



THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

- **THIS REPORT SEEKS TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW WITH THE PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR**
- **INSIGHT IS DRAWN FROM DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE CONNEXIONAL INDABA AS WELL AS FEEDBACK FROM THE VARIOUS DISTRICT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUPERINTENDENTS**

REVISION

- **GOING BACK TO THE BASICS**

1) Screening of all Children's Ministry Practitioners and all people working with children.

2) Accessibility of the "Feed My Lambs" Syllabus and efficient distribution of it to all Circuits and Societies.

3) Children's Ministry Practitioner skills development and trainings at all District and Circuits.

4) Re-educate leadership about Children's Ministry within the MCSA and the importance of the ministry.

5) Funding: Circuits and Societies to make provision for Children's Ministry in the annual Circuit / Society budget.

6) Funding: Circuits and Societies to devise ways of generating funds for the ministry through fundraising initiatives.

7) Leadership Transition: ensure that proper handover is done when people leave their current portfolios and that Children's Ministry Practitioners are properly orientated into their role as a CMP and a leader within the church

- 8) Support: Circuits and Societies to support the efforts made by CMPs in the plight of making Children's Ministry a safe space for all children.
- 9) Be the voice of reason and prophetic voice where there are injustice acts directed at children.
- 10) Be an institution that instills the moral and value system in the life of a child. Be a safe space for all children at all times, a beacon of hope, a safe haven.
- 11) Ensure that all children receive Holy Communion.
- 12) Address issues within the country that affect children in the plight of building / grooming children.

RECONFIGURE

TAKING SMALL STEPS FORWARD

- 1) Continue to teach the Gospel and make God known by all children in a manner that is relevant to them.
- 2) Get / make our classroom environment to be more vibrant and exciting.
- 3) Build relationships with other denominations and draw insight to how they do Children's Ministry in order to empower our ministry.

4) Allow children at the round table. Allow them to climb and dance on top of the table (*be the centre of attention*).

5) Let children experience God and express their salvation in the matter in which they feel it and are able to express it.

6) Recognize the unique challenges in the ministry and work together and collectively to find solutions to them.

7) Strengthen relationships between CMPs and parents. Between CMPs and children. Between CMPs and leadership.

REIMAGINE POSSIBILITIES

DREAM BIG (GO BIG OR GO HOME)

- 1) Build church buildings that are friendly to disabled children using wheel chairs and crutches.
- 2) Build children centers / rooms with resources catering for the blind and deaf children. Ensure training is provided to CMPs.
- 3) Syllabus: Ensure that the syllabus is accessible and available to all Circuits and Societies within the Connexion. Get the syllabus translated in all languages and that CMPS have access to the language of their choice.

- 4) Rename Methodist Youth Unit to Methodist Children & Youth Unit.
- 5) Expand the Connexional Executive to include a Connexional CM Coordinator.
- 6) The birth of an Annual Connexional Children's Ministry **CHILDREN** gathering.
- 7) Mentorship programmes that inspire and motivate children to want to be future CMPs.

**IN CONCLUSION, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
MCSA FOR ALL ITS EFFORTS IN KEEPING THIS
MINISTRY ALIVE**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO PLEAD WITH THE MCSA TO
STOP AND LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE
CHILDREN, ALL VOICES MATTER AND CHILDREN
HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN CHRIST'S HEAR**

***I AM A MINISTER. I MINISTER TO THE LARGEST MISSION FIELD IN THE WORLD.
I MINISTER TO CHILDREN.***

MY CALLING IS SURE. MY CHALLENGE IS BIG. MY VISION IS CLEAR. MY DESIRE IS STRONG. MY INFLUENCE IS ETERNAL. MY IMPACT IS CRITICAL. MY VALUES ARE SOLID. MY FAITH IS TOUGH. MY MISSION IS URGENT. MY PURPOSE IS UNMISTAKABLE. MY DIRECTION IS FORWARD. MY HEART IS GENUINE MY STRENGTH IS SUPERNATURAL. MY REWARD IS PROMISED. AND MY GOD IS REAL. IN A WORLD OF CYNICISM, I OFFER HOPE. IN A WORLD OF CONFUSION, I OFFER TRUTH. IN A WORLD OF IMMORALITY, I OFFER VALUES. IN A WORLD OF NEGLECT, I OFFER ATTENTION. IN A WORLD OF ABUSE, I OFFER SAFETY. IN A WORLD OF RIDICULE, I OFFER AFFIRMATION. IN A WORLD OF DIVISION, I OFFER RECONCILIATION. IN A WORLD OF BITTERNESS, I OFFER FORGIVENESS. IN A WORLD OF SIN, I OFFER SALVATION. IN A WORLD OF HATE, I OFFER GOD'S LOVE. I REFUSE TO BE DISMAYED, DISENGAGED, DISGRUNTLED, DISCOURAGED OR DISTRACTED. NEITHER WILL I LOOK BACK, STAND BACK, FALL BACK, GO BACK OR SIT BACK. I DO NOT NEED APPLAUSE, FLATTERY, ADULATION, PRESTIGE, STATURE OR VENERATION. I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL, MEDIOCRE STANDARDS, SMALL THINKING, OUTDATED METHODS, NORMAL EXPECTATIONS, AVERAGE RESULTS, ORDINARY IDEAS, PETTY DISPUTES OR LOW VISION. I WILL NOT GIVE UP, GIVE IN, BAIL OUT, LIE DOWN, TURN OVER, QUIT OR SURRENDER. I WILL PRAY WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD. I WILL PRAY WHEN THINGS LOOK GOOD. I WILL MOVE FORWARD WHEN OTHERS STAND STILL. I WILL TRUST GOD WHEN OBSTACLES ARISE. I WILL WORK WHEN THE TASK IS OVERWHELMING. I WILL GET UP WHEN I FALL DOWN. MY CALLING IS TO REACH BOYS AND GIRLS FOR GOD. IT IS TOO SERIOUS TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, TOO URGENT TO BE POSTPONED, TOO VITAL TO BE IGNORED, TOO RELEVANT TO BE OVERLOOKED, TOO SIGNIFICANT TO BE TRIVIALIZED, TOO ETERNAL TO BE FLEETING AND TOO PASSIONATE TO BE QUENCHED. I KNOW MY MISSION. I KNOW MY CHALLENGE. I ALSO KNOW MY LIMITATIONS, MY WEAKNESSES, MY FEARS AND MY PROBLEMS. AND I KNOW MY GOD. LET OTHERS GET THE PRAISE. LET THE CHURCH GET THE BLESSING. LET GOD GET THE GLORY. I AM A MINISTER. I MINISTER TO CHILDREN. THIS IS WHO I AM. THIS IS WHAT I DO.