malinga. The new executive includes the President, Rev Lwazi Kondlo, Hlonelikhaya Klaas - General Vice President, Ziningi Mngomezulu - General Secretary and Londeka Makhoba and General Treasurer.

When giving the charge, Rev Linda Mandindi, Bishop, Natal Coastal District, encouraged the executive to read 1 Corinthians 16.

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He charged them: "Be on your guard - be strong and do everything in love; wake up, stand firm in faith and do all your work in love. Always remember the purpose for which you have been elected into these positions of servanthood."

"Resist being captured by certain views of the membership of the Wesley Guild - resist being seen to favour certain districts; instead, stand in the middle and give leadership as led by God: watch over these young people."

Bishop Mandindi charged the executive to be alert and fully aware of, and be present to, the manifold challenges that Guilders across the Connexion face.

"Guilders are facing a lot of challenges - the devil is a lion, roaming, intending to devour young people."

"As doctors say 'hurry up - we are losing him' about a patient in an emergency - hurry up because we are losing young people! Save their lives as you offer leadership. Don't personalise anything - don't lose your focus," Rev Mandindi said.

He asked them to take their cue from the early church and how they were church. Church is a way of life.

"They did not wait to *do church* when they

got to church - they started to do church on their way to church!"

Reflecting on Psalm 121, Rev Mandindi said: "When you know what God has done for you, you can ask a question and you can answer yourself like the Psalmist, because you will know what God has done for you. He is God our helper - a helper is a person who in times of difficulty you can always call upon because you trust him or her. A helper steps in in moments of challenges and trouble."

"God is also the protector - it is necessary when you are dealing with pain that you yourself can't manage; God will not allow your feet to slip..."

"There are moments in Connexional leadership that you may slip."

"God does not call you into leadership only to leave you. Create an atmosphere of excellence so that our gifted young people can blossom and thrive."

Bishop Mandindi concluded his charge with a prayer, caution, and reminder.

"May God help you - not all people will love you - be willing to make mistakes and be able to say 'I don't know'. Remember to consult, but this shouldn't lead to being captured."



Above: Rev Lwazi Kondlo (President), Hlonelikhaya Klaas (General Vice President), Ziningi Mngomezulu (General Secretary) and Londeka Makhoba (General Treasurer).

Below: The Act of Induction



WA GATHERED FOR 31ST BIENNIAL MEETINGS

The Women's Association gathered for their 31st Biennial meetings in the Kumkani Hintsa District, from 4-8 October 2023 under the theme: Taking a Stand. The meeting saw the induction of a new General President, Deacon Fozia Madjoe and her executive.

The Biennial programme under the leadership of the then General President, Ms Susan Wyngaard and her executive paid special attention to community outreach programmes which focused on both boys and girls. Young Boys were taken to the Komani Prison with the aim of deterring them from participating in criminal activities. Motivational talks were presented to the local girls by the Director of Girl Future, Nelisa Bobie. Girl Future is an NPO that aims to unleash the potential of young girls from rural, semi-rural and semi urban communities by equipping them with leadership and communication skills as well as technological skills that will set them up for success as future leaders and successful business entrepreneurs of the future. The women also went out into the community of Queenstown where they gave gifts to the communities of Aloevale, New Rest and the John Foster Home.

The Presiding Bishop, Rev Purity Malinga thanked the outgoing General President, Ms Susan Wyngaard and her executive for putting the issue of gender based violence on the table and doing their part to fight this scourge. In charging the new executive from Romans 12, Bishop Malinga encouraged them to lead with love and diligence.

"Paul says if you are called to lead with diligence. If your gift is to lead, do it diligently. It's not about the circumstances around you or the people you are called to lead. It is about the will of the one who is calling you to lead at this time."

"Leadership is in trouble because people who are led do not want to be led and secondly because those in leadership do not understand why they are leading. There is a view,

especially in the Methodist Church, that leadership is about a position...there is a view that leadership is for those who know better! Leadership is a gift from God, and when God calls you, he equips you," Bishop Malinga said.

Below is the inaugural address of the new General President.

"We gather at this our 31st Biennial, in the Kumkani Hintsa District in Queenstown, led by the theme of our Presiding Bishop Elect, the Reverend Pumla Nzimande: "Awakening Prophetic Urgency and Agency, Reviving the Church of Christ."

A rather stern and serious command, but a much needed one at a time such as the one we are living in!

We are called to awaken prophetic urgency and agency and to revival.

And so what does prophetic urgency and agency mean? What does revival mean?

Prophetic refers to something that predicts or foretells future events or outcomes. It can be used to describe a person, message, or event that accurately predicts or anticipates future events. Prophetic can also refer to the ability or gift of prophecy, which is the ability to receive divine revelations or insights about the future.

In Christianity, the concept of revival refers to a spiritual awakening or renewal within the Church. It involves a renewed passion for God, a deepening of faith, and a commitment to living out the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Revival on the other hand, is often seen as a response to a perceived decline in spiritual fervor or a need for spiritual transformation.



Revival means reawakening, restoration, renaissance, renewal, awakening, resurrection, refreshment, quickening, rebirth, it means to bring back to life!

As The Women's Association within the MCSA, we need to pray that God would graciously send us such a visitation of His saving grace. And, we need to prepare ourselves to welcome the Lord Himself into our midst.

And so in a world that often seems to be drifting further away from God's truth, we are called upon to be the catalysts of change. As Christian women, we have a unique role to play in reviving God's kingdom, and it is with a sense of urgency and agency that we must embrace this responsibility.

The urgency lies in the realization that time is of the essence. Our world is in desperate need of the transformative power of God's love, and we cannot afford to delay in sharing His message of hope and redemption. The urgency lies in recognizing that every passing moment is an opportunity to make a difference, to bring light into the darkness, and to restore broken lives.

There is a sense of urgency and a call to action. As women of faith, we have a unique role to play in the revival of the kingdom and church of God. We are called to be prophetic agents, voices that speak truth, and catalysts for change.

But urgency alone is not enough. We must also embrace agency, the understanding that we have been given the power and authority to act on behalf of God's kingdom. We are not passive bystanders, but active participants in His divine plan. Our voices matter, our actions matter, and our faithfulness matters. We have the ability to shape the world around us, to influence hearts and minds, and to bring about lasting change.

In a world that often overlooks or undervalues the contributions of women, it is crucial that we rise up and embrace our calling. The time for complacency is over; we must step forward with boldness and conviction. The kingdom of God needs our voices, our passion, and our unique perspectives.

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To be a prophetic agent means to be a voice for justice, compassion, and righteousness. It means standing up against injustice, speaking out against oppression, and advocating for the marginalized. It means challenging the status quo and working towards a more inclusive and equitable church.

Reviving the kingdom and church of God requires urgency. We cannot afford to wait for someone else to take the lead. We must be willing to step out of our comfort zones, to take risks, and to be the change we want to see. The world is in desperate need of the transformative power of God's love, and we have a vital role to play in bringing that love to life.

We will not underestimate the impact we can have when we come together in unity and purpose. As we gathered we were reminded of the countless women who have gone before us, who have fought for justice, who have spoken truth to power, and who have worked tirelessly to advance God's kingdom.

Their legacy is our inspiration, and their example is our guide.

As women of prayer we will seek God's wisdom and discernment in all that we do. As women of courage we will be unafraid to stand up for what is right, even in the face of opposition. As women of compassion we will extend love and grace to those who are hurting and in need. And as women of faith we will trust in God's promises and believe that He will use us to bring about His kingdom on earth.

But let us not forget that this challenge is not one that we face alone. We are part of a community of believers, united in our mission to bring about God's kingdom on earth. Together, we can support and encourage one another, sharing our gifts and talents to make a lasting impact. As we embark on this journey together, we will remember that we are not alone. We have the Holy Spirit as our guide, and we have each other as a source of support and encouragement.

We are encouraged to take up this challenge with fervor and determination and to be the prophetic voices that our world so desperately needs. We will work tirelessly to revive the kingdom and church of God, knowing that our efforts are not in vain.

May we be women who are unafraid to speak truth, who are unwavering in our pursuit of justice, and who are relentless in our love for others. May we be women who embody the values of the kingdom and who inspire others to do the same.

"Sekunjalo - Ke Nako" - The time is now. Let us rise up and be the prophetic agents that God has called us to be.



Incoming Executive for Connexional



METHODIST CHURCH LOOKS BACK ON RICH HERITAGE

By Staff Reporter

The Ottery Road Methodist Church in Wynberg will be celebrating two centuries of Methodism in Wynberg, from Sunday 8 October to Sunday 15 October.

Thelma Achilles and Sean Hadskins, members of the church's heritage committee, worked together on presenting the history of the church and the announcement of events taking place.

"We'll have significant celebration functions in the week of 9 October, including a memorial lecture dedicated to Ms Achilles's late father, Reverend Thomas Achilles, who served as one of the pastors for 15 years," said Mr Hadskins.

Mr Hadskins said the earliest identified minister of the church was Reverend Edward P Thomas who served from 1923 to 1933.

Mr Hadskins said the church had a membership going back six generations and its mission was to be responsive to the needs of the community as it fed the homeless and schoolchildren through a vegetable garden outreach programme.

Members of the church work through Kairos Prison Ministry to minister to those in prison.

Bishop Ivan Abrahams, who was educated at Ottery Road Methodist Primary School, served as the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (2003 to 2012) and was the fourth person and first South African to serve as General Secretary of the World Methodist Council (2012).

"Bishop Yvette Moses, who served as resident minister at Ottery Road Methodist Church, is currently the Bishop of the Cape of Good Hope District," said Mr Hadskins.

A plaque unveiled by Reverend CK Storey in the church in 1957, dates the work of Methodism in Wynberg to 1807.

"Sergeant John Kendrick and Reverend Barnabas Shaw were among the early leaders," said Mr Hadskins.

The ground for the Ottery Road Methodist Church was purchased in 1829 and the first chapel was completed in Wynberg in 1830, 193 years ago.

"History reflected in various books shows separate services were held in Dutch for the local community and in English for the Europeans until 1851, when a new church built by the Maynard brothers was completed for Europeans, to replace the one destroyed in a fire."

"At this time, the Ottery Road Methodist Church was handed to the local community for their exclusive use, which continues until today," said Mr Hadskins.

In 1902, the church attendance and Sunday School were thriving at Ottery Road Methodist, and a new church was built at a cost of £900. The foundation stone of the current church dates to 1903 making it 120 years old.

"Church services are conducted in English and Xhosa and provide for traditional and contemporary worship styles and music," said Mr Hadskins.

The current minister, Reverend Sanele Ncobeni, joined in 2009.

"The Ottery Road Methodist Church forms part of the Wynberg Circuit that includes another church in Wynberg opposite Maynardville, one in Lansdowne, one in Claremont and one in Parkwood," said Reverend Ncobeni.

Reverend Ncobeni said their church had an open-door policy for anyone in need.

"During this celebration, we not only celebrate the years of the ministry but also those people in the community who had, and have, made a meaningful contribution to the church," he said.

The heritage celebrations included a choir festival on Sunday 8 October at 3pm; a memorial lecture for Reverend Thomas Achilles on Wednesday 11 October at 6.30pm; a memorial lecture for Reverend Isaac Dearham on Thursday 12 October at 6.30pm; a heritage banquet with Bishop Yvette Moses on Saturday 14 October at 6pm; and a heritage service with presiding Bishop Purity Malinga on Sunday 15 October at 10am.

For more information, contact Mr Hadskins on 082 582 1575.



A picture of the Ottery Road Methodist Church in Wynberg, in 1972.



A current picture of the Ottery Road Methodist Church.

CLARKEBURY DISTRICT YMG ASSEMBLED FOR MISSION WEEKEND

By Mdutshane T.R

The Clarkebury District Young Men's Guild (YMG) members assembled for a Mission Weekend from 30 September to 1 October at Bojane Circuit under the theme: "Raising a Boy Child".

Members of the YMG in the District intended to develop a concept document on raising a boy child in the context of the church and the community at large. The following questions formed the basis upon which the concept document was framed:

1. How do we, as the YMG, become part of raising young boys in our communities?
2. How do we, as the YMG, engage women in raising a boy child?
3. How do we, as the YMG, partner with Children and the Youth Ministry in raising a boy child?
4. How do we, as the YMG, give support to the young boys' life generally?
5. What kind of support programmes can we, as the YMG, render, in raising a boy child as a complete human being?

The discussion further looked at and scrutinized deeply the contextual relevance of robing a boy child, as against raising a boy child, with specific reference to the prescripts of the church. The DDSR Team was given a task to consolidate and finalise the concept document. The YMG District Executive, in turn intends to share the

concept document with other mission groups and the church at large, for inputs before it is presented to the CGEC and finally to the Connexional Conference for endorsement and approval.

Men's Health

The YMG members also engaged on discussion matters that relate to men's health and how these issues affect men in life, generally. The facilitator focused on the following aspects of men's health:

1. The role of YMG as a family man
2. The YMG and his marriage life
3. The impact of diabetes and cancer on men's performance in marriage life and in life, generally.

From this presentation, it was concluded that YMG members are ordinary human beings dressed in the YMG uniform, and are, therefore, subject to the health-challenges that confront all men. Awareness was raised on how YMG members should respond and deal with the challenges caused by diabetes and cancer, in order to maintain a healthy life and marriage, in particular. Furthermore, it was proposed that such platforms on health issues, should be created in future, to include sessions with married couples.

In conclusion, the YMG were high in spirit and the revival service continued until dawn on 1 October 2023 and the Divine Service was conducted at 9h00.



CLARKEBURY DISTRICT ORDER OF EVANGELISM MISSION WEEKEND

By Mdutshane T.R

The Clarkebury District Order of Evangelism held a Mission Week Programme from 26 – 29 October at Pamlaville Circuit 1308. They convened under the theme: “We learn together, we grow up together, remaining in the love of Christ”.

The Evangelists and Bible women from the breadth and length of the District under the leadership of the District Co-Ordinator, Rev SN Mtshengu, assembled with the assignment to evangelize around the Pamlaville areas and also to lead in the ministry of food security. They braved the wet weather and got engaged in setting up a food garden which will be left under the care of the Circuit.

Their programme, among others, included door to door evangelism, praying for people in the community, and a healing service. This ministry saw most people committing to return to church as some have been out of church for a long time.

They also held the following workshops in the circuit:

- Economic Empowerment and Human Development.
- Minister and Circuit Leadership Relations.
- The role of Circuit Stewards.
- Giving (Tithing and Offering).

The aim of these workshops was to ensure that they leave the Circuit empowered in as many spheres as possible.



DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AWARD



Congratulations to Rev Michael Vorster who received an award from the Democracy Development Programme (DDP) for work done with refugees and for enabling democracy education in communities.

SPECIAL VISIT TO MARSH MEMORIAL HOMES IN RONDEBOSCH, CAPE TOWN

By Bishop Yvette Moses and Rev Kevin Needham

Our Presiding Bishop, The Reverend Purity Malinga, found the time to pay a visit to Marsh Memorial Homes in Rondebosch, Cape Town, on 15 October during her leave. The children of Marsh Memorial Homes were delighted to welcome Reverend Malinga to their vibrant weekly chapel service, led by the Rev Gillian Fox and her vibrant worship team from Cape Gateway Circuit. The visit provided an excellent opportunity for the Marsh Memorial community to express their appreciation for the exemplary manner in which Rev Malinga has fulfilled her role as the sole Trustee of the children's home.

The history of Marsh Memorial Homes dates back to the will of the late William Marsh, who generously bequeathed half of his estate to establish what was initially known as an orphanage, following the model of Dr. Stephenson's home in London. Reverend TE Marsh, a Methodist minister and William Marsh's son, was entrusted with the responsibility of establishing and holding the home in trust for the children. The Wesleyan Church Committee would assume trusteeship upon his passing. Following Reverend Marsh's father's death in 1901, he acquired a farm in Rondebosch known as Woodside. Subsequently, several additional portions of land were acquired, leading to the establishment of a purpose-built orphanage, supported by its own farm. The first children were admitted on January 12, 1903.

Over time, portions of the land have been sold and leased out to ensure the financial sustainability of the project.



Presiding Bishop to Marsh Memorial Homes pictured with Rev Kevin Needham (Marsh Principal), Rev Yvette Moses, (Board Chairperson and Bishop of Cape of Good Hope District), Mr Fred Jenkens (Marsh Board Treasurer)

Nevertheless, the home is blessed with a spacious campus featuring numerous heritage buildings, playing fields, swimming pools, and ample facilities to cater to the best interests of vulnerable children. Today, Marsh Memorial Homes provides a safe haven for 60 children who have been deemed in need of care and protection by the Children's Court. These children live on the campus, in six cottages, each overseen by trained and registered child and youth care workers. While the children attend school in the local community, they also engage in therapeutic and developmental programmes at the home. Additionally, the home collaborates with social workers in the community to address the needs of their families, with the ultimate goal of reintegrating the children back into their families or communities of origin.

Despite government grants falling behind inflation, the dedicated staff and a generous group of volunteers, along with compassionate donors, continue to work towards fulfilling the vision of "nurturing children and transforming lives."

In a significant development, the Marsh Homes community is celebrating their newfound financial capability to renovate one of the original, and long-neglected, houses. This renovated structure will be known as Heatherdale



Presiding Bishop with Rev Kevin Needham, Principal of Marsh Memorial Homes

House, in honour of the exceptional work accomplished by their sister home in Athlone, which regrettably had to close due to financial constraints. Heatherdale House is set to become a residential training centre for child and youth care workers, focusing specifically on those who will work in residential care centres for vulnerable children. This exciting project rekindles the spirit of an earlier training centre that was once part of the Marsh Memorial Homes' history.

To learn more about this vibrant ministry and discover ways in which you can contribute to the ongoing mission of "nurturing children and transforming lives," please visit their website at <https://marshmemorial.org.za>.



Worship in the Marsh Chapel with the District Bishop, Rev Gillian Fox and the worship team from Windsor Park Society, Cape Gateway Circuit



The magnificent stained glass window depicting Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come unto me..." at Marsh Memorial Homes

KAIROS PALESTINE STATEMENT ON THE WAR ON GAZA

**If I go forth into the field, behold, the slain with the sword!
And if I enter into the city, behold, those who are sick with
famine! Yes, both the prophet and the priest go
about into a land that they know not. *Jeremiah 14:18***

The war on Gaza again, but this time it started from Gaza. It has caused great suffering and destruction in Israel. Many see it as an unjust war against Israel. But the question that every human being, and every seeker of peace and justice, must ask is: Why did this war start?

We all say 'No' to the War. We all say 'Yes' to peace, and to working for a just and final solution to an existing conflict and to the injustice that has been imposed on the Palestinian people for more than 70 years. Israel does not see the Palestinian people as having any right to exist, and the international community is too weak to implement its decisions to find a just and final solution.

We all mourn and console all the victims on both sides of the conflict. A human being is a human being, both Israeli and Palestinian, and every human being is dear in the eyes of God, and in the eyes of his family, relatives, and loved ones.

'No' to war, 'Yes' to a just and final peace.

What is the reason for this sudden war that started from Gaza?

The immediate cause of the war was the formation of the extreme right-wing Israeli government that allowed and encouraged the attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque, and challenged the religious feelings of Muslims and Christians, despite the successive ultimatums and warnings that came from Gaza, Palestinian leaders, and other global religious and political leaders. This same government has also allowed the spread of settlers throughout occupied Palestine, from north to south, wreaking havoc on the land, attacking Palestinians, killing them and confiscating their lands, under the watch and protection of the Israeli occupation army.

As for the root causes driving the war, they are the permanent state of terror that we Palestinians live in daily from the rule and tyranny of the Israeli occupation army, and the absolute insistence by successive Israeli governments, especially this government, that there is no Palestinian state, and that the Palestinian people have no right to self-determination. And all the consequences that arise from that.

This is in addition to the stifling siege of Gaza (two million people in an area not exceeding 360 km²). Since 2007 until today, the people of Gaza have been living in a large open prison that lacks all humane conditions for living.

This war is a reaction and answer to all of that. This war is a demand for Israeli and international recognition of the existence of the Palestinian people and their rights like all other peoples. It is a demand for justice and freedom. It is a demand for independence in a recognized state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital.

This war is a word to the rulers of Israel that weapons do not protect or provide safety. Weapons only cause death. They do

not bring life to anyone. We do not want death, but life. We want freedom, justice and independence. We say to you now what we said in our 2009 Kairos Document, *Moment of Truth*: "Our future and [Israel's] future are one. Either the cycle of violence that destroys both of us or peace that will benefit both." We also reiterate what the President of Colombia has said in response to the current war: "The only way for Israeli children to sleep in peace is for Palestinian children to sleep in peace."

We all cry for everyone who died, was injured, or was captured. We have been crying for more than seventy years. Refugees in all parts of the world are asking to return. In your prisons, Israel, there are thousands of political prisoners asking for their freedom. There are Palestinians who have been forcibly displaced, homes you have destroyed, homes you raided day and night, and in which you instilled terror.

This war came to say, it is time for everyone to wake up and know the truth about what is happening in Palestine and Israel, that Israel has settled in a land that belongs to the people of Palestine and has deprived the people of Palestine of their freedom. This situation needs to be corrected. Correcting it is not difficult. International law and international standards are acceptable to the Palestinians. Let's agree on it.

This war came to say that weapons do not protect, and the strong who underestimate the weak will not protect themselves nor will they find security. Safe hearts are safe strongholds. Palestinian hearts, if their full freedom, dignity, and state are returned to them, are your only protection.

If your hearts are pure, your crowds will no longer say, "Death to the Arabs," and the slogan of some of your representatives in the Knesset will no longer be, "No, to peace with the Arabs, and death to the Arabs."

It is time for the rulers and friends of Israel to understand that the peace of the country, and the peace of Israel, is the peace of the Palestinian people. Enough of supporting the blatant injustice being done to us.

Do not think that your comprehensive and destructive war on Gaza is the solution. Do not think that your ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians in Gaza is the solution! We are people like you. We want life like you. We want all our rights like you.

We are on this earth only by the grace of God, not by the grace of any human being. And we will remain in it. Come to an understanding. Come to the path of your correct and permanent security, and our correct and permanent security. We all live in a sacred land, ours and yours. Let us walk in God's ways, together abandon all violence, resort to the good word, begin a new future, and build a new land. Oh God, teach us your ways so we can walk in them.

Together we can build peace that will be peace for the region and the world.

Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.
Psalms 34:14-15

WESLEY GUILD CGEC 2023

Changemakers: A Movement Raised Up To Shake The Extraordinary and Resist The Ordinary

As we start this new journey in the history of the Wesley Guild in the Connexion, the invitation is for us to "Become" before "Doing."

I believe that our movement and the Church at large need CHANGEMAKERS! Those whom God has called to be a source of hope, healing, and inspiration to other young people. But before we do mission and become changemakers, we need to be changed.

Changemakers are those who have encountered Christ and because of that encounter, their lives have been changed. A changemaker is an agent of transformation. A person whose life has been transformed by Christ. The Wesley Guild is a movement of young people whose lives have been transformed by Christ. It is after we have been transformed by God that God can use us to change others. You cannot be a changemaker if your life has not been changed by God.

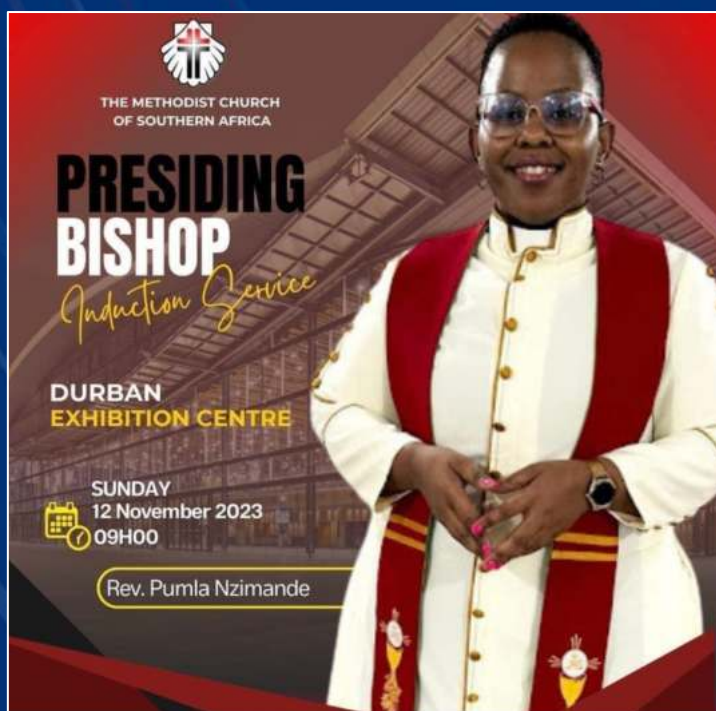
It is for this reason that we are saying we are a movement raised up to shake the extraordinary and resist the ordinary. To shake up is to uncover that which God has deposited within each of us. And resist all the things that makes the presence of God cease to exist in us. Resist corruption, inequality, immorality, ill-discipline, abuse, and poverty. Resist all that robs us of being who God intended us to be.

We are a resistance movement. Ours is to resist until our last breath. To say there is a God whose purpose for us is greater than all current challenges. Resistance is the food of changemakers. So come let us once again shake up this movement, this church, our world.

#Changemakers #ShakeUp #Resist #Extraordinary2023



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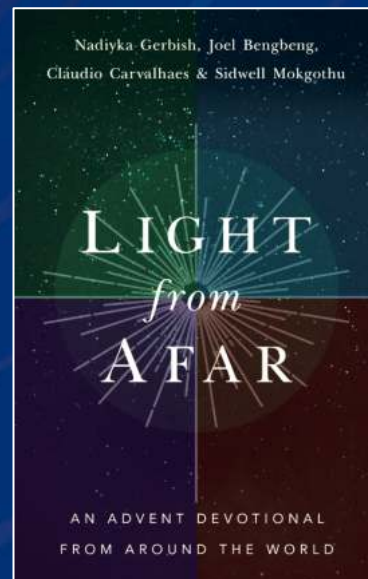
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An Ode to Freddy the Seal

By Rev Michael Vorster

We recently spent a glorious seven days in the Strand, Cape Town. On one of our morning beach-walks we encountered what appeared to be a very aggressive seal which was ready to attack anyone who came within range. Then the seal decided to zero in on us, and anyone else. It was merely trying to protect itself and to lie peacefully in the sun. Sadly because of sustained human abuse (see article below) the seal died of stress on 21 October 2023. Very sad. Instead of continuing with part two of the conversation on the environment from the September Another Dimension, and in keeping with the Season of Creation ethos, allow me to share my intuitively emotive flowing thoughts (it is not an attempt at poetry) about our Comrade seal:

It's best if you read it aloud and with pace:

On Strand beach a misunderstood, perceived aggressive seal grunts; warning; short barks, warning grunts; biting all who are to close; protecting its life and territory: "I was here long before you intruded, invaded, destroyed my world...just leave me alone and I'll leave you alone... I am simply trying to rest in the sun..." We named you Freddy Seal; WE mourn your death; you died on 21 October 2023; we mourn your death; we teased you; we caused your unnecessary death; we stressed you; we harassed you; you were tortured; we prodded you with sticks for the sake of social media; dogs attacked you; we are saddened; we are outraged; we are shameless; impenitent; unremorseful; unrepentant; we will carry on doing this on and on; we are complicit; humanity is cruel; humanity is kind; attempts to relocate our seal friend; to protect; yet this fails; you died at our hands, companion seal; you died frightened, alone, no other seals with you; comrade seal; you were not aggressive; you only attacked us because you were fearful; you were defending who you are; we are saddened; we, I am sorry; sorry; sorry...lump in the throat; tears; tears; tears; heartsore; heartsore. Even death by a shark would have been better; your life would have given life... how pointless; absurd; your death was by the hands of the apex predators; you and me; us humans. We kill for enjoyment and pleasure; for the thrill of a momentary laugh on social media, *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of your own will, but by us who subjected it, we subjected you, oh sibling seal, to a pointless agonising death. We live in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* Forgive us, sibling seal, for our immaturity; our foolishness; we pray for the freedom of children of God in the now so that with you, our comrade seal, together with all God's creatures, great and small, may taste of freedom from harassment and torture in the now and just enjoy the warmth of the sun...



There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

Scripture: Romans 8 and Psalm 19

[Seal died from excessive stress after attacking woman in Strand \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/health/seal-died-from-excessive-stress-after-attacking-woman-in-strand-seal-rescue-centre-looks-after-his-health-and-well-being/pagewanted)



YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO'S MISSION WORK

As part of the mission work, the Connexional Young Women's Manyano targeted a local school, Ndhlavela Omplete Primary School, in Mozambique for the CCS Outreach Programme. The District Bishop Maria Mucamba Mahota, the District Mission Coordinator, with the Connexional Executive and all the DCCS's, handed over school shoes, school socks and sanitary towels to the underprivileged learners.

#2023connexionalywccsworkshop
#Mozambique #barwets #Obrigada



WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN NOVEMBER

November	08	Finance Unit Executive	Virtual
November	09	Connexional Unit Leaders, Organisation Heads and Bishops Meeting	Virtual
November	10	Human Resource Unit Board Meeting	Virtual
November	12	Induction of the Presiding Bishop	Durban
November	14	District Secretaries Meeting	Virtual
November	15-16	Bishops' Meeting	TBA
November	16	Church Unity Commission Central Committee Meeting	eMseni
November	17-23	AACC 12TH General Assembly	TBC
November	21	Connexional Trust Properties Meeting	MCO
November	29	Mission Coordinators Meeting	

IN MEMORIAM

*Loving, God, who brought us to birth
help us to live as those who are prepared for death.
Enable us to obey Your call to receive the baton
and run the race set before us.
Thank you Lord Jesus that You are the author
and finisher of our race.
Amen*

*Rev Xolani Kula
Rev Jacob Sefatsa
Rev Henrique Mahlalela*

