



METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CELEBRATING AFRICAN CHURCH COOPERATION: WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING CONVERSATIONS AND JOINT ACTION WITH OUR AFRICAN BASED WESLEYAN FAMILY

- Under the leadership of Bishop Denis Matsolo, Mozambique Synod continues to be part of Aldersgate joint celebrations with other Wesleyan Churches.
- The work with Kairos DR Congo continues to grow. We thank our Presiding Bishop Purity Malinga for her ongoing support
- The Presiding Bishop; General Secretary and Communication Director - continue to represent the MCSA on the African Methodist Council.
- Natal Coastal Synod Bishop Linda Mandindi assisted by Ecumenical Affairs Synod Secretary Rev David Barbour have initiated a KZN Wesleyan family process
- The Ecumenical Affairs Director attended and participated in the Methodist Church in Irelands Zoon Conference



“But although a difference in opinions or modes of worship may prevent an entire external union, yet need it prevent our union in affection Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences. These remaining as they are, they may forward one another in love and in good works”- John Wesley Sermon 39: ‘Catholic Spirit’

“Surely in this respect the example of Jehu himself, as mixed a character as he was of, is well worthy both the attention and imitation of every serious Christian. “And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; and he saluted him, and said to him, is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand.” 2 Kings 10:15. .- John Wesley Sermon 39: ‘Catholic Spirit’

**What the heck happened in KwaZulu-Natal in July 2021:
A personal reflection**

We had our second jab at Clicks Gateway, Mhlanga on 19/07/2021... There was razor wire everywhere, this together with Vaccine Healthcare workers gives rise to a metaphor of **a tale of two crises:**

CORONA AND CONFLICT.



Corona and Conflict have been our unwanted companions, whose presence has turned our lives upside down and inside out, since March 2020

Corona and Conflict has impacted and shaped anything and everything we planned.

We have become a

Corona and Conflict shaped church.

Reflecting on Luke 12:35 to 46 United Reformed Minister Rev John Proctor says that “*we only meet two kinds of events in our lives - those we expect and those we don't ... this passage tells of events that are both expected and unexpected, certain and uncertain...*”

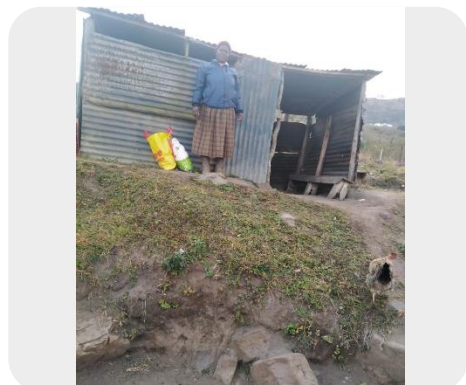
In South Africa, the challenge is that most of the people who are out protesting and looting are members of our churches; the racists are members of our churches, the agitators are members of our churches; the police are members of our churches. How can we criminalise people who are hungry and humiliated?

So, what are we teaching our people in our churches?

Former MCSA General Secretary, Rev Vido Nyobole has always raised the question: ***Are we not over-churched and under-discipled.*** We need prophetic living?

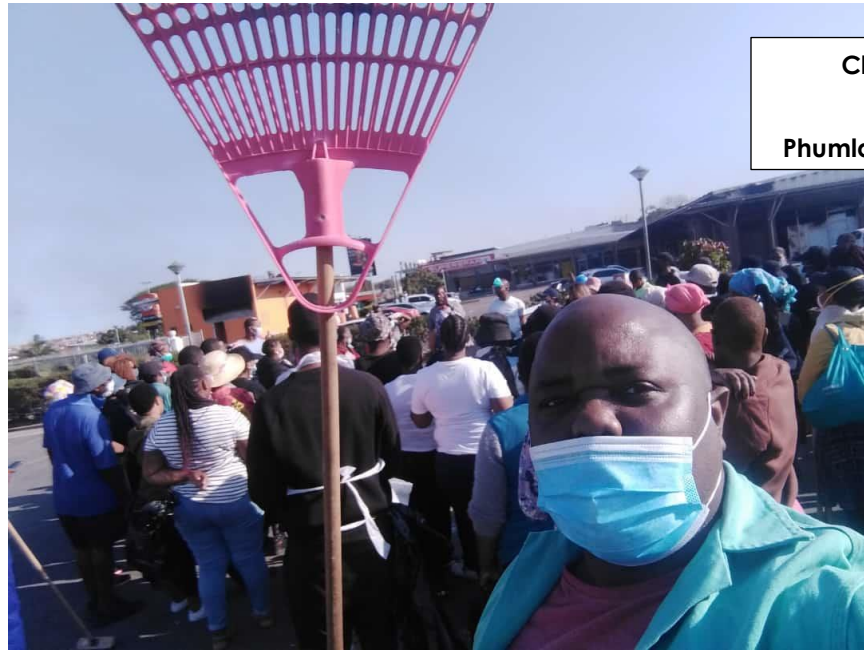
Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu, MCSA Limpopo Synod: *I am just noticing how life can be full of contradictions. Today we have the usually violent taxi drivers condemning violence and protecting "our commuters." Today we have a large number of the same communities that were looting going out in unity to clean the vandalised and looted malls. In some parts of the same country, we have mixed races coming together to protect their communities whilst in other parts we have racial tensions. We are a country of many shades. The challenge is how to we harness the positives into concrete programmes that will lead to social cohesion. We must not just allow these to be temporary euphoria similar to the 2010 world cup or Rugby world cup. It is my desire that we build on these and draw lasting dividends for social cohesion and nation building.*

THE CLEAN-UP AND RELIEF WORK BEGINS



The roll out of food relief throughout KZN has begun. Under the umbrella of KZN Christian Council and KZN COVID 19 Church response. Members of Churches in Ilembe District collect food hampers for distribution in KwaDukuza Mandeni, Maphumulo and Ndwedwe....the need is great throughout KZN.

28/07/2021



**Clean-up in KwaMashu
Methodist member,
Phumlani Shinga hard at work**

We continue to pray for our Connexional Church Family especially in Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa.

May our Universal Church family awaken and become the avatars of God's peace and justice

**Shalom
Mike Vorster
Director Ecumenical Affairs Unit**

**MCSA Ecumenical Affairs Unit working with others toward implementing:
Church Unity
Ecumenical Diakonia
African Church Co-operation
For a Christ healed and transformed Africa for the Healing and Transformation of Nations**

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