



**THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
NATAL COASTAL DISTRICT**

BISHOP MIKE VORSTER
138 ESTHER ROBERTS, GLENWOOD,
P O BOX 50452, MUSGRAVE, 4062
Tel: 031 202 3662
Fax: 031 202 0099
Email: nflcoast@mweb.co.za

**NATAL COASTAL DISTRICT COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 2011
BRIEF 'READ BYTES'**

Grace and Peace be upon us all.

Herewith a few 'read bytes' from the office of the District Bishop:

**1. GUESTS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN
ZIMBABWE, MARONDERA DISTRICT, MUTARI 22 TO 26 AUGUST 2012:**

Bishop Mongameli Noqayi and I were guests representing the MCSA at the Annual Conference Of The Methodist Church In Zimbabwe, Marondera District, Mutari 22 to 26 August 2012.

The experience was enlightening and enjoyable through the wonderful hospitality of our Methodist sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe.

Is there improvement in Zimbabwe? Well it is difficult to answer this as ours was a five day snapshot of one part and aspect of life in Zimbabwe. One observation was that shortly after we arrived we were taken for lunch at Spur in Harare. We were told that in 2009 you could only buy a chicken at this Spur, today they offer their full menu. Food is very costly and they use a multi-currency system with the USD the most prominent. Improvement in Zimbabwe? Perhaps for the Middle classes only? What about the poor? The country has been suffering from severe drought for quite a long time affecting some regions more than others. Many said that they do not look forward to elections, because that's when violence increases. Zimbabweans are currently debating the new proposed constitution which on the surface looks good; however there are one or two clauses which need careful scrutiny.

Guess what one of the main items of debate was at the MZC Conference? Structures or as MZC termed it Rationalisation. The structures debate ended in an agreement in principle. There are some proposed changes that touched structural Holy Cows.

Please pray for:

- Presiding Bishop Amos Ndhumbi; and the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
- For all Zimbabweans in the country and those living as economic and political refugees in other parts of Africa and the world.
- That the process of developing a new constitution will be successful and peaceful.

2. REV DR KHOZA ELIOT MVUYISE MGOJO WAS LAID TO REST ON TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT IZOTSHA CEMETRY.

We give thanks for the life, ministry, wisdom, intellect, leadership, public witness, reconciliation prowess, parenting and activism of a stalwart in the Methodist Church and our country, Rev Dr Khoza Eliot Mvuyise Mgojo. Hamba Kahle Baba. You are going to be missed by so many, from those in Government, those in ministry and most of all Mam Stella, Mxolisi, Nosipo and other members of your extended family. May the God of peace be with us all.

3. SEPTEMBER 11/11 REMEMBERED:

The Twin Tower deaths were tragic and avoidable, had there been a more savvy USA administration at the time (Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld – all need to face war crimes by the ICC). Let us also remember that there have been between 104000 and 223000 (BBC 2011) deaths since the USA coalition invasion of Iraq. It is estimated that more than 600000 (not exactly an eye-for-an-eye) have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The only reason the Twin Tower deaths is in our consciousness is that those deaths were given global media coverage. Do we feel the same when we see Iraqi or Afghanistan civilians being killed or when we see pictures through ‘sanitised’ killing by drones? One death is one too many whoever one may be. Blessed are the non-violent peacemakers.

4. SEPTEMBER 12/11 REMEMBERED:

To-day we remember the death by Apartheid security establishment of Steve Bantu Biko. May we learn not to repeat what has happened in the past. And may we respect those who have given their lives for a better South Africa by living our lives in ways that do no harm, do good and reflect the Image of God in us.

5. PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- MCSA Connexional Executive 17 to 19 September – this still remains the place according to L&D where stations are dealt with. Kindly pray for Lay Leader Sanele Mbhele; Rev Linda Mandindi, Rev Dr Mvume Dandala and Bishop Mike Vorster all who are members from our district on CE.
- MCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 19 to 23 September 2012. Pray specifically for:
 - The head of the MCSA Presiding Bishop Zipho Siwa
 - The MCSA Lay President Fungile Dotwana
 - The MCSA General Secretary Rev Vido Nyobole
 - All the District Bishops
 - All deliberations at Conference that we may discern the mind of Christ for the MCSA.
 - All conference delegates, especially those from our District: Rev Lumka Sigaba; Rev Smanga Bosman; Rev Ansie Liebenberg; Mr. Harold Milan; Ms Thandi Thabete Ms Nokotula Mndaweni and our Youth Representative: Bongwiwe Hlatswayo

- All who are to be ordained on Sunday 23 September especially our ordinands Rev Lehlohonolo John 'Hloks' Mathibe and Rev Everret V Lawrence
- Travelling mercies as we travel to the Royal Swazi Conference Centre.

Pray also for Circuit where there will be stationing changes:

- Empangeni Circuit
- Ubombo Circuit
- Umngeni Circuit
- Metro Circuit
- Ndwedwe Circuit
- Clerpine Circuit
- Lower Tugela Circuit
- South Durban Circuit
- Upper South Coast

During my absence Rev. Thomas Leepile will be available to attend to any emergency pastoral needs in the District. Kindly phone the District Office.

I leave you with this thought:

"We cannot suffer with the poor when we are unwilling to confront those persons and systems that cause poverty. We cannot set the captives free when we do not want to confront those who carry the keys. We cannot profess our solidarity with those who are oppressed when we are unwilling to confront the oppressor. Compassion without confrontation fades quickly to fruitless sentimental commiseration"- Henri J. M. Nouwen

PEACE AND BLESSINGS

BISHOP MIKE