



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

**BISHOP MIKE VORSTER
138 ESTHER ROBERTS, GLENWOOD
P O BOX 50452, MUSGRAVE, 4062**

PRAYERS SUNDAY 4 MARCH 2012

Dear Colleagues

I invite you to join me with prayer for:

**MINISTERS AND DEACONS WHO ARE IN NEW APPOINTMENTS IN NATAL
COASTAL DISTRICT.**

I would encourage you to include our brothers in your daily private prayers for the next week and also in public intercessory prayers on Sunday.

This week I invite us to pray for:

- Rev Mxolisi Nyembe (Durban Circuit 712)
- Rev Lucky Malotana (Durban Circuit 712)
- Rev Linda Mandindi (Durban Circuit 712 - Superintendent)

AS a guide pray:

Lord we pray that you

- Assist both minister and congregation to adjust to this transitional period of change
- Undergird the family (where applicable - especially the children) with courage and strength to adjust to their new home; place; schools etc.
- Bless the ministry and mission of their respective congregations
- Grow both minister and laity as faithful Christ-followers.

AMEN

(consider phoning the ministers and ask for any specific prayer support they may need)

PRAY ALSO FOR CHILDREN IN ABUSIVE SITUATIONS:
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Leader: We pray for all children who face verbal, emotional, psychological, sexual and physical abuse and neglect.

Response: **Jesus you place children at the centre of your ministry. We will do likewise.**

Leader: We are appalled that 1 in 4 children are abused in our country!

Response: **Jesus you place children at the centre of your ministry. We will do likewise.**

Leader: Help us O Lord to be extra vigilant as we realise that 99% of the perpetrators of abuse toward children are known to the child.

Response: **Jesus you place children at the centre of your ministry. We will do likewise.**

Leader: If we are an abuser of children through sexual ,physical or emotional violence and neglect – may we confess and turn from our wicked ways. May justice prevail in favour of the child.

Response: **Jesus you place children at the centre of your ministry. We will do likewise.**

Leader: For the times we turn the other way when children are neglected and abused.

Response: **Lord Forgive us.**

We pray for those who have committed their lives to saving our children. We pray especially for social workers; police; advocates; child-care workers..... may they all be strengthened by your Holy Spirit.

ALL:

GOD HAVE MERCY; CHRIST HAVE MERCY – GUARD OUR CHILDREN AND GRANT THEM SAFETY AND PEACE.

MAY WE BECOME A NATION THAT CARES FOR THE LEAST AMONG US;

MAY WE BECOME A NATION THAT CARES FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN.

AMEN.

PRAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CAPTIVE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Leader: We pray for all young people who are addicted to drugs and alcohol

Response: **May they find meaning in the way of Christ**

Leader: We pray for our youth who are” being lured into drug dealing business or intentionally getting involved in search of what promises to offer better life”.¹

Response: **May they find meaning in the way of Christ**

Leader: We pray for the unscrupulous drug dealers who exploit and damage our youth for greedy ends of making money for themselves.

Response: **May they be found out. May they become guilty of their deeds. May they be brought to justice and turn from their wicked ways. May they find meaning in the way of Christ**

Leader: We pray for those who are recovering addicts. May their commitment to overcoming this one day at a time become undergirded with your compassion, encouragement and strength.

Response: **May they find meaning in the way of Christ**

Leader: We pray for families, parents and friends who see loved ones suffer in this way.

Response: **May they find comfort and support in the way of Christ**

Leader: We pledge ourselves to be more actively involved with our young people,.

ALL:

MAY WE BECOME A CHILD AND YOUTH CENTRED COMMUNITY;

MAY WE BECOME AN ALERT AND OPEN COMMUNITY TO THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING OUR HELP.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

HEAR OUR PRAYERS.

AMEN

Blessings to you.

Shalom

Bishop Mike

¹ Presiding Bishop Zipho Siwa, New Dimension February 2012 page 12