

# Towards a Christ Healed Africa

by Presiding Bishop Z. Siwa



May is Africa Month with 25th being the Africa Day. It is time to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now known as African Union. This was founded on 25 May 1963. The aim is to celebrate African unity. This is more relevant to our connexion, and more so for South Africans in view of the recent embarrassing xenophobic incidents. In this context, the response of the majority of South Africans in coming out on full to support the displaced persons and to say a resounding NO TO XENOPHOBIA! This is time to build on this positive response and strive together towards the wellbeing of ALL. Let us unite and work, pray, and continue the conversations that lead to the healing of the continent of Africa. We continue to pray:

***“God bless Africa, guide her leaders, guard her people and give her peace.”***

Martin Luther King Junior said; “Unless we learn to live together as brothers and sisters, we will perish together as fools. We have to learn a way of dealing with our differences in a way that does ‘good, doing no harm’ and helps us to ‘stay in love with God;’ as the Methodist rule of life advises. This applies to all areas of our existence.

The Africa Day falls just after the Pentecost Day, the latter being on 24 May. For Methodist the 24th May is also Wesley Day. Let us use this day to reflect on those challenges that people face and make a commitment to transformation and healing. These challenges will differ from person to person, family to family, community to community and there are also those which are regional, national and connexional. We need to be specific therefore and not generalise. It may be helpful to identify persons, families and or communities in our approach. Together, we are encouraged to move forward as a transforming discipleship movement. Think about these things:

- I quote from a story in the Quarterly Journal called Transform; “When in 2012 Richard Mabaso overheard a fearful conversation between a mother and a girl child about disadvantaged girls using unhygienic material such as grass, newspapers and leaves during menstruation, he knew that no mountain was high enough to keep him from his dream of creating awareness about the challenges that millions of girls from rural and poor communities face during their monthly cycle.” Most lose learning time at school. Can you be counted in in your area? Are you in?

- There is frightening trend to use children when people express their unhappiness about different things including service delivery. I repeat the words of Prof Jonathan Jansen when he said that the future of children cannot be equal to a worker’s salary, a stretch of tarred road and may I add, or a meter box. Please let us leave no stone unturned in ensuring that all children have access to quality education. Let us resist any temptation to use children as pawns in our struggles and fights. I know that I can count on you.

- Poverty can destroy people’s dignity. You know of a family or even a person where poverty bites most painfully. What can you do individually and together!!!

Surely everyone can make a transforming contribution in the different challenges that people and creation face. “It is so hard when I have to, and so easy when I want to.” (Annie Gottlier). The vision of a Christ Healed Africa will be a reality when we realised that we are so loved by God that Jesus went to the cross that we may have life. May we all be channels of life giving actions beginning with one closest, the one we can touch.

God Bless you as you as you join in action towards a Christ Healed Africa!