



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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22 April 2022

To the People of God called Methodist

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Warm Easter Greetings with the sincere hope and trust that our recent celebrations of the passion and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ has re-energised and reignited our Mission and Ministry as a Church in **“Reimagining Social Holiness - Sustaining Hope and Healing.”** The message of Easter boldly proclaims that Jesus has conquered, death and darkness and offers to us the joy of knowing that God is indeed alive and that the **Best of all God is that God is with us.**

During the past two years we have lived in the shadow of pain, fear and uncertainty through the multiple pandemics of Economic instability, Gender Based Violence, Unemployment and COVID. Whilst there have been glimmers of Light and Hope in our Southern Africa subcontinent with a decrease in COVID cases and slow economic recovery, we have in the holiest Season of our liturgical calendar been rudely shaken by the devastation of floods that swept through parts of Kwa Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape leaving a trail of destruction, pain and sorrow in its wake. Thousands of people have been left vulnerable, dispossessed of their homes and other property whilst hundreds of people lost their lives. Similarly, on the day of Resurrection we awoke to the grim reports of a deadly fire in Lange, Cape Town similarly causing untold misery, pain and destruction. We offer our sincerest Condolences to all families who have lost loved ones as well those affected with the assurance of our prayers and support.

Whilst both the tragedies have been brought about by powerful earthly elements of nature it is incumbent upon us to continue working towards ensuring the integrity of creation and slowing down the effects of climate change on the one hand and intensifying our efforts in lobbying for better provisions of basic services and homes for all our people in all the countries of our Connexion.

As a church family energised by the celebration of the Resurrection and being an Easter people we are to be agents and conduits for healing and hope by standing alongside and showing solidarity with those directly affected.

To this end as the MCSA we endorse, support and participate in the Relief efforts coordinated by the Ecumenical Family through the SACC and Kwa Zulu Natal Council of Churches (of which we are members) and appeal to all our churches and members to channel whatever support they can offer through these agencies as communicated through the SACC correspondence as well as the following collection points in Kwa Zulu Natal:

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

Presiding Bishop:
Rev Purity N Malinga
E-mail: presbish@mco.org.za

General Secretary:
Rev Michel W Hansrod
E-mail: gensec@mco.org.za

Lay President:
Mr Xhanti T Mhlubulwana
E-mail: laypresident@mco.org.za

General Treasurer:
Mr Rannoi Sedumo
E-mail: rannoi@mco.org.za

Natal Coastal District: Central City Mission Yasethekweni – cnr Samora Machel and Anton Lembede Streets, Durban City Centre
Natal West District: Metropolitan Society – Church Street Pietermaritzburg.

The Mission Unit is currently evaluating and determining the needs of the Port St Johns area and will provide details as soon as that is known.

This week whilst we will be participating in an Ecumenical Ministry of Presence to offer prayers and care to those most affected by the recent disasters, as a further show of support and solidarity we wish over and above the provision of various needed goods to offer financial support to the relief efforts of the Ecumenical family.

We therefore appeal to all our Societies, Circuits and Organisations to sharply focus our **Intercessory Prayers** this **Sunday 24th April 2022** on those areas and people who have been deeply affected by the events of the past week. We further appeal that a **Retiring Offertory** be taken in every service towards a collective financial contribution as the MCSA and be transmitted to the following dedicated Connexional Account. In addition, please also make available the account details to individual members and Organisations who may wish to contribute directly. We request that these contributions be made by **Thursday 28th April 2022**.

The Account Details are as follows:

The Account Name: **Methodist Church of SA Relief Fund**

Bank: **FNB**

Account Type: **Current Account**

Account number: **50540092504**

Branch Code: **250655**

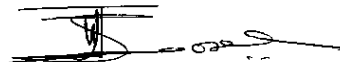
REFERENCE: *APR2022 Disaster/ Name //Circuit/Society/Organisation of Depositee*

We remain grateful for the support already offered and trust that our efforts of solidarity and prayerful support will contribute in some way to effect healing and offer hope for those most affected.

Yours together in Serving Christ and God's People.



Rev N Purity Malinga
Presiding Bishop



Rev Musi SJ Losaba
Mission Unit Director

